

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

26, 37, 24, 18, 10

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 0, 6, 8

Evening picks: 3, 0, 2

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 7, Eureka

2nd Place: 12, Lucky Charms

3rd Place: 6, Whirl Win

Race Time: 1:49.37



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

According to a September BBC report, police in South Korea are investigating some of the 22,000 complaints made already this year by computer gamers that characters and property that they have acquired in such all-consuming games as "EverQuest" and "Ultima Online" have been stolen by hackers and sold to other gamers to make their own playing more successful. Experts say such theft of "intangibles" should be punishable by law, but the value of the stolen property might be inconsequential, except to those players whose entire lives revolve around a game and for whom the acquisition of a character or property might have involved hundreds of hours of playing.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You'd be surprised how much it costs to look this cheap."

— Dolly Parton



INDEX

Horoscopes
It's a five-star day Gemini 2



Local

Celebrity haunting in L.A. 3



Opinion

Top-Ten list for homelessness 6



State

Arnold taps new chief. 10



National

Dose of good news. 13



International

A 'G'day' for Bush 15



People in the News

'Six Million Dollar' gamble 20

A new chapter



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

Federico Henson is one of several volunteers and employees helping to set up the Midnight Special bookstore for its grand re-opening, set for Nov. 4. Due to an increase in rent costs, the bookstore was forced to close its shop on the Third Street Promenade earlier this year.

North Korean agent changes plea to guilty

Due to be sentenced in January

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

A Santa Monica man accused of illegally gathering classified information for the North Korean government switched his plea on Thursday from innocent to guilty.

As part of a plea bargain that prompted the change, John Jungwoong Yai, 59, is expected to serve little or no jail time. United States District Judge George H. King is scheduled to sentence him Jan. 26.

"We were prepared to try the case, but on balance, it seemed like the right decision," said Bill Genego, Yai's defense lawyer.

The maximum punishment for Yai is 25 years in federal prison. Under the plea, Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Goodman agreed he wouldn't ask for more than two years and Genego agreed not to ask for a sentence of less than one year.

But because he already served three months in jail

See SPY, page 4

Malibu property owner says lawyer 'blew case'

Feeling burned, lawyer seeking \$146K in fees

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

A Malibu property owner being sued for \$146,000 in attorney fees took the stand in Santa Monica Superior Court Thursday, telling jurors he was duped into pursuing a lengthy lawsuit by his former lawyer and then abandoned.

Orlando Aliberti, 84, said his attorney at the time, Richard Grimwade, called his case against Allstate Insurance Co. a "slam dunk," likely to rake in \$3 million or more. But when the going got tough, Grimwade couldn't take the heat and walked out of the courtroom, Aliberti said.

"He blew the case," said the white-haired Aliberti, a WWII veteran who fought under Lt. Jimmy Doolittle in the Army Air Force. "He completely blew the case. The opposite side got him so ticked off that he threw up his arms and walked off."

"He completely blew the case. The opposite side got him so ticked off that he threw up his arms and walked off."

— ORLANDO ALIBERTI
Plaintiff

Grimwade was hired to procure compensation from Allstate to rebuild Aliberti's six-unit apartment building on Rambla Pacifica, which was charred in the

November 1993 Malibu fires, along with Aliberti's Rambla Pacifica home.

In his opening statements, Grimwade told jurors he gave

Aliberti his best legal advice, often working 16- and 18-hour days on the case. He said he dropped the case in 2000 when his fees neared \$150,000 and had only been paid about \$9,000.

Grimwade said he negotiated a favorable settlement with Allstate and suggested Aliberti accept it. But he contends Aliberti pushed for a trial anyway, and then lost.

The tension in the courtroom was palpable while Aliberti was on

See CASE, page 4

\$216 billion needed to alleviate gridlock

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Up to \$216 billion needs to be spent on Southern California freeways, mass transit and other transportation in the next 25 years to cope with added traffic, regional planners said in a report.

The Southern California Association of Governments report this focuses on proposals to handle the 6 million more people and 3 million new jobs expected by 2030.

"We need to be aggressive to meet the challenge. And if a project is not in this plan, it won't be funded," association board member Bev Kelly said.

The SCAG plan calls for an additional \$21 billion for highway improvements, including more car pool lanes, a rail system to connect airports and doubling Metrolink's capacity.

To pay for the proposals, SCAG urged raising gasoline taxes 10 cents per gallon by 2015, dedicating all gas tax revenue to transportation improvements, charging user fees for lanes dedicated to truck traffic, taxing alternative fuel and imposing a fee on developers to mitigate the transportation effects of new homes.

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The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, October 24, 2003:

Do not let others discourage you, even if you respect and honor their opinions. You will get past others' attitudes and prove yourself in this remarkable year. Emphasize the goal and what it is you want. You can have it if you concentrate and know what you want. Network and expand your immediate circle of friends as well. Your instincts are unusually strong; follow them. If you are single, you might meet someone quite important in your life this year, if you haven't already. Check this person out carefully. Make sure this person is who he or she seems. If you are attached, your relationship flourishes with a healthy mix of romantic getaways and fun get-togethers with friends. LIBRA reads you cold.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ The more level you are, the better a financial discussion will become, and thus, the more money possibilities emerge. What is coming up might not be the only way to go. Other potential offers or projects will emerge. Tonight: Out and about. It's Friday night!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You must express what is on your mind as clearly as possible. You might want to share more with a partner or friend whose money knowledge you respect. The more advice you get, the better. Others gather around you. Tonight: Let the good times roll.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Pace yourself, as much will be presented today and you will have a lot of information to absorb. Others might seem challenging, but really they are simply playing devil's advocate. Work with individuals rather than with groups. Tonight: Don't push too hard.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ With the sun and Mercury moving into your sign, you feel much better than you have for a while. Still, you might want to maintain a low profile — just for today! Use your instincts with a money matter. You will be right-on. Tonight: Get some extra sleep.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You might be a little too playful for others. On top of that, you really might not care. At least pretend to be serious at the office, as a key discussion occurs. Be politically correct, my dear Twin. Start working on better health habits. Tonight: The party must go on.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You will get what you want, at work or personally. Yet in your inner mind, you might be worrying about the true cost of this success. Ask questions to determine where someone else is coming from. A partner could be a touch negative. Tonight: Just don't be alone!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Stay anchored in your dealings, asking for more of what you want in order to establish the type of work or home atmosphere that you would like. In the next few weeks, your ideas could be quite unusual, but great. Tonight: Rest up.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ A boss demands, and you might not want to go along with his or her idea. You might not have much choice if you are looking toward your long-term goals. Friends surround you in all the different areas of your life. Tonight: Just whom are you going to join?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Talks are animated and take you in a new direction if you allow them to. If you get stubborn and locked into your thinking, you might not get the goodies that lie out there. A family member has an interesting tidbit to add. Tonight: Talk up a storm.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Listen to what you are hearing behind the scenes. The story might not be the same, depending on the source. Take a strong hand, knowing which way you want to go. Others respect your attitude and leadership. Tonight: Take off as soon as possible.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Indulge yourself and treat yourself well. Sometimes you take great care of others and let yourself slide. Why not make that appointment for a check-up you have been avoiding? You also might want to start looking at a diet or exercise program. Tonight: Hook up with your friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Work with one other person to accomplish what you need done right now. Your sense of humor comes out when you pull back and gain a perspective. Decide that there are no problems, just solutions. Try to unlock your thinking. Tonight: Add some romance to your life.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Walk to end hunger

By Daily Press staff

Hundreds of people will walk around Santa Monica on Sunday to help eliminate hunger on the westside.

The Westside Food Bank is holding its 13th annual five-kilometer hunger walk to raise money for its operation which distributes food to more than 60 social service agencies locally. In conjunction with its "Extra Helpings Westside" program, the food bank distributes more than 3 million pounds of food a year.

The walk begins at Santa Monica High School's Science Quad at 601 Pico Blvd. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. and the walk starts at 1:30 p.m. For more information, call (310) 828-6016, ext. 18 or ext. 13.

SMC leads in UC transfers

By Daily Press staff

California's recent budget problems haven't slowed down Santa Monica College's student transfer success.

SMC was ranked No. 1 in transfers to the University of California system in 2002-2003, far outpacing other California colleges and community colleges. The college also continues to be a leader in sending underrepresented minorities to the UC system and in transferring students to such private schools as the University of Southern California, school officials say.

"SMC attracts highly-qualified students and challenges them to meet high expectations," said Dan Nannini, SMC Transfer Center coordinator. SMC transferred 895 students to UC campuses last school year, far outdistancing the No. 2 feeder, De Anza College in Cupertino, with 589.

Nannini credits the college's quality faculty, high school outreach programs and the clout of KCRW, the college's public radio station, as draws for its high caliber students.

Nannini pointed out that the college has a strong transfer counseling record. SMC's Transfer Center conducts workshops, hosts one of the largest college fairs in the state, holds weekly visits from four-year institutions, and has a close working relationship with UC and CSU to make sure SMC students get credit for their classes.

Nannini said he is pleased that SMC is ranked so high in transfers of students from underrepresented minorities, but noted that the total is still lower than what the college would like. Specialized centers for African-American and Latino students work hard to improve those numbers, he said.

Halloween AIDS fundraiser attracts celebrities

By Daily Press staff

The Children Affected by AIDS Foundation celebrates its 10th anniversary "Dream Halloween Los Angeles" fundraiser this weekend with costumed celebrities and an evening of festivities.

Hosting the fundraiser will be Jamie Lee Curtis, with Cindy Crawford as honorary event chair and Doris Roberts as vice chair.

Each year, Dream Halloween presenting sponsor — Mattel, Inc. — donates a one-of-a-kind doll sculpted in the likeness of the honorary event chair. This year, Crawford will receive the doll and then donate it to CAAF for its live auction later in the evening. This year the doll will be wearing the same dress Crawford will wear to the event, which will be a Roberto Cavalli-feathered ball dress. Previous dolls, auctioned for as much as \$25,000, included Cher and Elizabeth Taylor.

Festivities will include a haunted house, face painting, trick-or-treating and an auction. There also will be what has been described as sumptuous food and drink selection from Drago's, Chaya Venice, Tommy Tang's, Ben & Jerry's, Red Bull and Evian.

Other celebrity attendees and honorees will include Arnold Schwarzenegger, Marlee Matlin, Benito Martinez and Brooke Burke.

The fundraiser will be held on Saturday, Oct. 25 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Barker Hanger at 3021 Airport Ave. Tickets are still available. The price is \$250 for children, \$300 for adults. They can be purchased by calling (310) 201-5033, or can be bought at the door. For more information, call John Tellem at (310) 479-6111 or e-mail tellem@tellem.com.

surf report

Look for a mix of primary NW wind swell to go along with leftover WNW and S swells today. Spots with decent NW exposure see surf in the waist-high range.

OUTLOOK: Smaller surf Saturday, but then a new SW on Sunday should bring some quality sets.

Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break. We'll print your report in a future issue of the Daily Press

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Sunset 6:14 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
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SUNDAY	11:49	3.3	N/A	N/A	7:18	4.0	5:07	4.6
MONDAY	12:29	0.4	12:36	2.7	7:26	4.4	6:10	4.9
TUESDAY	1:03	0.2	1:15	2.0	7:41	4.8	7:02	5.2
WEDNESDAY	1:35	0.1	1:54	1.2	8:01	5.2	7:49	5.4
THURSDAY	2:06	0.2	2:34	0.5	8:24	5.7	8:36	5.4
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Check Out The Responses For
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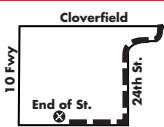
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LOCAL

Accused spy pleads guilty, may avoid more jail time

SPY, from page 1

before he was ordered freed on \$400,000 bond, Yai may only be ordered to serve time in a halfway house or under home confinement, Genego said.

Yai, who until recently owned the snack shop Bon Appetit at 18th Street and Wilshire Boulevard, pleaded guilty to a total of four federal felony charges.

The first is failing to register as an agent of North Korea, as required by U.S. law. Yai allegedly gathered classified information for the North Korean government between 1997 and 2000, and recruited other agents to meet with officials abroad.

"Yai maintained contact with his North Korean handlers through facsimiles, e-mail messages and personal overseas meetings," said U.S. Attorney's Office spokesman Thom Mrozek in a statement. "The communications sent between Yai and his North Korean contacts were written with word substitution codes to conceal the true content of the communications."

The three other charges against Yai deal with his failing to declare more than \$10,000 in cash he brought into the country in April of 2000, making a false statement to LAX customs officials about the cash and making additional false statements to officials in August while trying to recover the money. A separate charge related to the money was dropped under the plea agreement.

Yai and his wife, Susan Youngja Yai, traveled both to the Czech Republic and Vienna to meet with a North Korean representative in 2000, according to a 76-page affidavit written by FBI special agent James G. Chang. But after landing in LAX via Zurich, Switzerland, Yai and his spouse declared they were not carrying more than \$10,000. A subsequent search



Photo archive

Law enforcement officials raid the former Ocean Park home of John Jeoung-won Yai in February after his arrest.

revealed that they were carrying \$18,179, officials said.

The Yais told customs officials they had taken the money with them to buy jewelry for their children, but decided to bring it back because the prices and selection were not as good in Switzerland as they'd hoped. The FBI then produced taped telephone conversations between the Yais that allegedly detailed a string of conversations aimed at fabricating their story.

Susan Yai pleaded guilty this summer to failing to declare the \$18,179 that the couple brought into the U.S. In September, Judge King sentenced Susan Yai to one year of probation and ordered her to pay a \$500 fine.

The eight-year investigation of the Yais, whose daughter is a schoolteacher in east L.A. and son is studying law on the east coast, came to a conclusion in February when the FBI arrested John Yai at his former home at 909 Grant St. in the Ocean Park neighborhood.

Genego said the Yais have since moved to a new location in L.A.

Attorney, property owner kept haggling over rates

CASE, from page 1

the stand, with Grimwade repeatedly objecting to questions from Aliberti's current lawyer, Paul Cohen, and Judge Valerie Baker scolding both attorneys in turn — Cohen for asking questions not allowed and Grimwade for objecting too much.

Jurors shifted back and forth in their seats, shook their heads and rubbed their eyes throughout much of the questioning, which moved forward in fits and starts as Judge Baker reviewed most of the inquiries.

At issue in the case is what fee structure initially existed between Aliberti and Grimwade. While Grimwade was first hired at \$250-per-hour, the deal was later reworked. Aliberti agreed to pay Grimwade \$125 an hour, plus 20 percent of any money he won in court. Cohen told jurors the two later reworked their contract yet again, agreeing to a 40-percent contingency rate with no hourly fee.

Grimwade argued that he made that offer, but later revoked it.

With Grimwade's help, Aliberti recovered more than \$2 million in a separate claim against Allstate to rebuild his charred home, which sits just uphill from the apartment building.

But because he had a "limited liability" clause in the insurance policy covering the apartment building, Aliberti was given only \$450,000 by Allstate to rebuild and cover lost rents.

Aliberti then sued Allstate. The case was first tossed out of court on the grounds that Aliberti waited too long to file the lawsuit. Grimwade appealed that ruling and won, but when it finally went to court after prolonged negotiations and other behind-the-scenes legal wrangling, a jury ruled that Allstate didn't owe any additional money. That's when Aliberti asked Grimwade to represent him in an appeal and Grimwade refused, saying he was still owed too much money.

Closing arguments are scheduled for Monday.

FIND OUT YOUR FORECAST IN TODAY'S HOROSCOPES ... PAGE 2

STATE

Shopper fatigue sets in as grocery strike drags on

BY CHELSEA J. CARTER

Associated Press Writer

IRVINE — Theresa Volk shopped at three different stores in the past week to get the groceries she needed before giving up and crossing a picket line.

"I've been going out of my way to go to stores. But I'm spending too much money going to all these different stores," Volk, 41, said this week as she walked past picketers at Ralphs with two shopping carts filled with groceries.

As the grocery clerks strike rolled through its second week with no new negotiations planned, shopper fatigue began to set in for many who said they were frustrated by the lack of progress in contract talks and tired of running around town for their groceries.

Grocery clerks from three chains — Kroger Co.'s Ralphs, Safeway Inc.'s Vons and Albertsons Inc. — went on strike or were locked out of stores from San Luis Obispo to San Diego on Oct. 11 in a contract dispute involving the cost of health care coverage and other issues.

Some shoppers who have crossed picket lines said they sympathized with the workers but were desperate for groceries. Others said workers were being unreasonable.

Volk said she saw a full-page newspaper ad taken out by the grocery chains that said workers were being asked to pay \$5 a week for individual health care coverage and \$15 a week for families. Union officials have disputed the ad, saying workers would have to pay far more — up to \$95 a week by the end of the proposed three-year contract — to maintain current coverage.

"I can sympathize with their situation. But I really don't think they have a clue as to the cost of health care," said Volk, a licensed pharmacy technician who does

"I've been going out of my way to go to stores. But I'm spending too much money going to all these different stores."

— THERESA VOLK
Shopper

not have employer health care. "Asking them to pay part of their premium is not too much."

At an Albertsons store in Marina del Rey, Steve Finkle of Culver City said he decided to cross picket lines because he was tired of going to different places for groceries.

"If the news reports are true — that the clerks pay \$5 per week for health insurance — then that makes me very angry," said Finkle, who declined to give his age or occupation.

"In the last place I worked at, I was paying \$80 per week for health insurance. I don't think \$5 is too much to pay. So they're crying about \$5 a week and it makes me angry."

Temper on both sides of the picket lines have flared during the strike.

In Irvine, about 50 miles south of Los Angeles, police arrested a man for allegedly waving a gun at locked-out Ralphs employees and took a report about two other men punching a picketer. In Chula Vista, the California Highway Patrol arrested two striking supermarket clerks for allegedly beating a replacement worker with a bat.

Picketer Lori Marrugo, 44, said part of the success of the strike depends on the support of shoppers. Marrugo has worked for Ralphs for 25 years. She currently works as a clerk at the Irvine store.

eters) at all."

Victor Arellano, 40, a San Diego yacht salesman, spent \$121 at Ralphs, the first time he had crossed the picket line. He has shopped at Trader Joe's and Henry's since the strike began but finally caved in because those chains don't offer everything he needs.

"We've been putting it off as much as we can but now we're down to, we really need to have this," he said.

At the Ralphs in Irvine, Randy Katz, 50, walked out of the store with a gallon of milk.

Katz, an attorney, didn't know enough about the strike to pass judgment but said he was frustrated by both sides.

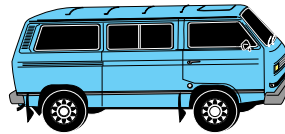
"It bugs me when management and the workers can't figure things out," he said.

He said he has started shopping at Gelson's Market, an independent grocer, a few miles away.

"In a perfect world, I would go to Gelson's all the time. But they are over there, and I live here," he said.

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LETTERS

Fighting to sustain our sustainability

Editor:

In 1994, the City of Santa Monica adopted a sustainable city program designed to create a "more sustainable way of life," both locally and globally. Basically, the idea is to make Santa Monica a city that can work now and in the future by making choices today that favor the natural environment when possible.

Included in the program's guiding principles is this:

"City decision-making will be guided by a mandate to maximize environmental benefits and reduce or eliminate negative environmental impacts."

One wonders whether Santa Monica's Sustainable City Program is really a "mandate" or not, because in case after case recommendations are made by city staff and decisions are made by the City Council, that seem to conflict with the Sustainable City Program's principles. Here are some examples from the recent past:

August, 2003: City staff recommends the expansion of the city's garbage transfer facility at a cost of roughly \$8 million. The facility would lose money unless an additional 200 tons of trash were brought into Santa Monica (or unless Santa Monicans were forced to pay higher trash collection rates).

That's interesting. Why would we want to bring 200 more tons of trash into Santa Monica?

According to the staff report, Santa Monica generates, on average, 423 tons of trash each day, so 200 more tons translates to 4 percent more trash — and 47 percent more truck trips, and 47 percent more associated pollution. That's significant. Wouldn't it be more "sustainable" to reduce the amount of trash we're generating as Santa Monicans, without having to worry about such reductions being at odds with the city staff's goals? Wouldn't it be more "sustainable" to work to reduce the amount of trash in general — in Santa Monica and in neighboring cities — instead of building in additional trash-handling capacity? And why would we want to increase the number of garbage truck trips into our town (or any), especially when the off ramp at Cloverfield Boulevard — the ramp closest to the transfer facility's location — is already so congested as to cause traffic to back up on Interstate 10 for more than a mile on a daily basis? It is to the City Council's credit that they rejected this proposal, but gee, can't we get the city staff on board too?

August, 2003: City staff recommends leaving one side of the 1800 block of Ninth Street (nearly two-thirds of the block's on-street parking spaces) unprotected in a sea of otherwise permit-only blocks. According to the staff report "many of the non-residential parkers involved were Santa Monica High School students" which puts staff's recommendation squarely at odds with this guiding principle from the Santa Monica Sustainable City program:

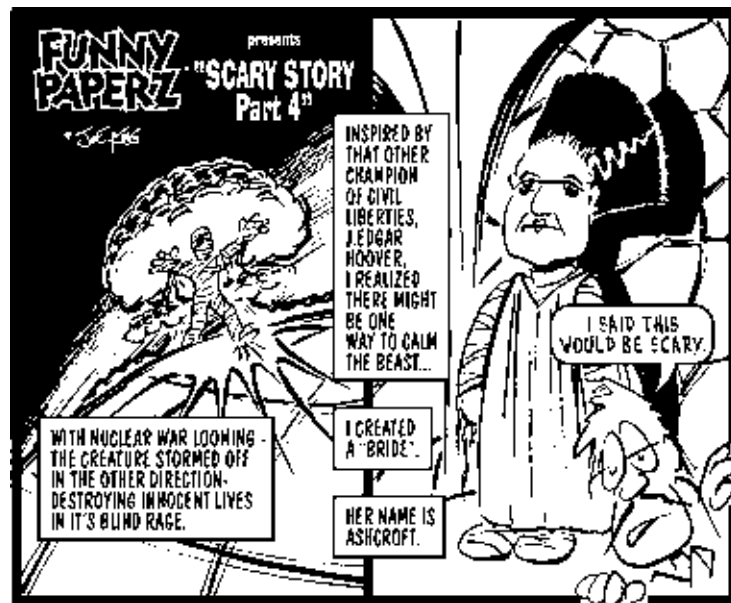
"Individual citizens, community-based groups and businesses must be aware of their impacts on the environment, must take responsibility for reducing or eliminating those impacts, and must take an active part in community efforts to address environmental concerns. The city will therefore be a leader in the creation and sponsorship of environmental education opportunities in cooperation with schools, colleges and other organizations in the community."

Staff's recommendation doesn't show leadership in environmental education.

Rather, it encourages high school students to drive to school when — according to the Sustainable City guidelines — it ought to discourage the practice. Staff's recommendation to leave one side of the street unprotected is notable in that it is contrary not only to the Sustainable City guidelines, but to the city's municipal code and the residents' stated wishes as well. Increased traffic, increased pollution, increased reliance on automobiles and a missed opportunity to teach our young people a lesson in sustainability, all in one recommendation. (As of this writing, staff has not provided a rationale for its recommendation.)

October, 2003: City staff recommends creation of "Airport Park" at Santa Monica Airport. This would seem to be rather "sustainable," yet the devil is in the details. When the park is built, Santa Monica College's remote parking lot (a model of sustainability, providing free parking at the airport and free shuttle service to the campus) will be lost, causing (according to the final environmental impact report) "unavoidable adverse impacts" (that is, an increased number of cars) in neighborhoods as far away as Lincoln and Pico boulevards with "no feasible mitigation measures." And the

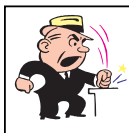
See LETTERS, page 7



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Ten things the city can and won't do to control vagrants



MY WRITE

By Bill Bauer

Yet another analysis of how City Hall handles the increasing homeless population here is expected next week. What's also expected is a lot of residents voicing their concerns about the issue and having all of it fall on deaf ears.

Next Tuesday night, the City Council will preside over "the 2002/2003 Annual Review of the City's Coordinated Plan for Homeless Services and Related Issues" as required by municipal ordinance.

This annual charade provides an opportunity for the service providers, their clients and employees to laud the City Council for its largesse. And, the City Council will ignore the problems and complaints arising from failed policies, as usual.

According to the 1999 city homeless census, "1,037 homeless were within city borders on an average day." Today's estimates are over 1,400.

Between one-third and 40 percent of police resources and 15 to 18 percent of paramedic resources are expended on vagrants and transients — this plus the \$2 million given directly to service providers

amounts to tens of millions of dollars in costs every year.

Well over \$100 million has been spent on the homeless over the last 15 years, yet the situation is worse now than ever before.

Approximately two-thirds of those on the streets have mental or physical issues and many have felony criminal records. A majority are substance abusers.

Meanwhile, the city puts a happy face on homelessness by minimizing danger and playing up a few success stories. That way it can provide more services and throw more money at programs that are marginally successful at best, without overwhelming public criticism.

Here are 10 common sense suggestions to make services more effective while reducing the overall transient population and its negative effects on quality of life.

1. The number of public food handouts must be reduced, moved indoors and linked to services — now! The outdoor food lines are a disgrace.

2. Ordinances must be strengthened and enforcement increased to stop aggressive and anti-social behavior.

3. The city must recognize that alcohol availability is a major cause of homeless complaints and develop a comprehensive "get tough" city-wide alcohol policy. The City Council must ask our police and the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to step up enforcement

of those who serve drunks.

4. Santa Monica should encourage the Los Angeles County and homeless funders to work with other municipalities who want and need services of their own.

Three years ago, City Manager Susan McCarthy and others sent letters to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Agency requesting that SuperNOFA 2000 funds not be diverted to other municipalities that had requested them to establish their own programs. McCarthy wrote, "I strongly urge LAHSA Commissioners to continue funding proven programs ..."

Santa Monica hogs resources, making it difficult for others to do their part, despite all the "sharing the burden" rhetoric.

5. Establish a priority system for accessing services based on length of time in the city. We should urge those recently from out of town to go back and seek services where they lived most recently.

6. Services must have a sunset clause. Forward progress should be mandated and if it isn't, cut 'em off. Nobody should be allowed to access services indefinitely, and there must be strong incentives to stay in programs.

Drop-in services that allow individuals to exist in drunken, drugged-out stupors, mental fogs, and in pain and misery on the streets must be terminated.

7. More comprehensive services for the mentally ill, the elderly, families and women

are needed. Funding should be directed to long-term, regenerative programs for the most vulnerable in our society.

8. Notify nearby cities that we're cutting back services. That way, maybe they'll establish their own programs and stop sending them here.

9. Improve communication between the Santa Monica Police Department's Homeless Liaison program and service providers to facilitate locating and serving those in need.

Additional funding should be allocated specifically for the SMPD HLP Team, SMPD park rangers, SMPD vice and mental health professionals working with mentally challenged homeless.

10. The hundreds of day-workers seeking employment near Colorado Avenue and 11th Street also must be addressed. City Hall must do more than provide portable toilets. How about a supervised facility for them to seek employment off street corners, like it's done elsewhere?

If you speak against the homeless status quo at the City Council next week, you'll probably be whistling in the wind. Unfortunately, the only way to change how City Hall deals with vagrants and transients is to change the City Council.

(Bill Bauer is a longtime Santa Monica resident and by choice, can't be reached by phone or e-mail.)

OPINION

The Q Line

LETTERS

Youth gone wild is result of mismanagement

This past week, Q-line asked:

"How should we address youth violence, and is creating jobs for them going to help?"

Here are your responses:

■ "I think youth violence should be addressed by the parents. It should have been addressed way back when they were children. I don't know any other way to do it. I don't know how many of those youths wants to work. You see them sitting around at the Promenade, and I don't think that they even want to work."

■ "The young people today do not turn the other cheek. No one has a kicking or slapping license. If young people are slapped, they will slap back. If they are kicked, they will kick back. That which is described as violence is actually street justice, known as getting even."

■ "Creating jobs for youths at risk, and youths in general, is nice and helpful, but far from the answer. In fact, it is only a Band-Aid. Society at large is really to blame for the violence in the youths. Witness all the violence and smut being shown on TV and in movies these days and it's not even a double standard they are being perplexed by — it has become the only standard. A cesspool climate of morality prevails. Also, God has been taken out of the schools; courtesy, kindness and caring are almost non-existent. It isn't cool anymore. So what are the young people left with but bad direction or no direction at all."

■ "Every bar and liquor store on Pico Boulevard should be replaced with resilient uses of space, such as preschools, day care centers, elder centers and hospitals. Youths could learn construction, auto mechanics, body shop and auto upholstery. Youths could be trained to become child care professionals, home care professionals or help elders. This would make a large improvement in communities like mine — the Pico neighborhood."

■ "Arrest those who are committing the violence. Put the police where the most violence is happening. If criminals tend to see more police on the streets, they tend to not want to commit the crime. Creating jobs for them is not going to help. There are plenty of jobs out here for anyone who wants to work. Some in the Pico neighborhood are saying that these youths deserve to be making \$15 to \$20 an hour — so-called "living wages" when they are unskilled and

uneducated. Who wants to hire someone with a gang attitude? When you're in the professional world, you have to act professional. You have to shed your street mentality and act like an adult instead of a punk. In the Pico neighborhood, it is the city's fault for putting in so much low-income Section 8 housing in a small area, thus creating these people with a false sense of security. These developments also bring in outside influence and outside gangs."

■ "Let's give these kids something to feel proud about. If jobs can be created that will give these kids a boost in the self-worth department, go for it. Job programs, art, music, theater programs and sports are like money in the bank for our future. I know several artists who said that they would be dead on the streets if it weren't for Paul Simon's art program in Harlem. I think we should give them anything we can."

■ "Guns, drugs, liars, fake police departments and a corrupt city government are to blame for the status of the Pico neighborhood."

■ "I think we should create new jobs for our City Council for not addressing youth violence. They don't even address the issue."

■ "I think what Santa Monica City Council has to stop doing is wasting money on making dog parks for \$7 million and create job skills for these youths at risk and for youths not at risk. We have enough dog parks here and it's a waste of money. What we need to do is start investing in our community."

■ "I think they should worry about the kids and not the dogs."

■ "It's very hard to tell a kid to take a minimum-wage job when he can make a hundred grand a year dealing drugs. Really, drugs and the criminal activities associated with them are at the root of this whole problem, and will be until they legalize drugs or crack down on the pushers and dealers in the neighborhood. Everyone knows who these people are, they're just too scared to blow the whistle on them. Once again, the "War on Drugs" has failed."

LETTERS, from page 6

notion of installing artificial turf (which was not part of the final environmental impact report submitted to the council) in place of natural grass seems completely at odds with "sustainability." Natural grass would appear to be a much better choice for several reasons (as compared to artificial turf, it significantly reduces storm water runoff and increases groundwater infiltration due to inherent permeability; it cools the environment via evapotranspiration, reducing reliance on air conditioners; it traps dust particles that can be expected in an urban airport environment and washes them down into the soil, preventing further movement; and it reduces carbon dioxide levels — as well as airborne pollutants — and produces oxygen via photosynthesis). Why, then, does the City Council, almost without exception, appear at least somewhat interested in using artificial turf, yet almost completely not interested in providing subterranean parking which could ameliorate the loss of Santa Monica College's lot? Creating a new park offers quite an opportunity to demonstrate a commitment to the principles of sustainability — and in this case, it's an opportunity lost.

To me and Mr. Webster, a "mandate" is "an authoritative command or instruction, especially a written one." That seems pretty clear. But, it also seems pretty clear that the Sustainable City program "mandate" isn't consistently guiding city staff nor the City Council, and that makes me wonder why not. Maybe the Sustainable City program isn't a mandate at all. Maybe it's merely a bunch of dreams that we'd like to have come true by themselves. One would guess that the Sustainable City program is somewhere in between — something less than a mandate, and more than a dream — but it seems, by staff's and the City Council's recent actions, that we're a bit too close to the "dream" end of the spectrum, and that's not where we ought to be.

The Sustainable City program is something that Santa Monica should rightly take pride in. The goals are noble, and more than that, essential — and in many ways significant progress has been made. Sometimes, though, other considerations seem to take precedence and sustainability takes a back seat. At times like those — like these — we should do what we can to push the pendulum back toward sustainability. That's why I've written this letter. I hope it makes a difference.

Christian Boyce
Santa Monica

YOUR OPINION
MATTERS!

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Entertainment

Poetic justice absent for stars of 'Sylvia'

Review

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Surely the intense and ultimately tragic love affair between the celebrated poets Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes was a lot more complex (and interesting) than the one the makers of the plodding biopic "Sylvia" conjured up. After all, before she took her own life in 1963 at the age of 30, Plath had written some of the most profound verse of the 20th Century, and the late Hughes — an eventual British poet laureate — was no slouch himself. But the passion that melded these two mythic figures together somehow eluded their celluloid counterparts — Gwyneth Paltrow and Daniel Craig — who struggle throughout this uneasy film to muster any chemistry. And while Paltrow does a creditable job with the heavy lifting necessary to play a suicidal manic-depressive poet, at times she pours the pathos on so heavy that it isn't long before we feel as though we might drown in it. When the film reaches its inevitable conclusion, with Sylvia taking her own life, it induces relief rather than sadness.

The story of Sylvia and Ted, as synopsized by director Christine Jeffs ("Rain") and documentarian-turned-screenwriter John Brownlow, goes like this: They met at a party in 1956 at Newnham College. She was on a Fulbright Scholarship, and he'd just launched a literary magazine. Four months into a whirlwind romance, they married and moved to New England, where she'd taken a job as a teacher. Ted published some poems, gained some notoriety — and the attention of the ladies — and Sylvia became jealous. They returned to England, had two kids, he had an affair and left her. While battling severe depression, she wrote the bulk of the material that would comprise her most famous collection of poems, "Ariel," along with her only published novel, "The Bell Jar." Shortly thereafter, she killed herself.

And while there could be no happy ending to "Sylvia," the film might have been more appealing had Jeffs et al tempered the lugubriousness, eschewed some of the melodrama, and paid more attention to the artists' journey. After all, Plath and Hughes wrote some pretty heady stuff, right? But we're reduced to rubbernecking what amounts to speculative soap opera pap instead of exploring the complex evolution of their art.

(Rated R for sexuality, nudity and language. Running time: 100 minutes)

'Pieces of April' puts them all into place

Review

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Highlighted by several inspired performances, "Pieces Of April" is an engaging dramedy that has a little something for everybody. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll be thankful that there aren't nearly as many clichés in the film as there are already in this review. And that's saying something, since the subject matter — a family torn apart attempting to come together over a holiday meal — is as threadbare as grandmother's vintage Thanksgiving placemats. Though the roots of the various conflicts may at first seem bromidic, after things get going writer-director Peter Hedges ("About A Boy") mostly steers clear of the usual rules of estrangement and, thankfully, offers up no hokey resolutions.

Katie Holmes stars as April Burns, the Black Sheep of an apparently idyllic suburban family. She left mom, dad and



Patricia Clarkson and Rusty Dewees in "Pieces of April."

her two siblings behind and moved to the Big Apple, where she shares a decrepit flat with her doting boyfriend Bobby (Derek Luke) who — unbeknownst to her family — is black. April and her mother Joy (Patricia Clarkson) don't get along — never did, according to both parties. It's a rift made all the more severe because Joy

is dying of cancer. So on Thanksgiving Day, the Burns' load up the family car and head to April's for some turkey and conciliation. Meanwhile in New York, Bobby tries to comfort April — who's struggling with her emotions and her first foray into the kitchen — while worrying how her white-washed family is going to react

to his ethnicity.

Heavy as all that sounds, "Pieces Of April" is at times a very funny movie. As the patriarch of the Burns clan, Oliver Platt — yes, Oliver Platt! — is an absolute delight. The perfect straight man for what we come to see is a hilariously dysfunctional brood. And Patricia Clarkson is fast becoming, as noted critic Leonard Maltin pointed out after seeing the movie, a national treasure. She just doesn't ever deliver anything less than her considerable best. It's Holmes, though, who benefits most from her unconventional character. April Burns wouldn't fit in with the kids from Dawson's Creek, and that is just what the career counselor ordered. The time has come for the 24-year-old actress to shed her teen queen image and "Pieces Of April" is certainly a fine start.

(Rated PG-13 for language, sensuality, drug content and images of nudity. Running time: 81 minutes)

Grown-up Holmes wants to 'make people feel good'

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

She spent many years flashing her impossibly cute dimples as the girl next door on "Dawson's Creek," but Katie Holmes wants everyone to know she's all grown up now. Holmes hopes to shed her teen queen past by doing more than simply playing a tramp who bares all, as she did in the thriller "The Gift." To that end, she's taking on mature parts that enable her to explore emotional territory that transcends the ethereal landscapes Joey Potter frolicked in on the WB. And both the title role in "Pieces of April" and a supporting turn in "The Singing Detective" — two highly regarded new low-budget films — ought to do wonders in helping the 24-year-old actress get where she wants to be.

She swapped words with a group of entertainment scribes recently, part of a promotional sortie for "Pieces of April," an eminently likable film which co-stars Derek Luke, Oliver Platt and Patricia Clarkson.

QUESTION: There seems to be something for everyone in "Pieces of April." In what ways did the material touch you?

KATIE HOLMES: It was a wonderful opportunity and a lot of fun to play a



character who, like myself, is in her early 20s, on her own and trying to figure it all out. What moved me the most was April's journey. It just felt very genuine.

Q: You have a very distinctive look in this film, not at all like anything we've seen from you before. Was it fun to dress up so funky?

KH: Yeah, it was a lot of fun. It was helpful because you put all that stuff on

that makes you completely change and you feel different. So you're halfway there, as far as playing a different sort of character. Some days I felt like it was Halloween though.

Q: You've got another movie coming out called "The Singing Detective" with Robert Downey Jr. What was it like to work with him?

KH: I'll never forget working with Robert. He's amazing. I just wanted to do a good job because he's very inspiring to me and I'm a big fan of his. So I was really nervous, but eventually I just went with it and had fun.

Q: What other actors that you've worked with have been intimidating in that way?

KH: I usually get butterflies pretty much before I work with anyone. But probably the ones that lasted the longest were Michael Douglas, Helen Mirren and Robert.

Q: Now that "Dawson's Creek" has ended, where are you hoping your career will take you?

KH: My main goal is to find good material and to do movies that make people feel good. Or make people feel, actually. I want to do a lot of different things, and there isn't a conscious decision to depart from ("Dawson's Creek").

DID YOU KNOW?: The comic book character Wonder Woman was created by William Moulton Marston, who also invented the Lie Detector.

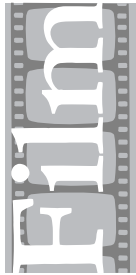
ENTERTAINMENT



'Scary 3' not as funny as first, but has laugh-out-loud scenes

Review

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press



The easiest way to sum it up is thusly: The third installment of this popular horror spoof franchise isn't as funny as the original, but it's a major step up from the lowly first sequel. The storylines of two recent blockbusters — "The Ring" and "Signs" — merge to give "Scary Movie 3" a hook upon which to hang several laugh-out-loud gags, along with a fair share of duds. There are even a few potshots taken at such non-horror fare as "The Matrix: Reloaded," "8 Mile" and "American Idol." (On second thought, maybe "Idol" does qualify as horror.)

The list of stars who make cameos is a multifarious one that produces mixed results. Pam Anderson and Jenny McCarthy get the picture off to rollicking start as a pair of well-endowed, dim-witted Catholic school girls in trouble. Denise Richards makes the most of a very brief appearance playing opposite her husband, Charlie Sheen, who stars as a farmer styled after Mel Gibson's character in "Signs." Simon Cowell, the acerbic "Idol" host, provides one of the film's high points when he finally gets what's coming to him at a rap competition. Less effective are Eddie Griffin and Queen Latifah in underwritten roles as the Matrix characters Morpheus and the Oracle. And superannuated spoof-staple Leslie Nielsen, as the feeble-minded president who's convinced aliens are among us, needs to have his membership card to the lampoon genre revoked once and for all. Oh, and let's not forget the ubiquitous Coors Light Twins, whose 15 Minutes of Fame is beginning to feel like our long dark night of the soul.



Pam Anderson in a scene from 'Scary Movie 3.'

The team that brought us the first two films is MIA. "Scary Movie 3" was directed by the estimable David Zucker, who along with his brother Jerry and pal Jim Abrahams, set the bar for spoof flicks with classics such as "The Kentucky Fried Movie," "Airplane!" and "The Naked Gun." So expect plenty of dopey physical humor — characters hitting their heads on boom microphones and the like — as well as countless gross-out gags, borderline offensive ethnic jokes and some clever wordplay. What you shouldn't expect is the second coming of "Airplane!" because if you were expecting that, well, Shirley you can't be serious!

(Rated PG-13 for pervasive crude and sexual humor, language, comic violence and drug references. Running time: 90 minutes)

ART BRIEFS



With Halloween comes a 'Dark Side of the Rainbow'

By the Daily Press staff

Blending a screening of "The Wizard of Oz" synched with a remix of Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon" as a soundtrack, the Santa Monica College Academy of Entertainment & Technology is presenting a unique Halloween experience.

The special free event — dubbed "Dark Side of the Rainbow" — will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 31, in Room 235 of the college's Academy of Entertainment & Technology, 1660 Stewart St. Parking is free.

Local deejays will remix the "Dark Side of the Moon" soundtrack live, using interactive performance technology and live electronic guitar.

"This will be a memorable Halloween show and a favorite phenomenon among students," said SMC interactive media professor David Javelosa, organizer of the event.

For more information, contact Javelosa at (310) 434-3763.

'Distinguished Scientist' Dressler descends on SMC

By the Daily Press staff

Renowned astronomer Alan Dressler will discuss the nature, history and evolution of galaxies in the second installment of Santa Monica College's 2003 "Distinguished Scientists Lecture Series," a free series of talks designed for lay audiences.

"Galaxy, Star, Planet, Life — The NASA Origins Program" will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 30 in Lecture Hall 140 of the SMC Science Complex, 1900 Pico Blvd.

Dressler is a prize-winning scientist with The Observatories of the Carnegie Institution in Pasadena. He has also done studies on black holes and, working with ground telescopes and the Hubble Space Telescope, has obtained observations of very distant galaxies.

In 1984, he received the Newton Lacey Pierce Prize, awarded by the American Astronomical Society.

The author of "The Voyage to the Great Attractor," Dressler received his bachelor's degree in physics at the University of California at Berkeley and his doctorate at the Lick Observatory of the University of California at Santa Cruz.

The lecture series is sponsored by the SMC Associates, a private organization that raises funds for speakers and special events on campus. For more information, call (310) 434-4003.



Emeritus college band hosts fall concert

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica College Emeritus College Band will present its fall concert — an eclectic program of classical, musical theater selections and more — at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 2 at the Westwood United Methodist Church, 10497 Wilshire Blvd. Admission is free.

The 60-member concert band, part of SMC's acclaimed Emeritus College for older adults, is under the direction of Wallace Umler.

On the program will be a wide range of numbers, including Rossini's Barber of Seville Overture, selections from Showboat and Oklahoma, and several marches, including Sousa's Stars and Stripes Forever. Also on the program will be Universal Judgment, a symphonic poem written in 1878 by Camillo De Nardis, which won first prize in a national band contest in Italy and whose present arrangement, prepared for the famous Goldman Band of New York City, features trumpets from the balcony.

For further information, call (310) 434-4306 or (310) 474-5271.

French songs to spill out of SMC

By Daily Press staff

The Emmy Award-winning Santa Monica College Opera Theatre is proud to present "An Evening of Art Songs," featuring soprano Suzie Hanks and collaborative artist Natalie Limonick at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1 in the SMC Concert Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd.

The special evening of French songs — featuring selections by Faure, Debussy, Hahn and Poulenc — is a benefit for the SMC Opera Theatre and SMC Foundation. Tickets are \$16. For information, call (310) 434-3000.

Hanks, a Wisconsin native, began singing professionally in summer stock and musical theater when she was a teenager. An accountant for the SMC Foundation, she returned to her singing five years ago and has embarked on a recital career specializing in art song and opera. Her debut performing Robert Schumann's art songs at SMC in November 2001 received rave reviews and she returns by popular demand performing with the renowned Limonick, her mentor and teacher.

Limonick is a distinguished vocal coach, conductor, lecturer, pianist and accompanist. Among her many mentors are such musical giants as Lotte Lehman, Jan Popper, Walter Ducloux, Hugo Strelitzer, Wolfgang Martin, Maurice Abravanel, Martial Singher and Fritz Zweig. A former professor of music and general director of opera at the University of Southern California, she is one of the first women and first Americans to coach at Bayreuth in Germany and has been associated for several decades with the Music Academy of the West.

Get in the mood at Fall Dance Party

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Chorus will be hosting its Fall Dance Party on Nov. 1. The event begins at 8 p.m. when the Chorus, with special guest quartets Proposition 4 and Lovin' Tuneful, will perform a half-hour cabaret-style show.

At 8:30 p.m., the DJ will start spinning favorite dance tunes and guests are invited to dance the night away. Karaoke will be available throughout the evening, giving guests a chance to display their vocal styling. Single guests are encouraged to play the "dance card match-up." A no-host bar and concessions will be available.

The Fall Dance Party will be held at the American Legion Hall, 5309 Sepulveda Blvd. (near the intersection of Sepulveda and Jefferson Blvds.) in Culver City.

Tickets are \$10 per person and will be available at the door. If you would like to purchase tickets in advance, you may call Nicki Agner at (310) 839-7947.

As the old standard, In the Mood (which the Chorus will be performing) goes:

"You've got to do some dancin' to get in the mood!"

Santa Monica Chorus is an award-winning chapter of Sweet Adelines International, "a worldwide organization of women singers committed to advancing the musical art form of barbershop (four-part a cappella) harmony through education and performance."



Photo Courtesy

Suzie Hanks, left, and Natalie Limonick.

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STATE

Gov.-elect Schwarzenegger announces chief of staff, warns of a special session

BY BETH FOUHY
 Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Gov.-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger used his first official visit to the state Capitol to name a new chief of staff and to alert legislators that he planned to call them back in special session the day after he is sworn into office.

Schwarzenegger said he named health care executive Patricia Clarey to be his chief of staff. Clarey, 50, brings extensive experience in state government, having served as deputy chief of staff to former Gov. Pete Wilson in the mid-1990s. Before that, she worked in Washington, D.C., under Presidents Reagan and George H.W. Bush.

Recently, Clarey took a leave from her job as vice president of government affairs at Health Net, the state's third largest health maintenance organization, to serve in the Schwarzenegger campaign. "She's terrific," Schwarzenegger said on his way into a meeting in the state Capitol. "She's the best."

Spokesman Rob Stutzman called Clarey a no-nonsense, experienced manager "who has a wealth of experience in executive government. She has a very good understanding of how the governor's office works."

The governor-elect also paid personal visits to Senate Republican Leader Jim Brulte of Rancho Cucamonga; Assembly Speaker Herb Wesson, D-Culver City; Senate President Pro Tem John Burton, D-San Francisco; and incoming Republican Assembly leader Kevin McCarthy of Bakersfield.

At a joint meeting with the four leaders, Schwarzenegger said he planned to call a special legislative session once he was inaugurated but did not specify the purpose of the session. Schwarzenegger is expected to call the special session the day after he is sworn in as governor, which aides expect to take place on Monday, Nov. 17.

Stutzman said that while no firm decision had been made, the governor-elect's top priorities for a special session would be workers' compensation reform and repealing SB60 — legislation recently signed by outgoing Gov. Gray Davis to grant drivers' licenses to undocumented immigrants. Other possible topics would

be political reform and budget issues, Stutzman said.

Schwarzenegger reiterated his pledge Wednesday to repeal the driver's license bill, saying it would not be subject to negotiation. Asked if forcing such a repeal would strike a combative note with legislative Democrats, Schwarzenegger said "absolutely not. There are many, many different things that I want to change ... we are looking at the total package."

Schwarzenegger described Wednesday's meetings with legislators primarily as "relationship building" sessions. And he joked that he had many things in common with Burton — arguably the Legislature's most liberal, powerful and outspoken Democrat.

"I know where he stands on issues and he knows where I stand on issues," Schwarzenegger said. "We have a lot of friends in common — (actors) Jamie Lee Curtis and Tom Arnold. And he goes to Austria periodically."

Replied Burton: "I like schnitzel and kartoffeln salad," a type of German potato salad.

Schwarzenegger said he would move quickly to start his administration off on a productive note.

"Action, action, action, action," Schwarzenegger said. "That's what people voted me into this office for. They wanted a governor that is filled with action — that performs and represents the people."

Aides said Schwarzenegger also planned a private dinner Wednesday with Attorney General Bill Lockyer and a meeting with California Supreme Court Chief Justice Ron George.

On Thursday, Schwarzenegger met with Davis and planned meetings with each of the statewide office holders.

Clarey's appointment by Schwarzenegger requires no Senate confirmation, and she will start work immediately, the Schwarzenegger transition team said Wednesday.

"It is an honor to return to public service and work for Governor Schwarzenegger during such an important period in California's history," Clarey said in a prepared statement. "I am committed to the governor's goal of strengthening California's economy and bringing jobs back to the state."

Caught red-handed: City installing more cameras

By The Associated Press

OXNARD — Running red lights could cost motorists \$321.

Police said drivers failing to stop for a red light at the accident-prone Gonzales Road and Rose Avenue intersection will be issued \$321 citations beginning Oct. 30, when new surveillance cameras will be operational.

The registered owner of the vehicle is identified from photographs of the license plates.

Traffic officers monitoring the program will be able to access photos and videotape collected from the stoplight cameras via the Internet, authorities said.

"Reviewing officers are provided high-quality images of the driver and vehicle along with 12 seconds of full-motion video showing the actual running of the red light," said Randy Latimer, senior traffic officer and administrator of the photo enforcement program.

Since 1997, Oxnard has installed cameras at more than a dozen intersections.

STATE



Treasurer says Arnold better work on 'Plan B'

BY JIM WASSERMAN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — State Treasurer Phil Angelides, warning that a \$8 billion state budget deficit could quickly balloon past \$23 billion if the courts kill a key borrowing plan and Gov.-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger rescinds the car tax, called for an immediate backup plan of spending cuts and a possible tax hikes.

On the eve of meeting this week with Schwarzenegger, Angelides suggested the new governor needs a "Plan B" by January in case the foundations of this year's budget collapse from legal challenges. He said California's financial investors want reassurance the state has fallback options to repay \$14 billion in short-term debt due in June. State Controller Steve Westly made a similar call Tuesday.

Angelides said he has already met once with Schwarzenegger, and sent the governor-elect a letter outlining his concerns about the budget.

"Regardless of the choices, it's imperative on an immediate basis to have a fiscal contingency plan to balance this year's budget," Angelides said. With cuts in spending and the state payroll, Angelides suggested that raising income taxes for Californians who earn more than \$200,000 could raise more than \$10 billion yearly at a time when the state's wealthiest residents are also getting \$14 billion yearly in federal tax cuts.

Schwarzenegger spokesman H.D. Palmer said the transition team is working on a budget plan and an audit of state government, adding that Schwarzenegger is "committed to balancing the budget without raising taxes."

Angelides said he didn't think a balanced budget could come without higher taxes. "I think it's very tough. The math is

very difficult."

Among Schwarzenegger's most formidable budget challenges after he takes office is the possible unraveling of short-term borrowing fixes concocted by Gov. Gray Davis and the Legislature to erase the worst of a \$38.2 billion budget gap.

Already, a lawsuit by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association has stalled a one-time plan to borrow \$1.9 billion to pay state pension costs. Another key piece of the state's \$99 billion budget — borrowing \$10.7 billion to pay the state's operating deficit — faces a legal challenge by the Pacific Legal Foundation, which claims that borrowing on that scale without a public vote is unconstitutional.

Since winning election on Oct. 7 Schwarzenegger has hinted he might support putting the bond on the March ballot instead, a suggestion foundation attorney Harold Johnson called "refreshing," and an opening to possible negotiations toward a settlement.

"He's already signaled that he understands there are legal problems with this scheme," Johnson said.

So far, the pension and the deficit-reduction bonds haven't been sold, Angelides said, and the state must be prepared for a sharp rise in the deficit if the courts rule the bonds are unconstitutional.

"We can't be assured the state will prevail, even though lawyers for the state believe we will prevail," he said.

Angelides, who oversees the state's billions of dollars in investments and borrowing, expressed misgivings about putting the \$10.7 billion bond question on the March ballot.

"All things considered, I'd rather be asking the voters to approve bonds that build projects that build the state economy, rather than ask them to approve bonds that merely pay old debts," he said.

Long Beach fraternity may lose charter for 'racist' flier

By The Associated Press

LONG BEACH — The African Student Union wants Cal State Long Beach to suspend a fraternity's charter because its fliers depicted a naked black man that resembles a slave-era auction poster.

Members of Sigma Phi Epsilon publicly apologized for the flier, explaining it was crafted in ignorance of history by three provisional members, known as pledges, and wasn't approved by fraternity leaders. The fliers weren't intended to be racist the fraternity said.

The handbill distributed in the campus quad shows a nude black actor, Paul Barber of "The Full Monty," covering his groin with a policeman's cap. "Sig Ep Auction '03" is written across his chest, and the words "Hats off to you" appear in the space between his knees.

The flier was distributed on campus Oct. 17 to advertise an Oct. 18 fund-raiser. Fraternity president Tai Hornbeck said the fliers were pulled out of circulation and the event was canceled after senior members of the fraternity saw the Barber flier.

"It's culturally insensitive and racially insensitive," said Leilani Ford, 21, presi-

dent of the African Student Union. Ford said the flier is a reminder of slave auctions, in which men from Africa were sold, often in the nude.

The group wants California State University, Long Beach, to suspend the fraternity's charter for a year, a move that would prevent the 55-member fraternity from holding campus events or recruiting new members.

"I think if the administration takes a stand it will stop. People will think twice about putting out racially insensitive things," Ford said.

Hornbeck said the pledges "were just kind of unaware."

"A lot of them are younger guys, and they just aren't aware of some of the cultural awareness on campus, and they didn't mean for it to have that kind of implication," Hornbeck said.

University officials said it is unlikely the charter will be suspended.

"Our position is that it's a teachable moment, being that we are at a campus," said Jeff Klaus, assistant director of student life and development. "It was extremely insensitive on their part, however, it wasn't intentional."



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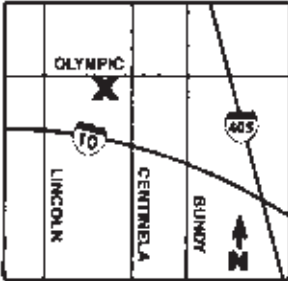
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STATE

CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Council nixes improvements, still \$180M short

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The City Council slashed \$47 million from the city budget by scrubbing 84 miles of street paving, scuttling plans to refurbish playgrounds and postponing purchase of about 50 police cars, among other things.

Despite this week's reductions, the city faces a projected shortfall of at least \$180 million in the next fiscal year. That figure could climb if Gov.-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger reduces the car tax without replacing it with another source of money for cities.

Council members voted to try to renegotiate contracts with unions representing city employees. They also voted to seek ways to streamline all departments and study whether to ask voters to approve a tax next spring to pay for hiring more officers.

This week's cuts, which must be approved by Mayor James K. Hahn, include \$11 million from street repaving, \$1 million from the Parks and Recreation Department and \$500,000 in postage.

They must be carved out of the \$5 billion budget approved in May.

Council members abuse, then lose credit cards

By The Associated Press

LYNWOOD — The City Council canceled city-issued credit cards that several members had used for lavish travel and restaurant expenses.

The council's unanimous decision this week comes during a Los Angeles County district attorney's office investigation into possible misuse of public funds.

"This will definitely stop a lot of the misuse," Councilman Ramon Rodriguez said. "In years past, there was no accountability for the credit cards. They could use them for anything."

The cards were meant to be used only for city-authorized travel, but a Los Angeles Times investigation discovered apparent abuses since 1998.

Former Councilman Paul Richards was recalled from office last month, in part, because he allegedly used his card for first-class airline travel, theater tickets and trips to Puerto Rico and other destinations.

Councilwoman Maria Santillan, who joined the council last month and proposed the measure canceling the credit cards, said some city leaders simply couldn't control their spending.

"Some council members have not shown they were responsible, and that's the reason we had to get rid of the cards," Santillan said.

D.A. Cooley to seek re-election, may be unchallenged

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — District Attorney Steve Cooley has raised more than \$710,000 for his campaign for re-election in March.

Cooley, a Republican, announced this week that he will seek re-election. He has already been endorsed by the Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association and the Service Employees International Union.

The county Democratic Party hasn't found anyone to challenge him.

"I feel very confident that having already secured all of law enforcement support so far, having secured all of labor in L.A. County and having already amassed a very respectable amount of funds, I'll be able to deal with any challenger," Cooley said.

King/Drew physician training in critical condition

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A national accrediting group is moving toward the shut-down of all physician training programs at Martin Luther King Jr./Drew Medical Center, a major teaching hospital.

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education said the hospital's oversight is substandard. King/Drew has several months to contest the "unfavorable" assessment, which could lead to the elimination of the hospital's 18 doctor-training programs.

Only 13 of the nation's 374 institutions with more than one residency program have gotten the negative rating. King/Drew got the same evaluation the last time it was reviewed, in 2000.

"This is horrifying," Dr. Roberta Bruni, a neonatologist at King/Drew, said Wednesday when she learned of the proposed rating. "We thought the review went well. The system has been overhauled so dramatically."

The hospital relies on physician trainees to provide the core of its care to its mostly impoverished and minority patients in the Watts and Willowbrook areas.

King/Drew learned earlier this month that, because of deficiencies, its surgery training program would have to close next June. Its troubled radiology program was ordered to close in June, and four other residencies have been placed on probation or received warnings.

The council's proposal suggests that it has rejected the hospital's assertions that it had cleaned up problems in overall oversight of its 330 residents, who are typically recent medical graduates being trained in a specialty field.

Hospital officials will receive a letter outlining detailed problems within weeks.

NATIONAL



Those feeling snakebitten getting dose of good news

BY BETH DEFALCO
Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — After years of shortages, the company that makes snakebite antivenom said hospitals will receive twice as much of the serum as they did last year.

Hospitals hope the increase will replenish their supplies of the serum, depleted after the original antivenom manufacturer stopped making the product.

No agency tracks how much serum hospitals have in stock. But some major hospitals in Arizona, Nevada, southern California and Utah — all prime rattlesnake country — say they nearly ran out last summer.

"It was the worst last summer," said Dr. Paul Wax. "We got by, but barely."

Wax works in the medical toxicology department at Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center, the Phoenix area's only poison control center. The hospital treats about 60 poisonous bites a year.

Wax said at times over the past few years the trauma center had only enough serum to treat one to two patients.

"There's no evidence that anyone suffered unduly," he said, "but (the shortage) added to the stress."

September and October are the most active months for snakes, which increase their hunting before going into hibernation. They also have just had their young.

No one is known to have died because of the shortage. In fact, death is a rare occurrence since an antivenom was devel-

oped 50 years ago.

But there's a saying in the snake bite world — "time is tissue."

While snakebites are usually not life-threatening, amputation and loss of limbs are a real possibility, experts say.

"Venom digests you. It basically eats flesh from the inside out," said Dr. Sean Bush, an emergency room physician at Loma Linda University Medical Center in California. "The medicine stops further damage ... so the faster you get the antivenom, the better."

The treatment isn't cheap. Each vial costs about \$1,000 and it takes between six and 12 vials to treat a snake bite, said Russell LaMontagne, a spokesman for Fougere, which makes the antivenom.

This year, Fougere shipped 31,370 vials of the serum.

Because of the price and the relative infrequency of snake bites, not all hospitals carry antivenom.

The reason for the shortage, which hit its height last summer, is threefold.

The antivenom — made by isolating antibodies from sheep — takes two years to create and has only a 30-month shelf life.

For the past 50 years, Wyeth was the only manufacturer of antivenom — called Antivenin. Their serum contained horse antibodies.

In 2000, Fougere's new antivenom was approved for use. When Fougere began production in 2000, Wyeth stopped making the serum and left the market.

Alaskan governor wants to explore oil, gas drilling

BY MARY PEMBERTON
Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Gov. Frank Murkowski told a gathering of Native leaders this week that oil and gas exploration would bring good jobs to Southwest Alaska and keep young people from seeking work elsewhere.

"Our job in state government is to help your leadership ... achieve what you want," Murkowski said. "Too many of our kids are leaving this state."

The governor and several of his commissioners met with Native leaders and residents to talk about plans to bring oil and gas development to Bristol Bay and the Alaska Peninsula, which is facing a crushing downturn in commercial fishing.

The state has said that oil and gas reserves in the area are difficult to quantify without further drilling. The last onshore well was drilled in 1985. In 1995, the U.S. Geological Survey estimated that the Alaska Peninsula had a 1-in-20 chance of containing 447 million barrels of oil and 1.4 trillion cubic feet of gas.

In comparison, the Prudhoe Bay oil field, the largest in North America, has recoverable reserves of 12 billion barrels of oil and 30 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

In July, the state reached an accord with the Bristol Bay Native Corp. over the prospects of holding areawide lease sales. The corporation owns 3.1 million acres in the region on behalf of more than 7,000 shareholders.

If the state determines that a lease sale is in its best interest, the sale likely would be held in October 2005, according to the

state. A preliminary decision is expected by January with a final decision in September 2004.

The state has said gas development in the area could offset the high cost of energy and help lower the cost of processing fish for local communities. Former state Sen. Nels Anderson of Dillingham, one of the forum's presenters, said it costs \$200 to make a ton of ice in Bristol Bay and only \$50 in Cook Inlet because of the higher cost of diesel fuel.

Murkowski said no decision on drilling would be made without substantial input and cooperative effort from the local communities. He said he would be meeting soon with independent oil and gas producers to talk about the potential for developing Bristol Bay reserves.

Robin Samuelsen, CEO of the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corp. and moderator of the meeting, threw his support behind the idea.

"We have been faced with five to six years of fishing disasters," Samuelsen told the gathering. "We need to look at a long-term, bigger picture in Bristol Bay."

Fisherman Tom Tilden, a board member of Choggiung Ltd., the village corporation in Dillingham, told the governor that local residents desperately need work but he said concerns remain about the potential harm that drilling could do to the environment.

Residents are worried that if the project goes forward the big companies will snatch up all the jobs for their employees, said Hazel Nelson, president of Becharof Corp., the village corporation of Egik where the last oil well was drilled.

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WORLD BRIEFLY

U.N. security declared 'dysfunctional'

By The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations failed to respond to security threats before the August bombing of its Baghdad headquarters and rejected protection by U.S.-led coalition forces, a U.N.-appointed panel said.

The panel, which was chosen to examine U.N. security, concluded this week: "The current security management system is dysfunctional."

The panel's 40-page report raised questions about the world body's ability to ensure the safety of its employees without appearing to work in concert with an occupying force that is itself the target of guerrilla attacks.

The U.N. staff union called the report a "damning indictment" of the organization's attitude toward the security of its employees.

The report said security failures put hundreds of U.N. staffers in Iraq at great risk and led to unnecessary casualties when U.N. headquarters at the Canal Hotel in Baghdad was bombed on Aug. 19.

A truck carrying about 2,200 pounds of high explosives was detonated adjacent to the hotel, killing 22 people, including top U.N. envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello, and injuring more than 150 others.

Solar storm could stunt cell phones

By The Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — A strong geomagnetic storm was expected to hit Earth on Friday with the potential to affect electrical grids and satellite communications.

One of the largest sunspot clusters in years developed over the past three days and produced a coronal mass ejection, similar to a solar flare, at midnight on Tuesday, forecasters at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said.

The disturbance was expected to produce a geomagnetic storm rated G3. A G5 storm is the strongest.

The storm could make the aurora visible as far south as Oregon and Illinois.

A coronal mass ejection is an explosion of gas and charged particles into space from the corona, the outermost layer of the sun's atmosphere.

A second sunspot cluster not yet visible from Earth could produce more geomagnetic storms in the next two weeks, NOAA said.

Poisoned envelope prompts closure of postal facility

By The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — A South Carolina postal facility has been shut down and its workers moved to another location as officials begin testing for the deadly poison ricin.

A vial containing ricin was found inside an envelope at the postal facility in Greenville, about 110 miles northwest of Columbia, federal officials said this week. Terrorism was not suspected but Homeland Security Department spokesman Brian Roehrkasse said the package was "related to threats criminal in nature."

William Brown, spokesman for the U.S. Postal Service, said three employees came in contact with the envelope, but he did not think they were exposed to the ricin. As a precaution, workers were moved to another Greenville facility while tests were conducted on the building where the envelope was received.

A letter inside the envelope referenced legislation in Congress involving truckers and included an extortion threat against the government, according to a federal law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The envelope carried the typewritten message "caution-Ricin-poison" on the outside, according to a statement by the Greenville County Sheriff's Office.

Attorneys to represent sniper suspect ... again

By The Associated Press

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — First, there was the rambling opening statement that failed to address the facts of the case, experts said.

Then prosecutors complained that, while unfailingly polite, sniper shooting suspect John Allen Muhammad made gratuitous remarks or delved into irrelevant areas when questioning witnesses.

As of Wednesday, however, Muhammad is no longer representing himself, much to the relief of defense attorneys. "You don't know how emotional it is for a lawyer with death on the table to be sidelined in deference to a defendant's right to represent himself," Muhammad's lawyer, Jonathan Shapiro, said this week.

Muhammad stunned the court Monday when he demanded to represent himself. Muhammad is on trial in the slaying of Dean Harold Meyers, who was killed by a single bullet at a Virginia gas station during a spree that left 10 people dead in the Washington, D.C., area in October 2002.

After court Wednesday, Shapiro and defense attorney Peter Greenspun expressed relief that Muhammad had changed his mind.

After a half-hour conference at the judge's bench Wednesday morning, Circuit Judge LeRoy F. Millette Jr. told the jury that "Mr. Muhammad no longer believes it is in his best interest to represent himself."

Feeding brain-damaged woman resumes

By The Associated Press

CLEARWATER, Fla. — A brain-damaged woman whose parents and husband are locked in a battle over her life looked gaunt, with red-ringed eyes, as a tube inserted in her abdomen pumped in nourishment after a week without it, the parents' attorney said.

Terri Schiavo's feeding tube was replaced Wednesday at Morton Plant Hospital, where the woman was taken after Gov. Jeb Bush — empowered by emergency legislation by state lawmakers — ordered her kept alive.

Husband Michael Schiavo's attorney complained the woman was "abducted from her deathbed" and being mistreated by attempts to keep her alive, and legal scholars predicted that Bush's intervention would be ruled unconstitutional.

INTERNATIONAL



Bush thanks Australia for help with war on terror

BY TOM RAUM
Associated Press Writer

CANBERRA, Australia — Heckled inside and outside Australia's Parliament, President Bush offered a pointed answer to those who say the war with Iraq wasn't worth fighting.

"Who can possibly think that the world would be better off with Saddam Hussein still in power?" Bush asked as he wrapped up a six-nation lobbying campaign to reinvigorate the war on terrorism among Asian and Pacific allies.

Bush told a divided Parliament that the war in Iraq was right and inevitable, but that Americans and Australians "still have decisive days ahead" and that the broader war on terror could be long and drawn out.

With thousands of anti-war demonstrators protesting outside the building and two hecklers jeering him from within, Bush thanked the government of Prime Minister John Howard for its help in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

"America, Australia and other nations acted in Iraq to remove a grave and gathering danger, instead of wishing and waiting while a tragedy drew closer," Bush said near the end of an eight-day overseas trip.

Before heading for Hawaii Thursday, Bush observed a ceremony in which soldiers placed a wreath on Australia's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to honor Sgt. Andrew Russell, an Australian soldier who was the first casualty among U.S. allies in Afghanistan.

Bush also met privately with Australian soldiers who fought in Iraq and in Afghanistan, before Howard escorted

"America, Australia and other nations acted in Iraq to remove a grave and gathering danger, instead of wishing and waiting while a tragedy drew closer."

— PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

Bush to the bottom step of Air Force One for the 10-hour flight to Hawaii.

Bush praised Howard as "a leader of exceptional courage" for sending 2,000 troops to Iraq despite the largest peace protests in his nation since the Vietnam War.

For his part, Howard said as he introduced Bush to Parliament: "We have a divided view in this nation" on Iraq.

That was reinforced when 41 opposition-party lawmakers signed a letter criticizing Bush's war decision, saying no clear and present danger existed.

Thousands of demonstrators banged drums and shouted outside the Parliament building while a separate group of protesters jostled with security officials outside the U.S. embassy compound where Bush stayed overnight.

During Bush's speech, two Green Party senators jumped to their feet and shouted war protests at Bush. They were ordered removed from the chamber but sat and refused to leave. One of them, Sen. Bob Brown, shouted "we are not a sheriff," a reference to Bush's recent description of Howard.

"I love free speech," Bush said to laughter.

Several other lawmakers wore white arm bands to protest the Iraq war but

remained silent.

Later, Bush spokesman Scott McClellan said that the president had been warned beforehand by Howard of possible heckling.

"It was expected," said McClellan. "That's the Australian Parliament for you."

For the most part, Bush was warmly received. Opposition Labor Party leader Simon Crean, in opening remarks, said that differences over Iraq "strengthen rather than weaken the relationship."

"Friends must be honest with one another," he added.

While Bush drew mixed applause with his remarks about Iraq, his comments on the broader war on terrorism brought approving shouts of "here, here" from both sides of the chamber.

"As free nations in peril, we must fight this enemy with all our strength," Bush said.

Both in the speech, and at an earlier news conference with Howard, Bush portrayed the battle ahead as long and difficult.

"We cannot let up in our offensive against terror, even a bit," Bush told Parliament. "And we must continue to build stability and peace in the Middle East and Asia as the alternatives to hatred and fear."

During the news conference, Bush also said that his administration hoped to com-

plete negotiations on a free-trade agreement with Australia by year's end.

And he defended the continuing holding in Guantanamo, Cuba, of two Australians captured during fighting in Afghanistan. Their imprisonment has been a big issue in Australia.

He said he discussed the status of the two Australians with Howard and "there is an ongoing process." Still, he said, "These are people who were picked up off a battlefield of war."

Bush called suggestions by critics that the prisoners had been mistreated "utterly ridiculous."

Bush came here from Indonesia where he tried to convince skeptical Islamic leaders that America is not biased against Muslim countries. He also attended a regional economic summit in Bangkok, Thailand, and paid separate visits to Japan and the Philippines.

Bush failed in his efforts to persuade leaders of both Japan and China to stop artificially valuing their currencies against the dollar. That makes their products cheaper to American consumers, but makes it harder for U.S. manufacturers to compete, contributing to the steady erosion of U.S. jobs.

"He views this as an issue that will not be solved overnight," White House communications director Dan Bartlett said. "It's something he will continue to push."

In Hawaii, Bush toured Pearl Harbor and participate in a wreath-laying ceremony at the USS Arizona Memorial. The president will pay tribute to those who fell and draw parallels between the victims of Sept. 11 and the Dec. 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor attack.

Annan, Powell plead with world to help rebuild Iraq

BY PAUL GEITNER
AP Business Writer

MADRID, Spain — U.S. and Iraqi officials pleaded for billions to rebuild Iraq at a donors conference that opened Thursday with calls for generosity and warnings that they might not get all they need right away.

Despite the approval last week of a new U.N. resolution setting out Iraq's future course, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan acknowledged that lingering divisions over Washington's role in running the country might deter some donors.

But in his opening remarks Thursday, Annan urged that such concerns be set aside, saying "the long-term challenge of reconstruction has to be faced by all of us."

Security remains a primary constraint "both now and into the foreseeable future," he said.

"But a start to reconstruction cannot be deferred until that day," he said. "It demands our urgent attention now. I appeal to donors to give and give generously."

France and Germany, leading opponents of the U.S.-led war, have both cited concerns about the slow pace of restoring Iraq's sovereignty for their refusal to pledge any new money now.

Ahead of the meeting, Annan and Secretary of State Colin Powell sought to lower expectations that Washington would come away with the entire \$35.8 billion through 2007 it hopes to raise to jump-start Iraq's economic recovery.

Powell acknowledged "it may take time to meet the goal" of more than \$55 billion set by the World Bank, which includes the Bush administration's nearly \$20 billion pledge.

"I don't expect governments to announce everything they are going to do for Iraq in the future tomorrow," Annan said Wednesday night. "But tomorrow and the day after will be an important beginning."

Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari said his country was looking for "serious contributions in funds and not loans" when pledges are announced Friday, adding "the sooner the better."

Fears about safety and stability in Iraq, where U.S.-led coalition forces are coming under daily attack, should not be an obstacle, he told The Associated Press.

"It demands our urgent attention now. I appeal to donors to give and give generously."

— KOFI ANNAN
U.N. Secretary General

"It is our belief that reconstruction contributes to improving security conditions," Zebari said. "These funds will create job opportunities and in an indirect way will contribute to consolidating stability and providing more confidence."

He also said he expected Arab Gulf states to contribute, adding it would be "shameful" if they didn't. Kuwait promised a "generous" package, but did not specify how much.

Talking to reporters as he flew to Madrid from Egypt, Powell also set his sights on Iraqi assets held in Syrian banks, saying he may take the matter up with Syrian delegates at the meeting.

An estimated \$3 billion is reported to be in Syrian banks, but Powell said he had not "heard a number quite that high."

But, he said, there were "certainly numbers of significant magnitude" and that it was "Iraqi money and we

would like to get it back to the Iraqi people."

Although pledges announced so far total just a few billion dollars, the host of the conference, Spain, tried to sound upbeat.

"The Iraqi people are looking to us," said Foreign Minister Ana Palacio in her opening remarks. "We won't let them down."

So far, Japan has pledged \$1.5 billion for 2004; South Korea has agreed to \$200 million, and Canada, \$150 million. The World Bank has said it will lend Iraq \$3 billion to \$5 billion over the coming five years.

Spain pledged \$300 million through 2007 and Britain \$439 million for 2004-2005. Both were firm supporters of the war.

The European Union's head office has limited its contribution to one year, promising \$233 million.

A separate \$20 billion package is now before the U.S. Congress, and will go mainly toward security in Iraq and resurrecting its oil industry.

Pressed why the Bush administration was not counting on Iraqi oil revenues to pay for reconstruction, Powell said the infrastructure "was more damaged than we expected, and not as a result of the war, but as a result of 30 years of abuse by this dictatorial regime."

"We'll have to see how Iraqi revenues start to generate in a couple of years' time after we make the initial investments that get the oil infrastructure built," he said.

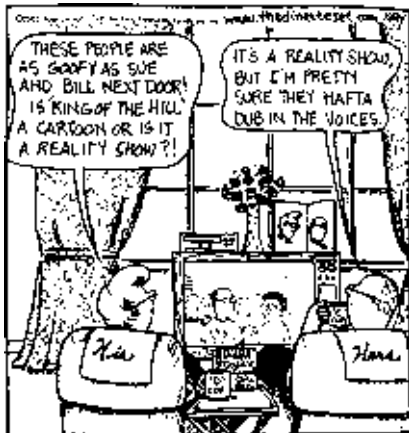
The United States also wants foreign troops to help subdue guerrillas who are supporters of Saddam Hussein, but for now is concentrating on getting support for less controversial work like rebuilding electrical lines, water supply, and infrastructure like courts, post offices and schools.

The centerpiece of the meeting is the creation of a new reconstruction fund managed by the World Bank, the United Nations and a committee of Iraqis. The fund is designed to lure donors wary of a U.S.-controlled fund.

DID YOU KNOW?: Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey as the national symbol of the United States.

COMICS

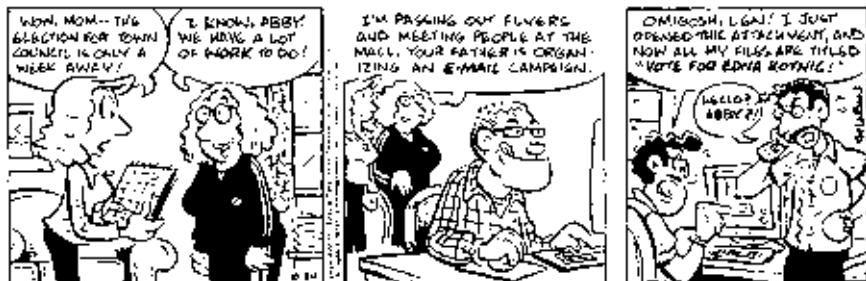
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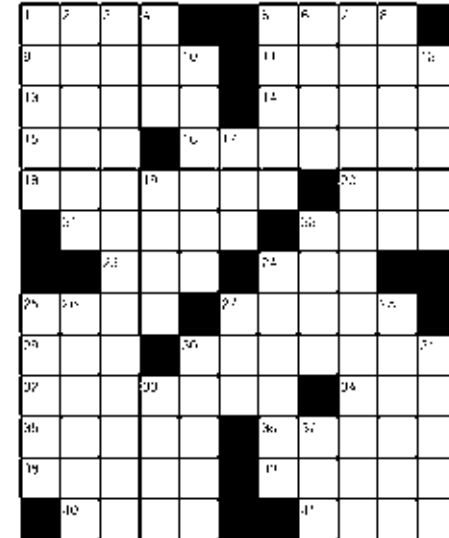
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Carrey to rebuild 'Six Million Dollar Man' franchise

By The Associated Press

■ **NEW YORK** — Jim Carrey will star in a film based on the '70s TV series "The Six Million Dollar Man" to be written and directed by Todd Phillips, Dimension Films announced.

"The teaming of Jim and Todd is a perfect creative combination to launch the 'Six Billion Dollar Man' franchise," Dimension Films co-chairman Bob Weinstein said this week. "Todd is a director with proven instincts and Jim is a superstar."

According to the studio, "the combination of Carrey and Phillips led to a fresh, hilarious take on the potential franchise."

Lee Majors starred as Col. Steve Austin in the action-adventure series, which ran from 1974-78.

Phillips directed "Old School" and "Road Trip," and is now working on the movie version of "Starsky & Hutch."

■ **NEW YORK** — Director Ron Howard was among those receiving an outstanding achievement award at the seventh annual Hollywood Film Festival's "Hollywood Awards" ceremony.

Howard, winner of the best-director Oscar for 2001's "A Beautiful Mind," won the award for outstanding achievement in directing.

Other winners included Anthony Hopkins and Goldie Hawn, honored with achievement in acting awards, and producer Sydney Pollack, who received the outstanding achievement in producing award.

The ceremony honors independent filmmakers and established Hollywood professionals.

Scarlett Johansson, star of "Lost in Translation," and Orlando Bloom, whose films include the "Lord of the Rings" movies and "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl," received breakthrough acting awards.

The festival also announced the winners of the Hollywood movie, actor, actress, supporting actor and supporting actress of the year awards chosen by the pub-

lic voting online.

The public's favorites were "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl" directed by Gore Verbinski, Johnny Depp (actor), Diane Lane (actress), Geoffrey Rush (supporting actor) and Alison Lohman (supporting actress).

"There is no more appropriate place than the Hollywood Film Festival to honor the illustrious talents of all these magnificent artists who have created some of the most memorable characters and truly unforgettable films," festival chairwoman Paula Wagner said.

■ **LAS VEGAS** — Grammy-winning singer Celine Dion will be presented with the Society of Singers' 13th annual ELLA Award.

The entertainer, who has a long-standing contract to perform at Caesars Palace hotel-casino, will receive the award during a June 2004 ceremony in Beverly Hills, Calif., Society of Singers President and chief executive officer Jerry F. Sharell said this week.

The award, named after its first recipient — Ella Fitzgerald — goes to singers whose contributions to the music world are equaled by their dedication to humanitarian causes and community support.

"It's a great honor to receive this award named after Ella Fitzgerald, one of my favorite singers and performers," Dion said.

Her show, "A New Day," has played to sold-out crowds at the Las Vegas Strip hotel-casino since opening in March.

■ **NEW YORK** — Don't tell Jan Michelini that lightning doesn't strike twice.

Michelini, an assistant director on Mel Gibson's "The Passion of Christ," was nicknamed "Lightning Boy" after lightning struck his umbrella during filming on a hilltop in the town of Matera, Italy, reported VLife, a supplement to Variety publications, in its October issue. He suffered light burns on the tips of his fingers.

A few months later, while the crew was on a remote location a few hours from Rome, a storm rolled in and Michelini, again carrying an umbrella, was standing beside star Jim Caviezel on top of a hill, the publication said.

"I'm about a hundred feet away from them," producer Steve McEveety was quoted as saying, "when I glance over and see lightning coming out of Caviezel's ears. Both Caviezel and Michelini got struck this time. The main bolt hit Caviezel and one of its forks hit Michelini's umbrella."

Luckily, they weren't hurt.

■ **BLOOMINGTON, Ind.** — John Mellencamp said he and his wife, model Elaine Irwin-Mellencamp, were surprised by the negative reaction to a song on his new album that questions the war in Iraq.

The couple answered criticism of "To Washington" in an essay published in Thursday's Herald-Times.

Since the song was released as a single as the war with Iraq was beginning in March, the couple has taken heat for its political content, which includes an apparent critique of President Bush.

They said some people had mistakenly labeled them pacifists. Irwin-Mellencamp described an encounter with one person who said the way to test a pacifist was to punch him in the nose and see how long it took him to hit back.

"I'll tell you one thing about the Mellencamps," the 52-year-old rocker told the newspaper. "We don't believe in killing people and we don't believe in war, but we're not pacifists."

Mellencamp, a southern Indiana native, noted he'd written other songs on social issues, like "Pink Houses" and "Rain on the Scarecrow." Mellencamp co-founded Farm Aid in 1985 with Willie Nelson and Neil Young.

The Mellencamps said they had questions about U.S. policy in Iraq and on other issues, and they were surprised by the negative reaction to the song, which is included on the album, "Trouble No More."

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