

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Drumming up support



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press
Zeno Storm, 21, plays a djembe drum before a living wage rally in front of City Hall on Thursday. Living wage supporters held the event to clarify what they say are misleading claims being made by the measure's opponents. Supporters say despite what residents are told, Measure JJ will not bankrupt the school district or force libraries to be closed.

Controversial mailer has both sides baffled

Police and fire unions use messy analogy to make point

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Call it a scare tactic or an unintentional mistake, opponents of a hotly contested ballot measure are feeling the heat from police.

A letter sent to thousands of Santa Monica homes this week from the police and fire unions criticizes Measure HH. A statement, which appeared in the latest campaign literature attempting to shoot down Measure HH, indicates that police and fire service could be comprised if it passed by voters on Nov. 5.

Also known as VERITAS, the measure would completely change the way city council candidates are elected. It would

divide the city into districts that council members would be elected from, among other things. Currently, council members are elected at large in the city.

In the letter, Santa Monica Police Officers' Association President Shane Talbot and Santa Monica Firefighters' Association President Kenneth G. Polhill argue that by dividing the city into voting districts, Measure HH would diminish the influence residents have on issues city-wide.

Many people are troubled by a sentence that appears in the next to last line of the letter, which started to appear up in mailboxes north of Montana Avenue on Tuesday.

"People are trying to limit your voice in your own city government," the letter states. "Would you like it if you asked a police officer for help and he told

See ELECTION, page 4

Heal the Bay points out SoCal's dirtiest beaches

By staff and wire reports

An environmental group has given a notoriously polluted surfing area a clean bill of health for the first time in a decade.

Heal the Bay gave Surfrider in Malibu an "A," not because pollution levels have subsided, but because Southern California's drought conditions have produced near non-existent runoff. That has allowed 87 percent of Los Angeles County's beaches to get a top grade.

Rainwater carries animal waste, septic tank overflow and other bacteria sources into storm water drains out to the bay. The result is high bacteria levels, which can cause gastrointestinal illnesses and ear, eye or skin infections to those who go in the water.

Stretches of Will Rogers State Beach and Santa Monica beaches still merit D's and F's for high levels of bacteria, Heal the Bay found.

A stretch of Huntington Beach was rated among Orange County's five most polluted.

"It's the usual suspects," said the group's executive director Mark Gold.

"Orange County had six sewage spills that, though minor, resulted in shoreline closures, compared to four in Los Angeles County that did not lead to closures. Last year, Orange County had 14 sewage spills."

Heal the Bay's yearly report card is based on bacterial tests made from June through October.

San Clemente's Poche Beach also made the list because of persistent bacterial contamination. Dana Point Harbor's Baby Beach, another zone of chronic contamination, also had bad water quality.

And the beach areas around Newport Bay are troubled by bacteria as well, such as the beach near 43rd Street, Heal the Bay said.

Efforts to improve water quality appear to be working, health officials said. Diversions of urban runoff from storm drains into sewer systems were credited with helping improve water quality.

Hobie and Kiddie Beaches in Oxnard's Channel Islands Harbor and Rincon Beach up the coast from Ventura wrecked the county's otherwise pristine coastline.

Police charge transient with attempted murder

Man allegedly stabbed victim in city park

By Daily Press staff

A transient was arrested Wednesday after he allegedly stabbed a man in Virginia Avenue Park, according to police.

At about 5:40 p.m., a Santa Monica police officer saw a disturbance in the park and realized that a stabbing had just taken place.

The officer immediately arrested Javier Beltran Ochoa, 43, and recovered the

knife. After receiving treatment from Santa Monica fire paramedics, the victim was transported to a local hospital where he is listed in fair condition. The victim was stabbed in the stomach.

The victim said he didn't know the suspect and claimed that the attack was unprovoked.

Ochoa was booked at the Santa Monica Jail and charged with attempt murder. His bail has been set at \$500,000.

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Robbery/Homicide Unit of the Santa Monica Police Department at (310) 458-845.

Angels, where are you?

Spelling family's beach home lawsuit goes to trial

BY JOHN WOOD
Special to the Daily Press

The air conditioning system in a Malibu beach house belonging to one of network television's most renowned

producers is at the heart of a \$500,000 lawsuit that went to trial here Wednesday.

The tiff over repairs to Aaron and Candy Spellings' La Costa Beach home ballooned after it began in a Burbank small claims courtroom two years ago with a claim against them for back pay.

Aaron Spelling is a legendary producer in an age when network televi-

See LAWSUIT, page 4

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♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ What is suggested to you is a bright idea. Follow through on something you want to handle a certain way. Obviously, others don't always carry out instructions as you might desire. Unexpected developments might encourage a change of plans! Tonight: You don't have to go far from home.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Balance your budget before you decide to spring for dinner tonight or for lunch with a co-worker. You love good eating, but sometimes you go a bit overboard. Might it be time for a diet? A boss or someone you answer to makes demands. Tonight: Indulge yourself, too.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You're in a position to make a difference with a child or new friend. Make that extra effort. Realize how awkward another might feel when dealing with you, especially after a recent run-in. Use your charm to melt barriers. Tonight: Take off quickly, before plans can change.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Step back when someone whispers a secret in your ear. You might not be too comfortable with what you hear. Loosen up when dealing with those in your immediate environment. Sometimes you're quite tough on an associate. Tonight: Slow down.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Take your time with friends and co-workers. Brainstorm with others, keeping in mind the mutual goal. Loosen up with how you deal with associates. Forget the motto of "business as usual." Get into the weekend spirit, which you do so easily. Allow more feelings to emerge. Tonight: Ever playful.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Take charge at work. Others appreciate your leadership and sense of responsibility. One person could rebel or decide to head in another direction. Know when to flex with new technology and/or someone's quirkiness. Tonight: A must show.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You speak your mind, and others act. Now isn't that more like it? A child or a new friend could surprise you. Run with the moment. You don't always see this side of others. Be sensitive to what might be going on behind the scenes with an authority figure. Tonight: Do something quite special and maybe very different.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ A partner makes an offer. Why not go along with his or her idea? State any of your reservations; sound out your concerns. Spontaneity and working past the status quo works. You love the end results. Tonight: Be a duo, if possible.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You find that you have very similar ideas and agendas. Together you zero in on a common goal. Get together with friends. A meeting seems destined for success because of teamwork. Tonight: Where the party is.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Make an effort to clear up all last-minute calls and memos. You want to leave work with a sense of accomplishment so that you can relax. Deal with a surprising request with your eyes open. Don't pretend that you don't understand. Tonight: Take your time getting home.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You frolic, and others follow. Still, let someone close have more of a say, especially with a creative enterprise. The more you allow others to contribute, the more successful this project will be. Open the door! Tonight: Romp into your weekend.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ You could be startled by a family member or partner's attitude. Actually, when you think about it, you could be quite pleased. How you handle this person's unpredictability could impact your relationship. Tonight: Head on home.

QUOTE of the DAY

**"Why is there so much month
left at the end of the money?"**

— Unknown

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LOCAL



CrimeWatch

Sodomy victim finds his attacker

By Daily Press staff

■ A transient was arrested on sodomy charges after he allegedly raped another man in a public bathroom earlier this month, according to police.

Frank Williams, 48, was arrested Oct. 11 after a brawl broke out between Williams and his victim several hours after the alleged rape took place.

At 8:50 p.m., Santa Monica Police broke up a fight between several people at the 200 block of Broadway Avenue. After interviewing witnesses, police determined that the victim and several of his friends spotted Williams and attempted to hold him.

Earlier that afternoon, Williams and the victim were at a local park. Williams and the victim went to a public bathroom to smoke marijuana, police said. Once inside the bathroom stall, Williams allegedly punched the victim several times, then sodomized him, police said.

Williams was booked for sodomy and his bail was set at \$45,000.

■ A Santa Monica High School student was cited for possessing marijuana, police said.

At 1:15 p.m. on Oct. 7, Santa Monica police and a Santa Monica High School security guard caught a young male in possession of marijuana near the school campus. The juvenile was cited for possession and returned to the custody of his parents.

■ A mother watched three suspects botch an attempt to steal her son's motorcycle on the 1600 block of Berkeley Street, police said.

At 9:25 a.m. on Oct. 8, the woman saw three men pick up her son's 1996 Honda motorcycle and place it into the back of a black Ford Explorer. As the suspects sped away, the motorcycle slid out of the Explorer and landed in the street.

The driver is described as a Latino male, 5 feet and 10 inches tall, 175 to 180 pounds, with short dark hair.

The second man is Latino in his 40s, 5 feet and 5 inches tall, between 150 and 160 pounds, with short brown hair and a mustache. He was wearing a green sweatshirt.

The third man is Latino in his 30s, 5 feet and 8 inches tall, and about 175 pounds. The three men were last seen speeding down the alley behind Berkeley Street.

Anyone with any information on these crimes is encouraged to contact the Robbery/Homicide Unit of the Santa Monica Police Department at (310) 458-8451.



Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Again, there is little to report on today. Fading north-west swell will keep surf up above the knees, most sets averaging waist-high and a little above.

Saturday a new southwest, 210 degree, swell will be filling in better throughout L.A. County. That southwest should mix with another building swell, which will come from the northwest, for better height at good exposures.

Expect surf to be more consistently chest-high both Saturday and Sunday, especially at better northern spots around Dume and Malibu.

Today's Tides:			
High-	12:33 a.m.	3.30'	
Low-	4:55 a.m.	2.49'	
High-	11:17 a.m.	5.17'	
Low-	7:05 p.m.	0.60'	

Location	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Water Quality
County Line	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Zuma	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-2'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	A
Topanga	1-2'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	1-2'/Fair	A
Breakwater	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	B
El Porto	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A

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The Q-Line

Audition the performers before someone gets hurt

Last week, Q-Line asked: "Should the city create a committee that will audition street performers before they receive a permit to entertain us?"

Here are your responses:

■ "Hey! I think it's a great idea! There should be a committee to audition the Third Street Promenade performers. It should not be selected by city staff or city council. This is a job for the Bayside District Board."

■ "A Committee? What next? A Casting couch? Let the eyes and ears of the audience make the choice."

■ "Since most of the performers are cats reading fortunes and tarot cards, and mon-

keys dancing on leashes, perhaps Ring-Ling Brothers or animal trainer Jack Hannah should sit on the committee and audition them."

■ "I just came back from the Promenade, I live very close to it, and I'm sitting on the bench reading a paper and I had to leave because there was this guy singing very, very loudly and off-tune. Yes, I think somebody should audition those people who perform there because this was so noisy nobody could really rest or relax or enjoy anything. So I think that's a very good idea."

■ "In response to the city creating a committee that'll audition street performers, I think they should. I also think they should limit the duration of their performance, that is the time that they can do performances, to one month, and they have to take a month off. So that you don't get sick of the same

performers over and over. And the number of performers per street should be limited, or maybe it already is, like four or five per block, 'cause they're just stacked on top of each other."

■ "I don't think those street performers are necessary at all. They are a nuisance, they're noisy, it's stupid, it adds to the pollution and we don't need all these dumb old tourists walking up and down, up and down, up and down. I don't want those people around anymore that make all that unruly noise."

■ "Please! No more committees by the city! Their selections might not be what you would like to hear anyway. And if you don't like what the performers are doing, all you have to do is walk away."

See Q-LINE, page 5



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LOCAL

Letter's analogy hard to correct before election

ELECTION, from page 1

you he couldn't because of what district you lived in?"

But the measure has nothing to do with how police and fire personnel are deployed.

Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts Jr. said while he understands that the union was attempting to make an analogy for the sake of argument, it did more harm than good.

"I believe the intent was to make an analogy between a council member and a police officer," he said. "But I believe it is misleading and people will believe it is misleading. (The measure) will never have an impact on how police resources will be deployed; those decisions are made by the chief of police."

Supporters of the measure said the misleading statement will be nearly impossible to correct before the Nov. 5 election.

"It's an extremely dangerous thing for those kind of threats to be coming from the police, even if it's not from the department but the union," said Irene Zivi, a co-author of the measure. "I hope to make people understand that that won't happen."

"This (situation) is completely unfair and unethical, but unfortunately there's not much we can do about it," she added.

Polhill, who signed off on the letter without reading the final version, said he was upset when he read the controversial phrase.

"In reading the statement, I know the impression it gives and that is wrong. Obviously VERITAS has nothing to do with police or fire response and that impression shouldn't have been made."

— KENNETH G. POLHILL
Santa Monica Firefighters' Association President

"In reading the statement, I know the impression it gives and that is wrong," he said. "Obviously VERITAS has nothing to do with police or fire response and that impression shouldn't have been made."

Talbot was unavailable for comment Thursday.

Councilman Bob Holbrook, one of the measure's supporters who's running for re-election, said he was shocked when he received the letter.

"It's threatening," he said. "It just scares people to think if they vote for HH they won't have police and fire services."

Holbrook said he called Butts Wednesday to complain about the letter.

Butts said he spoke with Talbot on Wednesday, who told him the statement's double meaning was not intentional.

"I have to believe his word," Butts said.

Fire chief Ettore A. Berardinelli said the measure wouldn't affect how the fire department deploys its resources and will not cause any disruptions in service.

"We have some really great people working here who come to work every day to take care of the people of Santa Monica and we will continue that tradition," he said. "Nothing in VERITAS will change the high quality service we deliver."

Robert Stern, president of the West L.A.-based Center for Governmental Studies, said while technically the analogy is correct, it is also misleading.

"Some people will read it that if it's not the police officer's district they won't respond," he said. "It's sort of a scare tactic."

The Center for Governmental Studies looks at, among other things, how voters respond to ballot measures and how campaigns are conducted.

Stern said he didn't believe the unions had broken any rules or were out of line by attempting to make the analogy.

"I'm not terribly upset by it," he said. "I think some people will make a mountain out of a molehill here."

"I don't want to say it's ethical, but it's not unethical," he said.

Defendant says Candy Spelling got the best system

LAWSUIT, from page 1

sion was king and was barely challenged by cable channel offerings. He is credited with "The Love Boat," "Charlie's Angels," "Dynasty" and "Beverly Hills 90210."

At the small claims hearing, project engineer Mel Bilow claimed he was due \$6,000. But the small claims judge declined to rule after the Spellings said they intended to file a lawsuit in Los Angeles Superior Court.

Candy Spelling is asking a Santa Monica jury to award her \$225,000 for the restructuring of the heating and air conditioning system in the home. She's also asking for lost rental income for each of the four months the repairs kept the Spellings out of their 9,000-square-foot second home. The beach residence goes for up to \$75,000 monthly, the complaint states.

Lawyers for Spelling alleged in their opening arguments that contractors failed to protect the air ducts underneath the home from the sand and surf below, forcing Spelling to rip up portions of a newly-finished remodel to redo the air system.

But defense lawyers argued that Spelling simply decided she wanted a more powerful air system, and is now trying to pin the bill on contractors by saying the original design was flawed.

They claim the work was performed exactly as promised, and met the highest standards in the industry. The duct material was of high quality and specifically designed for exposure to sand and surf, argued attorney Robert Stellwagen.

"There's nothing wrong with this duct," he argued. "They pulled out something that wasn't broken."

Named in the lawsuit are Bilow, the owner's representative John Flynn and

contractors Grand Heating and Electric and Fort Hill Construction.

Architect Art Torres settled with the Spellings out of court before the trial. The other parties made a collective settlement offer of \$150,000 that Spelling refused, according to lawyers.

Robert Chapman, Spelling's attorney, told jurors the workers were contractually bound to deliver.

"If it wasn't the best, it was a breach," he said. "Not only is this placement of the duct not work the best, it's bad."

The trial, which will include expert witness testimony, is expected to last about a week.

Throughout opening statements, Candy Spelling sat rigidly in the rear of the courtroom. At lunch and during breaks, she stood poker-faced, as jurors filed in and out of the courtroom.

The Spellings have attracted notice

for some larger-than-life properties. The family's primary residence, a 55,000-square-foot Beverly Hills estate called "The Manor," is reported to have its own gift-wrapping room as well as closets that easily dwarf an average Santa Monica apartment.

Their Malibu beach home is no exception. The 1997 remodel was part of an expansion that included the property next door, which was acquired in 1995. The Spellings have owned the original property since 1974.

Attorneys for the defendants said the beach home, where the Spellings spend an average of 14 days each year, boasts a security room and a film screening room, and has 10 distinct climate areas.

"A lot of beach houses don't even have air conditioning. They just open the windows," said attorney Stellwagen. "But this house had a lot of special needs."

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LOCAL



The QLine

Q-LINE, from page 3

■ "Street performers are real and an organic part of street life and they cannot be chosen from above. If they are not that good, passers-by will not donate to them, and they'll go away on their own accord."

■ "The beauty of entertainment is that some of it is great and some of it sucks. The gift of the Third Street Promenade is the eccentricity of the good and bad entertainment. So keep things as they are and let the people decide."

■ "Absolutely not. The city should not create a committee that will audition street performers. It'll become some kind of corporate nightmare the way the Promenade has become, anyway. For those few that sound horrible, they don't stay that long really, they don't come back because they don't make any money. Those performers are what gives Santa Monica and the Promenade some variety and some individuality. If you start auditioning, you're gonna create a whole new world, and the record companies and all that are gonna get involved. Please do not do it!"

■ "The street performers should be removed completely. There are all sorts of places around the country, pedestrian malls, like Miami Beach, Lincoln Road, thriving Old Town Pasadena, and so forth, where they don't have this cacophony of noise. On summer Saturday evenings the competing noise is almost ludicrous. It's just ridiculous how one can't even hold a conversation with this ridiculous level of noise; particularly

that Old Philippino One-Man-Band-Guy with the bare feet who plays 'Guantanamera' until you just can't stand it anymore, should be removed and euthanized for his own good. While they're getting rid of these street performers, they should get rid of those goofy dinosaurs and all the homeless people and the goths and dog-collar tattooed set. The Promenade has gone to hell, just in the last five years that I've lived here, and it's become a joke. The city council should study Miami Beach, Lincoln Road as a place where adults can gather in a civilized and upscale environment. The Promenade is heading for oblivion if the present nonsense continues, and it's symbolized by this cacophony of noise, it's insane that's been permitted to persist and fester. Thank You."

■ "Absolutely you should audition them. There's only one catch — the people who audition them must be talented people. Not people who sit on the city council. There are people that have been performing for years who ought to get grandfathered in. But no question that they should be auditioned. Absolutely."

■ "I certainly think you should create a committee that will audition street performers before they get their permits. As it stands, most of the performers there are very good, but you have some now that should not be singing anywhere, particularly an elderly Asian man on, it looks like kids' drums, and a few other people. For the most part, I think they do a great job, and they bring in people, they attract a good amount of people I think to what would ordinarily be a very boring store street."

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OPINION

LETTERS

Measure JJ is just wrong

Editor:

I am writing because I am really concerned about this Measure JJ. I am Youssef Ibrahim, and I am the banquet manager at the Le Merigot Beach Hotel and Spa in Santa Monica. This measure, as I understand it, will suddenly and drastically change the law about how much people get paid and will mandate how establishments like the Le Merigot Beach Hotel and Spa do business.

There is something wrong with this, especially in a time when we should all just be happy we have a job. I know many folks that are out of work, or are looking for jobs, and they just can't find one. It seems to me that this Measure JJ will just make it harder for businesses to succeed, and more likely that people like me may lose our jobs.

Believe me, if someone works hard, I think they ought to be paid well, and I try to do that with the people that work for me, and I know our hotel tries for everyone who works here.

But Measure JJ seems to me to be too little, too late and doesn't really make any sense. It makes a business spend more, and does not take into consideration what the impact might be. I know that in our hotel we have a pretty good policy about pay scale, and if you work hard, and are dedicated, you will make a good salary. So why are the city council and labor unions trying to make things worse?

Measure JJ will also cost the city as much as \$4 million to implement it, when the city does not even have enough money for after-school programs?

I guess from where I stand this Measure JJ is just wrong. If the supporters want to do something good for me and my employees, why don't they come and talk to us, we will tell them what it takes to make a "living wage."

As a worker and someone who likes my job, I would ask you to look hard at Measure JJ because I think you will end up voting NO.

Youssef Ibrahim
Banquet Manager
LE Merigot Beach Hotel & Spa
Santa Monica

'Illegals' hurt the homeless

Editor:

Following the letters and articles which have been appearing in your newspaper, I again feel it an obligation on my part to send you comment on certain issues from the homeless perspective. First of all, few if any of us out here want to be in the situation we are in. We were not born into this lifestyle, we don't enjoy it as some narrow-minded individuals seem to perceive and we take justified offense to those who are so calloused as to openly and flagrantly look down their lofty noses at others equal in citizenship though less fortunate than themselves.

They are tripping over themselves in their exploiting, supporting and assisting of non-citizens, many of which are clearly illegals, not in any way worthy of even being in this country, let alone stealing desperately needed jobs and affordable housing from us. Schools, boards of education, etc., have traditionally mismanaged huge amounts of so-called "desperately needed" funding, while the monies made available to them are shifted once obtained to the coffers of the California Teachers Association pension and retirement funds to the tune of, some say, over a \$100 billion.

It's enough to bail the entire state out of debt. Governor Gray Davis recently cut school funding he earlier unnecessarily made available and shifted it instead to an undeserving lot to attempt to gain more votes. He made \$200 million of hard-earned citizen/taxpayer's monies available to build housing for illegal migrant farm and other agricultural workers.

And simply put, it is unfair to us citizens who have been deprived of these resources, made homeless because of these factors and others, so that the wealthy can have a permanent underclass of a workforce.

I say the employers or "friends of employment" ought to invite the INS to review all of their employment records and devise a way to do thorough background checks on all employees, regardless of length of time in service. Maybe that would open up a few jobs for homeless citizens, many of whom are veterans, and lend a little fairness to the issues.

Thom Trybus
Santa Monica

Election measures: The ugly, the bad and the good



AS I SEE IT

By Bill Bauer

■ Measure JJ, the living wage ordinance, sets a minimum wage of \$10.50 an hour with health care benefits or \$12.25 per hour without benefits. The ordinance applies to city workers, city contractors and private businesses operating in the coastal area with gross receipts over \$5 million and their contractors or sub-contractors.

There are no exemptions for charities or non-profits, but firms with union contracts are exempt.

This ugly measure is a payback by Santa Monicans for Renters Rights politicians to the hotel and restaurant employees union. It creates a privileged class of worker here. Those lucky enough to work at large firms in specific locations benefit while others doing the same job or similar low-paid jobs in the rest of the city do not.

Measure JJ does nothing to benefit the community-at-large except to create another multi-million dollar city bureaucracy and it deserves a resounding "No."

■ Measure HH, or VERITAS, calls for election of council persons by neighborhoods or districts, as well as a city-wide elected mayor with veto power and council member term limits. While there is a need for voter reform, like a double-chocolate banana split with cherries, whip cream, marshmallows and sprinkles, this also is too much.

The "devil" in HH is in the details. For example, HH's 30-day residency requirement (instead of the current two-year requirement) makes our city vulnerable to hijacking by carpetbaggers and special interests with nefarious agendas.

HH's intent is to make it easier for non-SMRR interests to elect their own like-minded politicians. But, like a double-edged sword, it also makes it easier for SMRR to win key district seats and stay in power.

The big problem with our politics is not where politicians physically live but where their minds are. HH doesn't deal with agendas or political philosophy. Voting for candidates just because they are your neighbor is a bad idea.

■ Measure KK is a city raid on homeowner loan funds. In 1984, a Tenant Ownership Rights Charter Amendment was set up. It established a tax collected on every apartment converted to a condo-

minium. This money was put into a fund to help low or moderate income tenants purchase or improve their units.

Later amendments allowed half of TORCA funds to be used to assist the city in non-profit housing development — to purchase and rehabilitate low-income "rental" housing.

Measure KK would eliminate any restrictions on the TORCA fund (now about \$4.5 million) and allow all TORCA monies to be used for subsidized affordable rental housing. In essence, loan money will most likely be drained away and not be available to low and moderate income renters for purchasing homes.

KK is another lopsided measure spearheaded by Denny Zane, SMRR's co-chair. It's another bad piece of legislation that allows the city to seize funds set aside for ownership to benefit the city affiliated Community Corporation of Santa Monica and other affordable rental housing developers.

Zane and KK supporters will do anything to preserve the renter voter base so vital to SMRR political clout. And, financing one of SMRR's favorite causes: affordable housing (most of which, recently, has been recently occupied by foreign immigrants) is another plus for them despite hurting the little guy.

We need to keep this loan fund alive. Owning is not evil. I urge a strong "Yes" on KK. Don't let SMRR raid our loan fund for their pet pork.

■ I opposed two other ballot measures last week. Measure GG doubles the pay and provides health and dental benefits to the Rent Control Board. Measure EE is a third-rate school parcel tax plan that short changes our kids, burdens the poorest in the community and allows big hotels, large property owners, developers and luxury apartment complexes to pay virtually nothing in comparison.

■ Measure II, known as SMRPH — Santa Monica Residents Protection and Homeowners charter amendment or "Right to Own" — provides a fair mechanism for the conversion of apartments, mobile homes and other rental housing to condominiums.

It, too, is opposed by the SMRR power structure because when renters become owners, they usually abandon SMRR. SMRR opposition to this measure is predictable, but in reality it gives renters important benefits for buying their own home and this is good. Vote "Yes."

Bill Bauer is a 25-year Santa Monica resident and a freelance writer. His column appears every Friday.

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

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OPINION



LETTERS

Time to boot up

Editor:

I wish Robert Meyers would take a hike.

Julia Reeves
Santa Monica

MAD as hell

Editor:

This letter is addressed to Robert Myers and homeless people in Santa Monica.

AT WHAT POINT will you open your eyes and see that the VAST MAJORITY OF THE VOTING PUBLIC ARE SIMPLY SICK AND TIRED OF THE HOMELESS IN THIS TOWN IN ANY, WAY, SHAPE OR FORM?

WE ARE TIRED of seeing them sleep, eat, shoot up, smoke pot, have sex in public, piss, defecate, "panhandle/berate" (ALL of which I have personally witnessed) in our public parks/streets/alleys/front yards.

WE ARE TIRED of having this city and its council look the other way, claiming "we are compassionate because we always have been compassionate." (Look what that has gotten us, Mr. Mayor and council.)

WE ARE TIRED of being the "homeless dumping ground" for all of Southern California.

WE ARE TIRED of being told "make housing more affordable so I can live in an apartment with 45 of my homeless addict friends." Complaining about the high cost of living here? MOVE!! There are PLENTY of apartments in the Valley, in Palmdale and further from the water for as low as \$350 a month. Where do you get off thinking that YOU get special rent privileges? I have to bust MY ass to pay rent here. Why can't you?

WE ARE TIRED of having to call our already overworked and understaffed fine police force, only to have these losers repeat their crimes again and again.

You did see Chief Butts' report on the inordinate numbers of homeless calls and arrests and what it costs us, didn't you?

Overall, WE ARE TIRED of being "compassionate," because we plainly see that this has done NOTHING except wage a giant "No job? No Problem!" welcoming flag to the miscreants/addicts/predators/losers of the world. WHY is it that other cities have successfully and rightly made life MUCH harder on the homeless, therefore leading them to leave town and not have the problems we have? I have lived in nine different cities the past 15 years, and NEVER have I seen one as disgraceful and spineless in dealing harshly with the homeless and the problems they bring as this one. IT SIMPLY IS UNFORGIVABLE TO THE TAX-PAYING, HARD-WORKING RESIDENTS TO ALLOW THIS ATTITUDE OF PERMISSIVENESS TO GO ON, AND WE WELCOME A MUCH HARSHER POLICY IN DEALING WITH THE

HOMELESS.

Do you read the papers, especially the opinion section, Mr. Myers and your homeless friends? Do you see that this is EASILY the biggest issue on our minds this election? Do you see and understand that the TAX-PAYING AND GAINFULLY EMPLOYED citizens of this town are mad as hell and are not going to take it any more? It is true we are turning "more and more anti-homeless over the past decade." Do you think you and your miserable homeless friends could collectively pull your head out of your asses and see why?

You think life is tough on you now? Get ready. Hopefully, your days are numbered. I PROMISE you they are in MY neighborhood.

You just don't get it yet, do you?

Greg Thomas
Santa Monica

Police and politics

Editor:

Why is the Police Officers Association (POA) using scare tactics to oppose VERITAS?

The POA recently mailed a flier to Santa Monica residents. In addition to its list of recommended council candidates was the following: "We would also ask that you vote NO on HH. People are trying to limit your voice in your own city government. Would you like it if you asked a police officer for help and he told you he couldn't because of what district you lived in?"

Why is the POA opposing an initiative that has no bearing on public safety?

Joe Weichman
Santa Monica

Nice job, Louis

Editor:

I don't know whether to be offended or pleased over being called a "semi-literate vulgarian." (SMDP letters to the editor Oct. 23).

Damn ... if only I knew what that means. I guess I should watch Star Trek more often.

Whatever the case, Louis Pastore is entitled to his opinion. After all, the guy DID figure out how to purify milk. Way to go, Lou!

Dan Dunn
Santa Monica

(Editor's note: Dunn writes a weekly column for the Daily Press.)

Santa Monica's living wage an ethical imperative

(Editor's note: The city council passed an ordinance last July requiring businesses in the coastal zone that generate more than \$5 million in annual revenue to pay their employees up to \$12.25 an hour. Measure JJ asks voters to approve the measure on Nov. 5. The Daily Press welcomes opinion submissions on both sides of the issue.)

What is the opposite of a living wage? Through my involvement in the Los Angeles and Santa Monica living wage campaigns, I have had the privilege of getting to know low-wage workers personally. Through these relationships, I have realized that the opposite of a living wage is a wage that slowly drains away the hopes and dreams of individuals and families, a wage that maintains exhausted workers in nearly desperate poverty.

In Los Angeles County, over 30 percent of working adults are unable to provide their families with basic necessities without government assistance. The cost of rent alone often eats up most of the \$964 per month that a minimum-wage worker earns at a full-time job. When the family also lacks health insurance (as do 60 percent of the working poor in Los Angeles), even a minor illness can create unconscionable choices like food versus medicine.

When we realize that the heads of the corporations where these family members

work often make 300 times and more what their poorest laborers earn, many of us do more than wonder when we are told the companies cannot stay in business if they were to pay employees a living wage. We remember the words of the prophets about those who take advantage of the circumstances of others and "trample on the heads of the poor" in order that they may have a fine life for themselves. When the employees of these companies must then obtain food stamps in order to feed their children, we realize that our tax dollars indirectly go to subsidize that corporate wealth.

A living wage of \$10.50 an hour enables people to earn a little more than \$400 a week for their work. To many of us, that may still seem a small amount, but it does enable them to better provide for their families and to have more dignity in their lives. There is a lot of economic evidence — especially in these times — that a stronger and more stable economy is built from "percolate up" rather than "trickle down." A greater common good as well as a fairer society comes from more people striving to become part of a

middle class rather than wealth supposedly trickling down from a much smaller group of very well-to-do.

Measure JJ, the Santa Monica living wage law, will encourage one group of workers who are the most vulnerable among us. According to an economic study commissioned by the City of Santa Monica, the majority of the workers who would be affected by this living wage law are low-income heads of households with three or four members. Even though they work full-time, most are still living in poverty or near poverty.

Measure JJ also will give corporations the reward of more decently paid employees. As the former "CEO" of a large concern, the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, I know the temptation to try to balance budgets and keep expenses down by paying at low levels for employees looking for almost any kind of work. Our church, however, is blessed to have compensation policies in place that keep us accountable to our employees and our community.

In the case of Measure JJ, the only busi-

nesses that will be covered bring in over \$5 million a year annually, and even those will be eligible for a hardship exemption. This exemption was built into the law in order to protect businesses that really might suffer hardship under this law and distinguish them from those that will not.

The majority of the workers who will be helped by JJ work for Santa Monica's luxury beachfront hotels, which are second only to New York hotels in room and occupancy rates. All of these hotels have received significant benefits from \$180 million worth of public investment projects and zoning restrictions, which prohibit the development of competing hotels. According to a city-commissioned study affirmed by a renowned Harvard economist, these hotels are well able to pay a living wage.

Bolstered by our belief that Measure JJ makes good economic sense, the community also has a moral right to demand that the hotels provide reasonable and just compensation for their employees.

The Right Reverend Frederick H. Borsch is Bishop (ret.) of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles.

Guest
Commentary

By The Right Reverend

Frederick H. Borsch

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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STATE

Carpool lanes may be added on L.A. streets

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Transportation officials are considering placing carpool lanes along city streets through downtown to close a three-mile gap between two freeways.

Adding carpool lanes along city streets would cost less than \$6 million, compared to nearly \$1 billion needed to widen or constructing a second deck to the two freeways, officials said.

The plan is being proposed by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and would link the Harbor Freeway and the El Monte Busway on Interstate 10. Nearly a dozen streets downtown are under consideration.

MTA planners hope to narrow the choices before presenting the proposal to the transit board in February. A final decision is expected in April.

The plan has drawn the ire of downtown businesses and residents who believe the carpool lanes would ruin efforts to transform downtown into a lively district.

"It's ridiculous to run that thing through downtown when it's just starting to come to life," said Douglas Wance, a lawyer who lives in a downtown loft.

Transportation officials said a connector between the two freeways would ease bottlenecks on all of the roads.

The El Monte Busway carries 1,047 vehicles per hour per lane, with a minimum of three people per vehicle, according to a recent MTA study. The Harbor Freeway Transitway carries 1,336 vehicles per hour per lane, with a minimum of two people per car.

Other cities, including Seattle, New York and Alexandria, Va., also are testing carpool lanes on surface streets.

Ryder trial off to slow start

BY LINDA DEUTSCH

AP Special Correspondent

BEVERLY HILLS — A closed-door hearing to discuss sealed motions delayed jury selection Thursday in the shoplifting trial of actress Winona Ryder.

With reporters forced to wait outside, lawyers for both sides appeared before Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Elden S. Fox into the late afternoon.

It was unclear what motions were being discussed or whether lawyers were making one final attempt to reach a plea agreement before the trial begins.

The "Girl, Interrupted" star was present at the proceedings. She could face up to three years in prison if convicted of three felony counts of grand theft, second-degree burglary and vandalism.

The trial was expected to last about seven days.

It was unclear whether Ryder would testify. She made fun of the charges on "Saturday Night Live" and appeared on the cover of June's W magazine in a "Free

Winona" T-shirt.

The 30-year-old actress was arrested last December at a Saks Fifth Avenue store for allegedly stealing nearly \$5,000 worth of designer merchandise, including hats, handbags, tops and hair accessories.

A store official testified during a preliminary hearing that she saw the actress kneeling on the floor of a fitting room, cutting security sensor tags from handbags.

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

Last week, a judge dismissed a charge that Ryder illegally possessed a prescription painkiller when she was arrested. Ryder's doctor provided prosecutors with a declaration saying he provided her with a generic form of Percocet without a prescription.

Ryder has appeared in more than two dozen movies, including "Mr. Deeds," "Alien Resurrection," "Little Women," "The Crucible," "Reality Bites," "Mermaids" and "Edward Scissorhands."

Calif. PUC fines Qwest \$20M

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — California regulators fined phone giant Qwest Communications International Inc. and a subsidiary \$20.3 million Thursday for switching thousands of Californians' long-distance service without their permission.

On a 5-0 vote, the Public Utilities Commission ruled the marketing activities of Qwest and LCI International Communications violated the state's public utilities code.

"This company fixed the system only after regulators started investigating," PUC President Loretta Lynch said.

The PUC found that Denver-based

Qwest "slammed" thousands of Californians by failing to adequately supervise sales agents. Third-party verification tapes or letters authorizing the switches also were falsified, the PUC said.

The commission also found Qwest placed unauthorized charges on the phone bills of thousands of customers, mainly those who indicated Spanish or an Asian language as a preferred language.

Under the order, Qwest must provide full refunds within 90 days and must tell customers of their right to choose any long-distance carrier they choose.

Messages left at Qwest were not immediately returned.

DID YOU KNOW?: Goats and octopus have rectangular pupils.

Harry Hay, gay rights pioneer, dies at 90

Associated Press Writer

Hay and his partner of 39 years, John Burnside, moved to San Francisco three years ago after a lifetime in Los Angeles. Hay was diagnosed several weeks ago with lung cancer, family members said. He died peacefully in his sleep at his San Francisco home early

—STUART TIMMONS
Hay's biographer

But at the height of the investigations by the House Un-American Activities Committee, Mattachine members feared investigation. They decided to make the

Hay is survived by Burnside and his adopted daughters, Kate Berman and Hannah Muldaven.

By The Associated Press

In August, the City Council ordered the bank to submit a plan to become self-sufficient or turn operations over to "a third party entity" within 18 months.

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NATIONAL

Two men arrested in sniper case; gun linked to attacks



Sam Yu/Associated Press/The Frederick News-Post

Heavily armed members of a joint tactical response team enter vehicles in a parking lot at the McDonald's in Myersville, Md., early Thursday before going to a nearby Interstate 70 rest area and taking into custody two men who were sleeping in their car. John Muhammad, a 41-year-old Army veteran and John Lee Malvo, a teenager described as his stepson, were taken into custody for questioning in the three-week wave of deadly sniper attacks that have terrorized the Washington, D.C. area.

BY STEPHEN MANNING
 Associated Press Writer

ROCKVILLE, Md. — One of America's most extraordinary manhunts culminated Thursday in the arrests of an Army veteran and a teenager, asleep at a roadside rest stop — perpetrators, authorities believe, of a bloody, three-week sniping spree that left 10 people dead and multitudes paralyzed by fear.

John Allen Muhammad, 41 — arrested with 17-year-old John Lee Malvo — appeared in court, and was ordered held without bail. Both, said Montgomery County Police Chief Charles Moose, are considered suspects in the sniper attacks.

A gun found in the suspects' car — a Bushmaster AR-15 rifle — had been linked by ballistics to 11 of the 14 shootings, including one in which no one was injured, said Michael Bouchard, an agent with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

The AR-15 is the civilian form of the M-16 military assault rifle. As a soldier, Muhammad received a Marksmanship Badge with expert rating — the highest of three ratings — in use of the M-16, according to Army records. Police also found a scope and tripod in the car, a law enforcement source said.

In handcuffs and a green prison jumpsuit, Muhammad appeared in a Baltimore federal courthouse patrolled by a dozen federal marshals armed with high-powered rifles.

Muhammad is due back in court Tuesday on a federal firearms charge stemming from a 2000 court order in Tacoma, Wash., that barred Muhammad from harassing or using force against an ex-wife and children.

U.S. District Court Magistrate Beth P. Gesner made no mention of the sniper killings. Muhammad spoke little during the 10-minute hearing. When Gesner asked if he understood the charge, he quietly answered, "Yes, ma'am."

Malvo is considered by the court to be a juvenile, and all of his proceedings are closed. Police said he was being held as a material witness, pending charges, and they did not identify him.

A law enforcement official, speaking on condition of anonymity, outlined developments that led to the arrests:

On Thursday, Oct. 17, a Montgomery County, Md., public information officer received a call from someone they now believe was the sniper. The caller referred to a robbery-homicide in "Montgomery" — not, in itself, enough to prompt authorities to call police in that Alabama city.

The next day, a priest received a call from someone who mentioned a crime in Montgomery, Ala. It's unclear whether the caller referred to the sniper killings, but the conversation prompted the priest to call the hotline. Authorities put the two calls together.

Evidence from a Sept. 21 robbery attempt outside a liquor store in Montgomery, which killed one employee and wounded another, then led police to Malvo and Muhammad.

Two senior federal law enforcement officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said investigators hadn't ruled out other accomplices, including some who may have provided vehicles or other support.

Moose said the investigation was continuing. He bowed his head and fought back tears as he recalled the victims and their families.

"We have not given in to the terror," he said. "Yes, we have all experienced anxiety, but in the end resiliency has won out."

President Bush called Moose and told him "you have lifted a shadow of fear for many families," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

But who were these two, and why might they have unleashed terror on Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia?

Muhammad, a veteran of the Gulf War, converted to Islam, according to The Seattle Times. Malvo is a citizen of Jamaica. The Times quoted federal sources as saying the two had been known to speak sympathetically about the hijackers who attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

But there was no indication, authorities said, that they were linked to al-Qaida or any terrorist group.

The two were arrested without incident by members of the sniper task force at a rest stop in Frederick County, 50 miles northwest of Washington. The time was 3:19 a.m.

NATIONAL



Police believe they have the Beltway sniper

SNIPER, from previous page

Three hours earlier, Moose had announced that Muhammad and a juvenile were being sought and issued a nationwide alert for a blue, 1990 Chevrolet Caprice with New Jersey plates. A motorist and an attendant spotted the car and called police.

The Caprice is co-owned by a New Jersey resident, Nathaniel O. Osbourne; FBI officials said he was being sought as a witness.

The car has an opening in its trunk that would permit someone to lie inside and fire the rifle while remaining hidden, two federal law enforcement sources told The Associated Press. That could explain the lack of spent shell casings in most of the shootings, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Investigators now believe that the Caprice was involved in all the shootings. Sightings of white vans and box trucks were attributed to erroneous witness accounts.

That confusion may have cost lives. On Oct. 8, Baltimore police officers approached the Caprice and found Muhammad sleeping in the vehicle, spokeswoman Ragina Averella said. That was the day after a 13-year-old boy in Bowie was wounded as he arrived at school.

But no action was taken, sources told the The (Baltimore) Sun, because investigators were looking for a white van. In the weeks after, four more people were shot by the sniper, three fatally.

All told, 13 people were shot; three survived. The sniper left notes claiming to be God, and warning that children were not safe "anywhere, at any time."

Thousands of children stayed home from school, and motorists avoided filling their tanks at gas stations where they might be vulnerable to a shot.

Some residents greeted Thursday's news as if it was the first glimmer of sunrise after the darkness that stretched three weeks.

"I feel a lot safer today," said Mary Beth Roberts of Stafford County, Va. "Everyone's smiling and getting out more."

She was shopping at the Michaels craft store in Fredericksburg, Va., where a 43-year-old woman was critically wounded on Oct. 4; a regular customer, Roberts felt safe to return only after news of the arrests.

Schools kept kids inside for recess again, just to be certain. But La Plata, Md., where the town council had voted to "strongly discourage" trick-or-treating, reversed course.

"I told my wife she better go out and buy some candy," Town Manager Douglas Miller said Thursday.

Police, who had been under enormous pressure, turned their attention to gathering evidence that Muhammad and Malvo were responsible. The first item was Malvo's fingerprint, found at the Alabama scene on a magazine about weapons, according to Montgomery Mayor Bobby Bright.

Bright did not specify whether the print was found before or after the telephone call claiming responsibility for the sniper attacks and the liquor store shooting, but it was the crucial break.

A composite sketch of the suspect in the liquor-store shootings was made and "there are some very good similarities" to Malvo, Montgomery Police Chief John Wilson said. But he said the gun used in

Alabama was not the same as the one in the Washington, D.C.-area shootings.

Police traced Malvo to a house in Tacoma, Wash. He had been living in the house with Muhammad, a source told the AP.

FBI agents searched the house and carted away potential evidence, including a tree stump from the yard that investigators planned to examine for bullets or bullet fragments.

Pfc. Chris Walters, a Fort Lewis soldier who lives across the street, said he called police after hearing gunshots in the neighborhood nearly every day in January.

"It sounded like a high-powered rifle such as an M-16," he said. "Never more than three shots at a time. Pow. Pow. Pow."

Muhammad did not receive sniper training during his Army career. Muhammad had training in three areas, mainly as a combat engineer, which was his specialty during the time he served in the 1991 Gulf War.

"It sounded like a high-powered rifle such as an M-16. Never more than three shots at a time. Pow. Pow. Pow."

— PFC. CHRIS WALTERS
Fort Lewis soldier

Muhammad enlisted in the Army on Nov. 6, 1985, and was honorably discharged at Fort Lewis on April 26, 1994. After leaving active duty he served in the Oregon National Guard until 1995. Before coming on active duty, he served in the Louisiana National Guard from 1978 to 1985.

His highest ranking on active duty was sergeant.

Muhammad changed his name last year from John Allen Williams, years after he converted to Islam, investigators told The Times.

FBI agents visited Bellingham High School, 90 miles north of Seattle, on Wednesday. Mayor Mark Asmundson said Muhammad and Malvo had been in the area until about nine months ago.

A senior law enforcement source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said police believe Malvo became like an informal stepson to Muhammad because Muhammad had a relationship with the boy's mother and for a time the three lived together as a family.

"The boy eventually latched onto Muhammad. We don't have evidence it was formalized but it was almost like an informal or common-law stepson," the source said.

Malvo attended high school in Bellingham last year. Police Chief Randy Carroll said his force had known about Malvo since December 2001, when the high school reported the youth arrived at the school without transcripts or other papers.

At one point, he lived with Muhammad at the Lighthouse Mission, a homeless shelter, Carroll said.



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NATIONAL

Defense Department team sifting through intelligence

BY MATT KELLEY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has assigned a high-level team to sort through mountains of intelligence data for links between terrorists and countries like Iraq that other agencies may have overlooked.

The creation of the team does not signal a rift between the Defense Department and the CIA, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Thursday.

"I'm not unhappy at all about intelligence," Rumsfeld said at a Pentagon news conference.

The Pentagon team, created in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, is using powerful computers and other methods to analyze information about terrorism gathered by the CIA, the Defense Intelligence Agency and other spy agencies.

Rumsfeld said the team has about four members who work for Douglas Feith, the undersecretary of defense for policy. He said the team's analysis was meant as an aid to policy-makers, not as competition to the CIA or other intelligence agencies.

"I don't get briefed today by anyone other than the CIA," Rumsfeld said. He said he didn't know of the Defense Department group until the New York Times wrote about it Thursday.

Rumsfeld and other top Pentagon policy-makers have taken a darker view of

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein than the CIA and other intelligence officials have.

A CIA report to Congress, for example, concluded that Saddam was unlikely to use his chemical or biological weapons or give them to terrorists unless Iraq was attacked. Rumsfeld, on the other hand, has repeatedly argued that Saddam cannot be trusted to use any restraint, noting his invasions of Iran and Kuwait and use of chemical weapons on Iraqi citizens.

"There's always going to be people who have different intelligence views within the agency," Rumsfeld said. "And there's no question but that on some of these important terrorism issues, you're seeing differences of opinions out of the intelligence community and the Central Intelligence Agency."

The Times quoted Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz as saying the team might "see certain facts that others won't."

"The lens through which you're looking for facts affects what you look for," he told the Times, adding that supporting any particular opinion "should not permit you to create facts or deny facts."

Rumsfeld has repeatedly denied persistent news reports of tension between the Defense Department and the CIA — as well as between Rumsfeld and George Tenet, the director of central intelligence. Rumsfeld said Thursday he has lunch with Tenet about once a week.

FBI warns of terrorist attack

BY LESLIE MILLER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The FBI issued a warning to state and local law enforcement nationwide Thursday about a possible attack soon against transportation systems, particularly railroads.

Officials said the warning, based on information obtained from al-Qaida prisoners, suggested that terrorists may try to take out bridges, key sections of tracks or train engines in an effort to cause derailments and widespread damage.

"Information from debriefings of al-Qaida detainees as of mid-October indicates that the group has considered directly targeting U.S. passenger trains, possibly using operatives who have a Western appearance," the FBI said in a statement.

Intelligence officials continue to believe that al-Qaida plans to attack targets that would be readily recognized as representing U.S. economic interests, the FBI said.

Captured al-Qaida photographs of U.S. railroad engines, cars and crossings have increased concern about the threat, the FBI said.

Amtrak President David Gunn said federal transportation officials notified him about the warning. "The threat, like a lot of others, is not specific," Gunn said. "It's not targeted at anything per se."

Gunn said the passenger railroad is taking steps to enhance security and passenger safety, but declined to describe them except to say they will not be evident to riders.

Amtrak has increased patrols and freight railroads have tightened security, the FBI said.

Around the Sept. 11 anniversary, Amtrak announced it intended to enforce tighter identification requirements, including random ID checks of passengers on

trains. But Amtrak decided to reconsider that plan and has never implemented it.

The Office of Homeland Security was contacting key state and local officials to urge their help and vigilance in warding off any such attack, spokesman Gordon Johndroe said.

"The American people should still ride our nation's rails and know that this warning has been provided to state and local law enforcement, and the appropriate security officials, so they can take the appropriate steps to increase protective measures," Johndroe said.

New York Gov. George Pataki said, "There are threats and those out there who are looking to do us harm here in the United States."

He said Ridge did not identify any specific target in New York. Even so, Pataki said, New York has "put out an advisory across the state to make sure that the public is vigilant and we are vigilant in protecting public services and infrastructure points across this state."

Separately, U.S. intelligence has learned that al-Qaida supporters may be planning strikes on ships in the Persian Gulf and nearby seas, said one official, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

"Such attacks may be a part of more extensive operations against port facilities and other energy-related targets including oil facilities and nuclear power plants," the FBI said.

The threats are to military vessels and commercial shipping, the official said. Terrorists believed linked to al-Qaida attacked an oil tanker off the coast of Yemen earlier this month.

Johndroe said the homeland security office is coordinating an interagency effort to increase protection of possible targets.

NATIONAL



Bush administration says 2002 deficit hit \$159 billion

BY ALAN FRAM
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The government ran a \$159 billion deficit in the fiscal year just ended, the Bush administration said Thursday, punctuating one of the federal budget's worst nosedives ever just 12 days before elections for control of Congress.

The figure was not a surprise and largely reflected an ongoing dip in federal revenue collections. But it was nonetheless breathtaking for its contrast with the \$127 billion surplus — the second largest ever — shown by the government's books just a year before.

Though Democrats hope the budget's deterioration will help them in next month's elections, many analysts and officials from both parties believe the return of deficits after four straight years of surpluses will have a minimal political impact. That is because the public seems more focused on the flagging economy and the threat of terrorism and blames them — not politicians — for the revived red ink.

"It's important, but nobody's paying attention," said Robert Reischauer, president of the liberal-leaning Urban Institute and former director of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

In a written statement, White House budget director Mitchell Daniels blamed the red ink on needed defense and domestic security expenditures, and the end of a federal revenue surge fed by the booming economy of the late 1990s.

"Given these two developments, it is absolutely essential that we set aside business as usual and keep tight control over all other spending," he added, repeating a demand the administration has often made of Congress.

Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill said the flat economy, stock market drop and costs of responding to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks "created a deficit. But going forward, I am confident that we are on the road to recovery and stability."

"Republicans are responsible for the biggest fiscal reversal in history. The \$5.6 trillion surplus has vanished."

— THOMAS KAHN

Democratic staff director of the House Budget Committee

Democrats tried to blame the fiscal turnabout on Republicans in hopes of enhancing their chances of capturing House control and strengthening their hold on the Senate in the Nov. 5 elections. They have long blamed the budget's decline — especially in the long-term — on the 10-year, \$1.35 trillion tax cut that President Bush won from Congress last year.

"Republicans are responsible for the biggest fiscal reversal in history," said Thomas Kahn, Democratic staff director of the House Budget Committee. "The \$5.6 trillion surplus has vanished."

In January 2001, the Congressional Budget Office projected that surpluses would total \$5.6 trillion over the decade running from 2002 through 2011, an unprecedented bundle of federal cash.

But with the recession, the costs of terrorism and the tax cut, the budget office estimated in August that the surplus for that same period would be \$336 billion. Both the White House and the Congressional Budget Office say they expect annual deficits to continue for the next

several years.

Many analysts say those projections are optimistic because they assume that future federal spending will grow by only about the rate of inflation, when in fact it has grown much faster than that in recent years.

Democrats also argued the shortfall would look even larger were it not for last year's Social Security surplus, which was about \$160 billion.

This year's shortfall is expected to have a minimal effect on the country's \$11 trillion economy. But if deficits persist, they could constrict policy-makers' abilities to boost spending for priorities like defense and schools or to cut taxes further, ensuring years of partisan budget warfare.

Administration officials had been predicting for nearly a year that the government would be back in the red in fiscal 2002 after running surpluses every year since 1998. Many analysts saw that as an effort to get the bad news out early and gradually, rather than dumping it out all at once just before Election Day.

Congressional aides had been told to expect the deficit figure to be released Friday. White House officials instead provided the number a day early, a busy news day dominated by the capture of two men connected to the Washington-area sniper spree.

Though there have been greater one-year swings in federal deficits and surpluses measured by percentages, never before has the bottom line swung by \$286 billion in a single year.

The 2002 deficit, based on data collected by the Treasury Department, came from receipts of \$1.853 trillion and expenditures of \$2.012 trillion. Fiscal 2002 ran through Sept. 30.



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NATIONAL

Former Allfirst bank currency trader pleads guilty

BY BRIAN WITTE
Associated Press Writer

BALTIMORE — A former currency trader accused of hiding \$691 million in losses pleaded guilty Thursday in one of the biggest bank fraud cases in U.S. history and will get 7 1/2 years in prison.

Prosecutors said John Rusnak fabricated trades to cover the losses and make it appear as if Allfirst bank was making money. That, in turn, enabled him to collect big bonuses.

"It's a bitter pill," defense attorney David Irwin said. "It's a lot of time."

He will be sentenced in January, receiving a prison term worked out in a plea bargain. As part of the deal, the 37-year-old father of two also agreed to cooperate with investigators in the continuing probe.

"Mr. Rusnak undertook a sustained and concentrated

effort to avoid the bank's accountability system, and whether he had help in that at this time has not been determined," U.S. Attorney Thomas DiBiagio said.

Rusnak was indicted in June in the biggest bank fraud case since Nick Leeson lost more than \$1 billion on futures trades and caused the 1995 collapse of England's distinguished Barings Bank.

Rusnak ran up the losses at Allfirst Financial over five years, mostly from trading Japanese yen. While trying to recoup those losses, prosecutors say, he dug himself a deeper hole by taking ever-larger risks.

Prosecutors said Rusnak did not directly profit from the trading losses, but by manipulating Allfirst's computerized system of tracking trades, he was able to make it look as if the bank was making money instead of losing it between 1997 and 2001.

That earned Rusnak bonuses of more than \$650,000.

He collected about \$433,000 of that before the fraud was discovered last winter. Whether Rusnak will pay anything to Allfirst will be determined at a court hearing in January.

Rusnak could have gotten up to 30 years in prison and a \$1 million fine. Still, the federal prosecutor said the 7 1/2-year sentence, plus five years' probation after release, is stiff for white-collar crime.

Leeson served 3 1/2 years in the Barings case. That scandal prompted banks worldwide to tighten internal checks, and Leeson expressed surprise earlier this year that the problems at Allfirst were not discovered sooner.

Allfirst was under parent company Allied Irish Banks at the time Rusnak worked there. Last month, AIB, based in Dublin, announced a proposal to sell Allfirst to Buffalo, N.Y.-based M&T Bank Corp. for about \$3.1 billion. AIB denied the scandal had anything to do with the sale.

ACLU, other groups sue government for records

BY PETE YOST
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The American Civil Liberties Union and three other groups sued the Bush administration Thursday, demanding information about expanded Justice Department surveillance in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks.

The private organizations are seeking information about how the government is carrying out record-gathering at libraries, bookstores and Internet service providers. The lawsuit comes almost a year after

President Bush signed the USA Patriot Act, which widened the government's surveillance power as part of the effort to prevent further terrorist attacks.

The case filed in U.S. District Court alleges that the Justice Department has provided no information on parts of the Patriot Act that have "obvious and serious implications for individual privacy and the freedom of speech."

The groups on Aug. 21 asked for all policy directives and other guidance which the Justice Department and the FBI

issued to their employees on:

- Obtaining circulation records from libraries, purchase records from bookstores or e-mail records from Internet service providers.

- The expanded use of pen registers and trap and trace devices. Pen registers capture phone numbers dialed on outgoing calls, while trap and trace devices capture numbers identifying incoming phone calls.

The groups also are demanding information about the number of times the Justice Department has engaged in various types of

surveillance in the past year. The Justice Department says such data is classified.

"The Justice Department conceded in early September that the information is of exceeding importance to the American public, but it nonetheless continues to stonewall," ACLU attorney Jameel Jaffer said in a statement.

Other groups joining the suit were the Electronic Privacy Information Center, the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression and the Freedom to Read Foundation.

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INTERNATIONAL



Rebels threaten to blow up captives and themselves

BY JIM HEINTZ

Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW — Medics dragged the body of a young woman shot by Chechen rebels from a Moscow theater Thursday as the attackers threatened to kill their hundreds of hostages unless the Russian army pulled out of Chechnya. Two women jumped from a window under Chechen fire and escaped.

Forty rebels, including women who claimed to be widows of ethnic insurgents, stormed the theater just before the second act of a popular musical at 9:05 p.m. Wednesday. The woman, shot in the chest, was the only known fatality of the hostage-taking as it moved into its second day.

Relatives and friends stood in freezing weather outside the theater in a rundown southeast Moscow neighborhood 3 miles from the Kremlin, their dread matching the grimness of the scene and the desperation of the estimated 600 captives inside. Special forces troops moved in formation around the building and armored vehicles stood ready. Snipers were on rooftops.

Three Americans were among the 75 foreign hostages in the theater.

In televised remarks, President Vladimir Putin described the hostage-taking as one of the largest terror attacks in history and claimed it had been planned "in one of the foreign terrorist centers" which "made a plan and found the perpetrators." He did not provide evidence the raid was organized abroad.

In a broadcast monitored in Cairo, Egypt, the Qatar-based satellite TV channel Al-Jazeera transmitted statements by some of the hostage-takers who said thousands of their comrades stood ready to die for the Chechen cause.

"I swear by God we are more keen on dying than you are keen on living," a black-clad male said in the videotaped broadcast. "Each one of us is willing to

sacrifice himself for the sake of God and the independence of Chechnya."

"Even if we are killed, thousands of brothers and sisters will come after us, ready to sacrifice themselves," said a female among the group, only her eyes peering from a head-to-toe black robe.

An employee said the tape had been delivered to Qatar from Al-Jazeera's Moscow bureau Thursday morning. It apparently was made Wednesday before the theater takeover. The language spoken by those on the tape could not be determined since the audio was broadcast with a voiced-over Arabic translation.

The tape underlined what appeared to have been intense planning that went into the audacious operation, which brought the Chechen war 865 miles north to the Russian capital.

One of the masked men on the tape sat before the camera with a laptop computer in front of him and a Quran, the Muslim holy book, on the floor at his right side.

"We came to the Russian capital to stop the war or gain martyrdom, and our demands are stopping the war and the withdrawal of Russian troops," one speaker said. Another man on the Al-Jazeera tape said the attack was planned "based on orders from the military ruler of the Republic of Chechnya," possibly referring to Aslan Maskhadov, who was president of the province in the interval between the 1996 end of the first war with Russia and the resumption of fighting in 1999.

These days, some of the Chechens who led efforts to create an independent country and have fought two brutal wars against Russia have adopted the language, methods and sometimes even the dress of extremist Islamic movements and taken to terrorism to draw attention to their cause.

Al-Jazeera is known for having broadcast statements by Osama bin Laden and other members of his al-Qaida terrorist network. Russian and U.S. officials also



Anton Denisov/Associated Press/ITAR-TASS

Two doctors remove the body of an unidentified slain female hostage Thursday from the Moscow theater seized by armed Chechens the night before. One of the hundreds of hostages held by Chechen gunmen in a Moscow theater has been shot and killed, a Russian official said Thursday.

have said some al-Qaida fighters may be in Chechnya. Chechens were among fighters ousted from Afghanistan late last year when the ruling Taliban were overthrown.

The dramatic hostage-taking was a heavy blow to Putin, who repeatedly has said the situation in Chechnya, a mainly Muslim republic in southern Russia, is under control.

Five hostages were released Thursday afternoon after a negotiating session between two Russian lawmakers and the rebels, raising hopes for a peaceful end to the crisis.

But optimism was dashed shortly afterward when the body of the dead woman was dragged out of the theater by medics, and rebels fired off two rounds from rocket-propelled grenade launchers at two other young women who jumped from theater windows and escaped.

Lawmakers Irina Khakamada and Iosif Kobzon — who is also a singer beloved by Chechens — briefed the Kremlin on their talks with the hostage-takers. The legislators said one of the Chechens promised citizens of countries "not at war with Chechnya" would be released.

Late Thursday night, liberal Russian lawmaker Grigory Yavlinsky entered the theater for negotiations and came out after about an hour, but there was no immediate word on any results.

Among the approximately 600 hostages in the theater Thursday night, 75 were foreigners, said Sergei Ignatchenko of the Federal Security Service. He said 39 hostages had been released. Some audience members and many in the cast were able to flee in the early moments of the crisis, including a group who said they tied costumes together and climbed from a third-floor dressing room window.

A Jordanian doctor who spent hours in the theater estimated the number of hostages at about 800 and said they needed food and medicine. Ignatchenko said the captors refused to let food be brought in, but the director of an emergency medical center was later allowed to bring medicine inside for the hostages, the

Interfax news agency reported.

U.S. Ambassador Alexander Vershbow said three Americans were among the hostages, who also include Britons, Dutch, Australians, Austrians and Germans. A British hostage, appearing ill, was freed Thursday afternoon and hospitalized.

At a counseling center set up in the drab neighborhood around the factory, Alina Vlasova, 24, said her sister, Marina, was so upset when she called from inside the theater that she could barely speak. "They are standing over us with automatic rifles and are getting angrier," Alina said her sister told her.

Hostage Maria Shkolnikova, who spoke with Echo of Moscow radio by cellular phone, said the hostage-takers had also asked to talk with representatives of Medecins Sans Frontieres, or Doctors Without Borders. The group's international director Morten Rostrop was headed for Moscow Thursday night. The group, which is known for giving medical assistance in war zones, has not become involved in past hostage situations.

"People are close to a nervous breakdown," said Shkolnikova, who added the hostages had been fed only some water and chocolate. But parliament member Valery Draganov said food supplies had been delivered to the theater.

One hostage told a radio interviewer by telephone that the rebels had attached explosives to theater chairs, support columns, walls and along the aisles as well as their own bodies.

Security was increased at airports, railway stations and subway stations across Russia. Police and security forces were on high alert throughout the capital, with extra security around power plants. Federal Security Service Nikolai Patrushev said Putin was directly overseeing the crisis.

The Kremlin announced that Putin has canceled his planned trip to this week's summit of APEC countries in Mexico, where he was to have met on the sidelines with President Bush.

Kenna grows to Category 5

BY LISA J. ADAMS

Associated Press Writer

PUERTO VALLARTA, Mexico — Hurricane Kenna grew into one of the strongest storms to menace Mexico's Pacific coast in decades on Thursday, with forecasters urging emergency action to protect an area that includes major tourist resorts.

The Category 5 hurricane with winds of 160 mph was veering away from a Baja California summit of world leaders. A hurricane watch was posted for a 200-mile area between Cabo Corrientes and the tourist center of Mazatlan, and a tropical storm watch extended another 125 miles southeast from Cabo Corrientes to Manzanillo.

"This is a potentially devastating hurricane if it comes in at this intensity or even if it weakens a little bit," said Ed Rappaport, deputy director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

"Based on the records, which go back 40 or 50 years, this would be one of the two or three strongest" hurricanes to hit Mexico's Pacific coast if it does not weaken substantially, Rappaport said.

By midday Thursday, Kenna was centered about 270 miles southwest of Cabo Corrientes, the tip of land that juts into the Pacific south of the tourist resort of Puerto Vallarta.

Kenna, which had been moving to the northwest earlier, was headed to the north at 10 mph, but forecasters said it was expected to veer to the northeast and crash into the coast.

The Hurricane Center forecast said some weakening was expected by Friday evening, but that "Kenna is expected to be an extremely dangerous hurricane at landfall."

Mexican troops and civil defense workers began alerting coastal communities on Thursday and preparing for possible evacuations.

Forecasters said Kenna could bring 6 to 10 inches of rain and possible flash floods, as well as storm surge flooding of 6 to 10 feet above normal tide levels and large, dangerous battering waves.

Leaders of Pacific Rim nations were gathering for a weekend summit in Cabo San Lucas at the tip of the Baja California Peninsula. While forecasters said the storm was veering away from the peninsula, they said people there should continue to monitor it.

Rappaport said other strong hurricanes that have hit the coast included a 1959 storm that struck near Manzanillo, though he said some evidence throws questions on the figure of 160 mph given for its winds. It reportedly killed 1,000 people.

Madeline, a 1976 storm came ashore near Zihuatanejo with winds of 144 mph.



SPORTS

Giants clobber Angels

BY BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Teased and taunted for tiptoeing around Barry Bonds, the Anaheim Angels decided to challenge him. Whack!

Bonds lined an RBI double that sent the San Francisco Giants zooming to a big lead that not even these pesky Angels could overcome, winning 16-4 in Game 5 Thursday night to take a 3-2 lead in the World Series.

Jeff Kent sealed it with a pair of two-run homers, starting the party in full force at Pac Bell Park and putting the Giants on the brink of their first World Series title since Willie Mays & Co. won it for New York in 1954.

Rich Aurilia's three-run homer in the eighth gave the Giants the most runs by a team in a Series game since the New York Yankees walloped Pittsburgh 16-3 in 1960. It was the 17th homer overall by the Angels and San Francisco, tying a Series record.

Once again, it took only one big swing by Bonds — Mays' godson — to swing the momentum in this Series. But, really, the Angels were caught in a lose-lose squeeze from the start.

They pitched to Bonds in the first inning, and the Giants got three runs. They intentionally walked him in the second,

and San Francisco scored three more.

Halloween was still a week away, but the big guy in orange and black had plenty of tricks and few treats for Anaheim.

Now, Russ Ortiz will try to clinch San Francisco's first crown when he starts Game 6 Saturday night at Edison Field against Kevin Appier. Both made early exits in Game 2, an 11-10 win by the Angels.

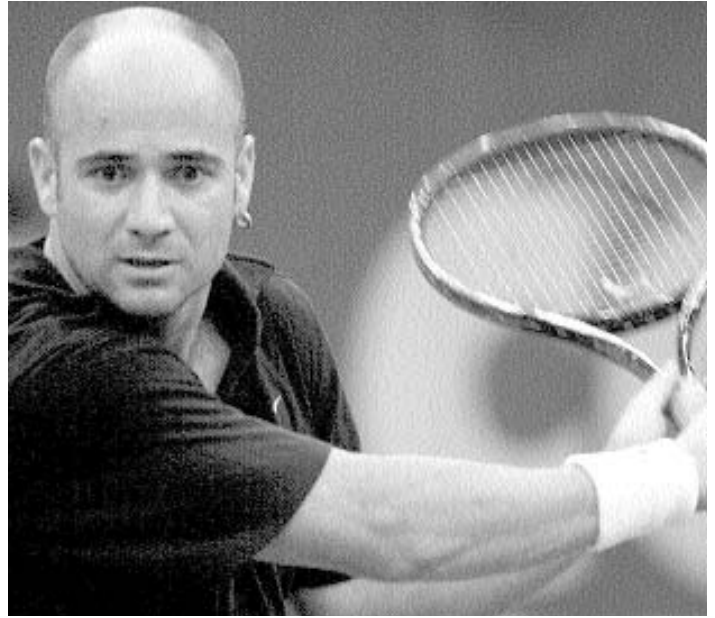
A sellout crowd of 42,713, tense when the Angels climbed back from a 6-0 deficit and brought the tying run to the plate in the middle innings, erupted when Kent connected in the sixth and again in the seventh.

Bonds added another double and a single and Kenny Lofton sprinkled in a two-run triple as the Giants pulled away to delirious chants of "Beat L.A! Beat L.A.!" The fans' geography may have been a bit off, but their math was right on.

Everyone got in on the act, too. Several bat boys, sons of Giants, kept running to the plate to retrieve lumber, turning Pac Bell into the country's coolest day care center.

All in all, it was a dramatic turnaround in the Series. Just a few days ago, with Anaheim's hitters going wild, some thought they would run away with the title. But by the time this one ended, it was the Giants who had the Angels on the run.

Agassi wins



Dmitry Lovetsky/Associated Press

Andre Agassi, of the United States, returns a shot during a match against Slovakia's Karol Kuchera at the St. Petersburg Open tennis tournament in St. Petersburg, Russia, Thursday.

Arizona Cardinals try for the top, division lead at stake

BY DAVE GOLDBERG

AP Football Writer

Believe it or not, the Arizona Cardinals are about to play a midseason game with the division lead at stake. Perhaps it most has to do with being moved into the new NFC West.

At 4-2, Arizona is tied for first place with San Francisco and can move ahead by beating the 49ers on the road Sunday. The oddsmakers don't think much of Arizona's chances — it's an 8-point underdog.

The oddsmakers are right.

Arizona's game last week was hardly a work of art. It was a 9-6 overtime victory over Dallas in which the Cowboys botched an extra point and Quincy Carter threw enough horrible passes to get himself benched.

The Cardinals weren't particularly artistic either, as Bill Gramatica missed three field-goal attempts. But it was a win, so coach Dave McGinnis will take it.

"Everything else will come to us if we do what we're supposed to do, and that means winning games however we have to win them," he says. "But there are things we have to do better. We have to score touchdowns."

The Cardinals pulled into a tie with the 49ers because San Francisco lost in New Orleans. You really can't blame the 49ers — they ran out of steam in the fourth quarter after leading 24-13. In part, that's the result of playing a Monday night game in Seattle, traveling back home, then playing an early game (10 a.m. Pacific time) on the road.

This week, they sleep in their own beds for the start of their new division rivalry. Terrell Owens (sans pen) will be ready.

49ERS, 27-10

Oakland (minus 3) at Kansas City The over-under on this game is 55 1/2. Rich Gannon won't let the Raiders lose three straight.

RAIDERS, 42-30

■ Denver (plus 3) at New England

Is there any reason the Patriots will play better after a bye?
BRONCOS, 24-18

■ Atlanta (plus 3 1/2) at New Orleans

Michael Vick runs rings around the Saints. His cousin, Aaron Brooks, can't match him.
FALCONS, 24-23

■ New York Giants (plus 7) at Philadelphia (Monday night)

The Giants aren't as bad as some people think. Nor as good as they think.
EAGLES, 16-10

■ Pittsburgh (minus 2 1/2) at Baltimore

The Steelers seem to have their act together under Tommy Maddox. Ray Lewis or no Ray Lewis, it's ...
STEELERS, 17-7

■ Seattle (plus 2 1/2) at Dallas

Chad Hutchinson will start at quarterback for Dallas. Oh yes, and Emmitt Smith tries to pass Walter Payton's record.
COWBOYS, 20-13

■ Tampa Bay (minus 7) at Carolina

With Rodney Peete's injury, the Panthers have stopped growling. Rookie Randy Fasani might start at quarterback.
BUCS, 17-3

■ Indianapolis (pick 'em) at Washington

Steve Spurrier goes back to one of his Florida QBs, Shane Matthews. Indy has Peyton Manning.
COLTS, 22-17

■ Cleveland (plus 3) at New York Jets

The Jets are wearing all green again. Will the Browns wear orange again for Halloween?
JETS, 17-16

■ Chicago (plus 1) at Minnesota

The Vikings are favored, which tells you what's happened to the banged-up

Bears. Chicago won the first meeting on a TD with 28 seconds left.

VIKINGS, 23-20 (OT)

■ Detroit (plus 7) at Buffalo

Are the Bills contenders? For this day at least.
BILLS, 37-29

■ Tennessee (minus 5 1/2) at Cincinnati

The Bengals are the NFL's most con-

sistent team.

TITANS, 33-5

■ Houston (plus 10) at Jacksonville

Houston's consistent, too.
JAGUARS, 31-10

LAST WEEK: 9-5 (spread), 11-3 (straight up)

SEASON: 48-53-1 (spread) 63-39 (straight up)

NBA title three-peat inspires fan chant for a "Quat-row"

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — One, back-to-back, threepeat, "Quat-row."

That's how longtime Los Angeles Lakers fan Jerry Leibowitz thinks the counting should go.

He wants "quat-row" to be the rallying cry as the Lakers go for four consecutive NBA championships in a row.

He's shopping the idea around with videos, CDs, press kits and interviews. At last year's championship parade and party, he gave out hundreds of T-shirts and banners.

Leibowitz, an animated-television producer and graphic designer, said he came up with the slogan before the city held its "three-peat" parade in June.

He started spreading the word and applied for a trademark on the catch phrase.

Chants of "quat-row" could be heard in the crowd.

On stage, backup forward and rhythm-less dancer Mark "Mad Dog" Madsen repeated the refrain to the frenzied crowd.

In the late 1980s, when the Lakers

won two straight championships and went for three, their former coach Pat Riley took out a patent on the phrase "three-peat." The 1988-89 Laker team, however, was dethroned by Detroit in its bid for three straight.

Leibowitz is creator and executive producer of the UPN and Fox television animated series "The Mouse and the Monster."

He created a Web site, www.quat-row.com that notes various ways the word for "four" appear in Latin (quattro), Spanish (cuatro) and Portuguese (quatro). Online shoppers also can purchase T-shirts, mugs, caps and lunch boxes featuring the rallying cry.

"Initially, the idea just came from being caught up in championship fever," Leibowitz said.

He recalls sneaking out of his home when he was 14 to take a 20-mile bus trip to watch the Lakers play.

Leibowitz said he will be outside Staples Center on Tuesday night handing out "quat-row" signs to Laker fans for the opener of the 82-game regular season. The Lakers play the San Antonio

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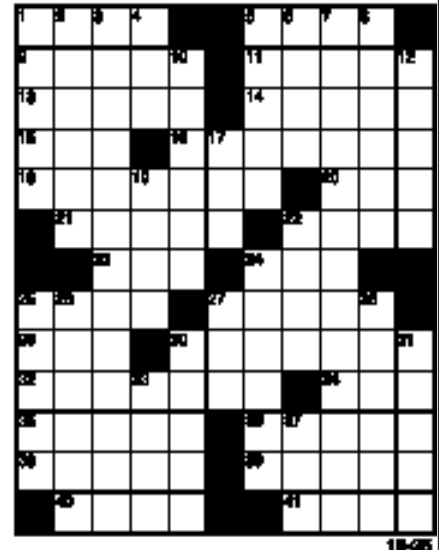
- ACROSS**
- Truck parts
 - Nothing at the courts
 - Recliant
 - Swimmer Janet
 - Brownish gray
 - Findable fellow in Idd's books
 - Time of preparation
 - Writer Calvin
 - Buyers' rewards
 - Zee Zee's sister
 - Put in stitches
 - Textile worker
 - Cona's counterpart
 - Life story
 - Singer/actor lives
 - In the air
 - Some
 - Sown
 - Learned son
 - Gam unit
 - Actor Kevin
 - Clear
 - Alabama city
 - Tender spots
- DOWN**
- Supply the food for
 - Century plants
 - Fats Domino song
 - Soak up
 - Martin's partner
 - Track
 - Fats Domino song
 - Salad start
 - Molden
 - Sub system



Yesterday's answer

- Blood-shot
- HP's quarry
- Singer with the Belmonts
- Strident sounds
- Soaks up the sun
- Reunion attendees
- After
- Serving need
- Bag
- Dude
- 'Don't Tread—'
- King of France

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard



Husband arrested for wife's red-hot hands

In July, on her return from a frowned-upon pilgrimage with a female friend just after her wedding, Sangeeta Sauda, age 20 and of a Khanjar tribal community in India, volunteered to hold a red-hot iron in her hands in public to prove to her husband that she was still as pure as the Hindu goddess Sita. She passed the test, but police in Indore, watching the ceremony, later arrested Sauda's husband and in-laws for allegedly pressuring her to hurt herself.





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Calendar

Friday, October 25, 2002

movies

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

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
The Ring (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00,
7:00, 10:00, 12:40. Sweet
Home Alabama (PG-13) 11:30,
2:10, 5:05, 7:55, 10:35, My Big
Fat Greek Wedding (PG) 11:20,
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:05, Punch-
Drunk Love (R) 11:15, 1:45,
4:20, 7:10, 9:45, 12:15. The
Transporter (PG-13) 11:45,
2:15, 4:45, 7:40, 10:15.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Red Dragon (R) 1:30, 4:25,
7:25, 10:15. Tuck Everlasting
(PG) 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35,
White Oleander (PG-13) 1:20,
4:15, 7:10, 9:50. Abandon (PG-
13) 12:45, 3:10, 5:35, 8:00,
10:30. Brown Sugar (PG-13)
1:40, 9:55. Formula 51 (R)
4:00, 7:00, 9:30. Waking Up in
Reno (R) 1:00, 3:15, 5:30,
7:50, 10:10.

Landmark Nu-Wilshire
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
Bowling for Columbine (R)
1:30, 2:30, 4:15, 5:15, 7:00,
8:00, 9:45, 10:30.

Laemmle Monica
1332 2nd St.
Auto Focus (R) 12:00, 2:30,
5:05, 7:45, 10:20. Real Women
Have Curves (PG-13) 12:15,
2:30, 4:50, 7:25, 9:45.
Secretary (R) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15,
9:50. Spirited Away (PG) 1:00,
4:00, 7:00, 10:00.

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
The Mesmerist (R) 5:30, 7:30,
9:30, 11:45.

Today

Community

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

Saturday

Community

Much Love Animal Rescue presents Bow-Wow-Ween, a free Halloween Pet Fair, on Saturday, Oct. 26, noon to 4 p.m., at Westminster Dog Park, 1234 Pacific Ave., Venice. The fair will benefit the no-kill, nonprofit animal rescue and adoption group and include an animal costume contest with celebrity judges, dog adoptions, games and prizes, a pet photo-booth for costumed pooches, children's face painting, an opportunity drawing, doggie

treats and people refreshments, exhibitors and vendors. Information: (310) 636-9115 or www.muchlove.org.

The Early Years School will have their 15th annual Garage and Bake Sale on SUNDAY, October 27th from 8am-2pm. More than 100+ families have donated clothing, furniture, toys, books, appliances and more... All purchases are tax deductible and support the Early Years Scholarship Fund. 302 Montana Ave., Santa Monica (310) 394-0463. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Readings

Weekly Storytime 11:00 a.m. Come to Barnes & Noble for Saturday readings with the kids! Call 310-260-9110 for more information.

Theater/ Arts

Puppetolio! presented by the

Santa Monica Puppet & Magic Center. All ages, 3 and up. This musical revue features marionettes, ventriloquism, magic and more. Shows are always followed by a demonstration, Q & A, and a tour of the Puppet workshop and Museum. Saturdays and Sundays at 1pm and 3pm. Wednesdays and Holidays at 1pm. Seats are \$6.50. 1255 2nd Street in Santa Monica. Reservations/Information (310)656-0483. www.puppetmagic.com

The Empty State Theater at 2372 Veteran Ave. in W. Los Angeles proudly presents: "The Fortune Room Lounge Show" A musical improv show featuring the "Stella Ray Trio" and "The Lucky Players". Every Saturday night at 10:00 p.m. Admission is \$10.00, drinks included w/admission. Lots of parking! For information or reservations please call (310)470-3560.

Calendar items are printed free of charge as a service to our readers. Please submit your items to todaypaper@smdp.com for consideration. Calendar events are limited by space, and will be run at the discretion of the Calendar Editor. The Daily Press cannot be held responsible for errors.

KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

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

Attention Angela @ 310.576.9913



BACK PAGE



Fall starts late

By The Associated Press

BURLINGTON, Vt. — It's getting toward the end of October and Vermont's trademark fall foliage, usually on the ground by now, is still brilliant in many parts of the state.

The fall colors had a late start this year. The leaves are making up for the delay by staying on the trees a lot longer than normal.

The late color is a boon to late-season tourists.

"There are still tourists around," said Diane Konrady of the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing. "We've been trying to put out the word that it's lasting a bit longer this year."

State tourism and forestry officials report good color in the Champlain Valley and lower foothills across the state, from Bennington to Burlington and on the east and west.

Although the colors are fading, Konrady said, she expects some to hang on through this weekend and possibly until Halloween, barring heavy rain and wind.

This is one of the latest foliage seasons Konrady can

recall, she said.

State officials have been working to promote the state's late-season color, Konrady said.

Two regional associations reported strong tourist business this past weekend, even though the Columbus Day holiday typically is the pinnacle of foliage season.

"I think the word's gotten out," said Julie Hickory of the Stowe Area Association. "Last weekend, a lot of the places were full. Mid-week now, things are winding down. It's not the hordes and hordes we had in early October."

Mail dumped in pond

By The Associated Press

BOSTON — A former postal carrier pleaded guilty Wednesday to dumping more than 1,000 pieces of mail into a Framingham pond.

Patrick T. Doyle, 21, of Framingham, pleaded guilty in federal court to one count of destruction of mail by a postal employee.

Doyle delivered about half of the mail on his route April 3, and wrapped the remaining trays with tape and tossed them in Macomber Pond, prosecutors said.

The part-time letter carrier was fired in April after postal officials investigated residents' reports of seeing mail floating in the man-made pond.

More than 50 people did not receive their mail on April 3 as a result of Doyle's actions.

Sentencing was scheduled for Jan. 16. Doyle faces a maximum of five years in prison, followed by three years of probation and a \$300,000 fine.

Roses for the teacher

By The Associated Press

ST. LIBORY, Neb. — For once, a question put a teacher on the spot.

Abbi Robison's boyfriend proposed to her last week after each of her nine fourth-grade students delivered a rose to her throughout the day. The roses, along with sentimental messages, were delivered three at a time until nine flowers adorned her desk.

Three more roses arrived, making a complete dozen, around 2:30 p.m. — the same time Jeff Riley of Chicago arrived with an engagement ring and a bundle of nerves.

Robison said yes.

Worshipper stuck in chimney

By The Associated Press

SANTA ANA — A man who became caught in a chimney on church property told officers he was trying to get in to worship.

The 22-year-old, whose name was withheld by police, was found Tuesday night with his feet touching the fireplace floor but his torso stuck in the flue.

"He said he had been attending the church for the last couple of weeks and just wanted to get back to church," police Lt. Ken Hall said Wednesday.

The man was in a house at the back of St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Fire Capt. Russell Garcia said the man was given oxygen and firefighters extracted him through the top of the chimney.

He was taken to Western Medical Center for mental evaluation.

DID YOU KNOW?: In New Zealand, there are four sheep to every man, woman and child.

Santa Monica Daily Press
presents

SQUIRM NIGHT



Come watch the nine city council candidates squirm as they field pointed questions about their campaign platforms from members of the press and public.

The event will begin promptly at 7 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica, located at 11th Street and Washington Avenue. The evening is free and open to the public. Parking is available on the east side of 11th Street, across from the church.

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