

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Santa Monica can't ban ATM fees, court says

*Court of appeals says
banks are allowed to
charge whatever they want*

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica is losing its battle with the banking industry.

A federal appeals court on Friday upheld an earlier decision that Santa Monica doesn't have authority to ban ATM fees.

A panel of three judges on the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned laws in Santa Monica and San Francisco that ban certain ATM fees charged by banks. The court of appeals, in upholding an earlier judge's ruling, said only the federal government, not city councils or local vot-

ers, may create such regulations.

The San Francisco-based appeals court ruled that federal banking regulations adopted by Congress allow banks to charge fees for ATM usage. That being the case, the Santa Monica City Council and San Francisco voters had no authority to approve identical laws in 1999 banning a bank from charging an ATM fee to a customer not a member of that bank.

"We find that the ordinances are preempted by federal law and regulations and thus invalid," Judge Joseph T. Sneed wrote in his ruling.

Santa Monica was the first city in California to take on the banking industry by banning what officials — and many consumers — regard as a “double charge.”

City Councilman Kevin McKeown, who is running for re-election, brought the issue to the forefront in October 1999 after he realized he was charged twice

"I'm not surprised at all. It shows you our city has wasted so much time and money on something that shouldn't have come up in the first place."

– **HERB KATZ**
City Councilman

when he used ATM machines in San Francisco's Chinatown. It irked him enough to bring the issue to the city coun-

cil, where the ban passed 4-3. The council indicated that banks who allow customers to be charged twice are ripping them off.

City officials and consumer advocates explain it this way: Customers who use an ATM machine at a bank other than their own pay not only a \$1.50 fee, but \$2 more tacked on by their own bank. Then there's a third fee that rarely is discussed publicly that's called an "interchange fee." That's a fee customers don't see because the banks privately charge each other for their customer's withdrawals.

Adam Radinsky, Santa Monica deputy city attorney, said federal banking regulations do allow local governments or city voters to adopt such rules. He said Arkansas, Mississippi and Wyoming have rules limiting the amount of ATM fees banks may levee.

See FEES, page 7

Ot Mechat Pesnee



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Top: Russian opera singer Oleg Balashov sings Rachmaninoff's "Spring Falls Romance" on Friday at the Santa Monica Pier as part of Santa Monica College Madison Performance Series' "Kirov at the Pier." The event was a taste of Kirov-Mariinsky Theater Opera and the college's Russia Fest. Bottom: (From left to right) Russian opera singer Evgeny Nikitin, bass, sings Mozart's Figaro's aria from "Le Nozze di Figaro." Mikhail Petrenko, another bass opera singer, sings Dargomyzhsky's Miller's aria from "The Mermaid." Oleg Balashov, a tenor, sings Gershwin's "Embrace Me." The three men performed several songs for the crowd, which included many children from area elementary schools.

"Ot Mechat Pesnee" in Russian means to celebrate song.

Anti-living wage group raises more than \$500K

*Campaign spending tops \$100
for each Santa Monica voter*

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

It would take 28 full-time hotel employees an entire year to raise what foes of Santa Monica's living wage have in four months.

Living wage opponents raised \$245,435.93 in the past two weeks — bringing their total for the year to \$556,891.13 — to pay for direct mailers, paid canvassers and a phone bank operation based in Texas.



according to campaign filing forms released Friday.

"It's a corporate campaign," said Danny Feingold, a spokesman for supporters of the living wage. "You have this confluence of corporate influences that are trying to kill the living wage. They don't reflect the community's interests."

During the same two-week period, living wage supporters raised \$107,498.73, bringing their annual total to \$154,264.74, according to the campaign disclosures. The group got a \$25,000 donation from a Washington, D.C. political action committee called the Coalition to Defend America's Working

See LIVING WAGE, page 5

Time to set the clock back

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With the days growing shorter and an autumn tingle in the air, it's time for an annual ritual of fall: setting the clocks back.

The shift of an hour of light from evening to morning comes just in time for the tiny ghosts and goblins who go "trick-or-treating" next week.

For one night, the shift will give folks an extra hour of sleep as clocks are set back one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday, local time.

It also means this is the weekend

some people get stuck working an extra hour — factory workers on the overnight shift, all-night convenience store clerks, bartenders, police and even some news reporters.

For most people, though, it simply means remembering to set the clock back an hour before retiring Saturday night. Or, in the words of the Uniform Time Act, which set up the system of switching between daylight and standard times, clocks are "retarded" an hour at 0200 on the last Sunday in October.

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Feelings run high. Be careful that you don't hit the dog because you're angry at the cat. You might be swallowing way too much frustration. Learn to express yourself in a more direct manner. Work with a partner. Tonight: At home.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Express your ideas and feelings, even if someone else might not be in the mood to listen. Somehow others could be distracted. Why not pitch in and help a partner get through a project so he or she will feel better? Reach out and help those in your life. Tonight: Use up some of that energy.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Try not to be the big spender in your crowd. Playing it a bit conservatively and not costing yourself unnecessary angst could make you very happy in the long run. Loosen up and enjoy yourself in a less extravagant manner. Tonight: Use your imagination.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Your happier side emerges with a child or loved one. Laugh and enjoy yourself with this person. Upstairs around your home could mar a close-to-perfect day — if you let it. Be smart and don't let anything take away from this special moment. Tonight: Whatever makes the moon child smile.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You don't have to be queen bee or kingpin every day. In fact, you'll want to pull back and relax. If you really want an easy day, let your answering machine do its work. You might be uptight about another's call or action. Tonight: Add some more mystery to your life.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Realize what might be going on with those around you. You could find yourself spending more than you would like to in order to make a friend or a loved one happy. Stop. Only this person can change his or her frame of mind. Tonight: You are the party.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Your temper could surprise even you. You might ask "What is going on here?" Laughter and happiness surround you if you can let go of judgments of what you think needs to occur. If you feel like doing some extra work or digging into a project, do so. Tonight: A must appearance.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Pack yourself up. Go off for a day trip. You might find a drive in the fall setting refreshing. Meet up with a friend or relative for a lengthy meal and fun afternoon together. Catching up on each others' news makes both of you feel connected once more. Tonight: Continue experiencing something different.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Your instincts direct you with an important partnership. A discussion might force you to change your plans out of the blue. You clearly know your priorities, which helps a special person relax. You bond on a much deeper level. Tonight: Play away.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Your ability to laugh and enjoy yourself allows you to make a big difference in others' lives. You find that many seek you out for your perspective as well as for good fun. Pressure from an authority figure might cause you to lash out. Tonight: Say "yes."

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ A project might be more important than a get-together, unless it somehow helps you gain a new perspective. You might want to plan to see a movie, but not much more. Allow others to share more of themselves. Tonight: "Relaxing" needs to be the theme.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your sixth sense carries you through a problem with a partner and/or a money matter. You leap over the issue and see the answer. Laugh, and another will join in. You find that good humor is contagious. Tonight: Focus on love.

 **QUOTE of the DAY**

"Only dead fish swim with the stream."

— Unknown

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Wise opens \$3.6M adult care center

By Daily Press staff

Wise Senior Services opened this week a \$3.6 million state-of-the-art adult day service center that is equipped and built with the needs of the ever-growing senior population in mind.

The new facility is located at 1510 Pico Boulevard — west of Santa Monica College — and contains 6,779 square feet of usable floor space, plus an underground garage, which tripled Wise's current capacity to serve more than 1,000 clients per year in the future.

WISE Senior Services has served the community for 33 years and this year received the "Agency of the Year" honor from the City of Los Angeles.

"Today marks the manifestation of a dream come true," said Maria Arechaederra, president and CEO of WISE Senior Services on Wednesday, the day of the grand opening. "Over 20 years ago, WISE developed one of the first-ever adult day care centers in Los Angeles. As we served the community through the years, we were challenged to build a facility especially equipped to serve our growing, diverse, and changing population of older adults."

Major donors, representing gifts of \$100,000 and more, are Emilio A. Arechaederra, the City of Santa Monica, W.M. Keck Foundation, Ahmanson Foundation, Weingart Foundation, and the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation.

Benefactors, representing gifts of \$50,000 and more, are the Roth Family Foundation, The Arechaederra Family, Henry Braun Foundation, Kenneth C. Davis, Joseph Drown Foundation, and Braune Family Trust. Gifts from trustees include The Parish of St. Matthew, Georgia Frontiere, and additional anonymous gifts.

WISE adult day service program is a first in many ways providing the only state-designated Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Center on the westside of Los Angeles and the only one offering extended hours, 7:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m., which gives respite for caregivers who work full time.

The Adult Day Service staff is skilled in providing the proper level of assistance to chronically ill clients while coping positively with the behavioral changes, depression and frustration which accompany some of the Alzheimer's patients attending the center. Medication may often be minimized when patients have the stimulation and reassurance of an exemplary care program.

Daily activities at the day care center includes discussions on engaging subject covering current and cultural events, daily exercise including walking, gentle chair yoga, dancing and outings. Other activities include daily "memory joggers," craft classes, music therapy, gardening, art and cooking therapy, entertainment programs and intergenerational events that join older adults and children of all ages.

CityTV presents Santa Monica election results on Nov. 5

By Daily Press staff

For those wanting Santa Monica election results, CityTV cable channel 16 will be providing Santa Monica election results all night long on Nov. 5. Beginning at 8 p.m., CityTV will air election results as they are received from the Los Angeles County Registrar's Office. The results will be continuously updated and aired throughout the evening until the final semi-official results are in.

CityTV will air the Santa Monica final election results until noon on Wednesday, Nov. 6 so that those who don't stay up late can wake up the next morning and see the results by tuning in to channel 16.

CityTV is the government cable channel for the City of Santa Monica. CityTV is available to the over 24,000 households in Santa Monica that subscribe to cable television.



surf report

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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School board rearranges its schedule for public

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Malibu Unified Board of Education recently voted to revise its meeting schedule for the 2002-2003 school year. In order to provide time for intense, focused discussion with public input on specific components of the SMMUSD vision, the following schedule lists the second meetings of the month which are set aside for discussion. The first meeting of the month will be reserved for school district business.

Dec. 19
District Office
1651 16th St., Santa Monica
Board Agenda Management
(School Improvement Plans)

Jan. 23
District Office
Charter Schools

Feb. 20
City Council Chambers
Institute for Learning

March 19
District Office
Standards-based Instruction

April 17
City Council Chambers
Preliminary Budget Planning

May 15
City Council Chambers
Budget Planning

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LETTERS

Election like the Revolutionary War

Editor:

I just saw a copy of the Renter's Rights endorsement mailer. You know the one, that lays out who and what to vote for. It was beautifully done. There were photogenic pictures and appealing parsed verbiage on all their candidates, offset by historical photos of Santa Monica. These were placed tastefully, throughout the slickly done brochure, to subtly communicate what this political group supports: rent control; worker's rights; historical districts; and the importance of Santa Monica's tourist industry (of course, they forgot to mention SMRR's homeless policies which created a downturn in the tourism they are touting).

The most interesting, bordering on incredulous, part of the mailer was a listing of the various renters' rights accomplishments, on the back side of the front page. So, aspiring to uphold a "truth in advertising" theme, to this election, the following rewrite is being submitted:

"For over 20 years, Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights has been a national model for successful big brother tactics fostered by a progressive political agenda. The hundreds of active SMRR members have helped formulate and enact an oppressive political agenda designed to control housing, stifle tenants' rights to ownership opportunities, limit owner development, expand targeted commercial development, weaken school accountability, compound traffic slowing and congestion, create more city bureaucracies, leave federally mandated environmental programs alone, and force divisiveness among wage workers in order to unionize them."

If the voters of Santa Monica want more of the above, cast your ballot for the renters' rights slate — conveniently packaged with multiple people having one mind-set. But, if voters want to opt for change, new visions, minds not tethered to any rigid political agenda, vote for independent candidates, like those running for city council — Holbrook, Dinolfo, Aranda or Allord. These are the real grassroots campaigns run with little money and great personal effort — a true David versus Goliath struggle, in a city where it is almost a forgone conclusion that SMRR has it in the bag.

A heartening parallel, to Santa Monica's election, is the Revolutionary war. Here a small (only 30 percent) but vocal contingency of colonists sought to extricate themselves from Great Britain. This "Mother Country," much like our community's local political machine, was sapping people of their freedoms and rights to personally govern themselves. Basically, these colonists, like Santa Monicans, had rulers who needed them more than they needed their rulers. Well, we all know the outcome of that historical moment. And, maybe, just maybe voters will have a similar epiphany, a rush of honest reflection, giving them the courage to produce a liberating upset on Nov. 5.

Vote wisely. Vote for needed changes from the status quo. Give individual neighborhoods a sense of sovereignty — yes on HH. Place Independents in the council and school boards. Broaden the scope of those renting — no on KK (interesting initials) and yes on II. Instead of red flagging our differences, diplomatically problem solve, so our similarities and strengths are augmented — vote no on FF, GG, and JJ.

We are making headway in healing the bay. Let's try to heal Santa Monica, as well, in this upcoming election.

Jan Tousignant
Santa Monica

Where's the logic?

Editor:

Regarding the recent spate of attacks on Santa Monica measure HH (VERITAS), I wonder where the sense of fair government got lost. Those who oppose it, including the League of Women Voters, seem to have forsaken a municipal government whose interests embrace ALL demographics. The League has determined that term limits are OK for federal elections, but not OK for local elections. That seems hypocritical, if not downright illogical.

The Pico neighborhood district has never had a representative on the City Council, even though its roughly 13,000 citizens deal with problems that are unique to its demographics. Without neither direct district representation nor a direct citizen's vote in the mayoral election, the Pico neighborhood is virtually disenfranchised. I feel the reforms VERITAS proposes are the only way to level the playing field. In the long term, I would want my children to be able to vote for their mayor, just as they will have the right to vote for their governor or president.

Let's not permit the power elite to maintain their self-interests above the promise of true democracy.

Edmund Bravo
Santa Monica

Addressing the bile of Dunn's writing

Editor:

I was among those privileged to attend the "live writing" exercise at The Shack last Sunday (thanks again, Pat), and found columnist Dan Dunn's spontaneous prose both amusing, well-intentioned and dare I say a tad bit insightful. So it was with some surprise — and then delight — that I read Louis Pastore's bile-splattered complaint about Mr. Dunn in your letters section Wednesday.

Particularly amusing, and I'm assuming unintentionally so, were references to "face-painted fringe" and "lunatic." Fair enough. Football ain't for everyone, and neither is beer-fueled bar-column writing. But just as I was preparing a rebuttal, Mr. Pastore made it for me by saying he "... was reminded of Truman Capote's comment about someone else who called himself a writer: 'It's not writing. It's typing.'"

I couldn't agree more. Of course, I believe Mr. Capote was referring to that wild-writing, establishment-rattling, drink-fueled spontaneous lunatic of the face-painting fringe, Jack Kerouac.

Curtis Robinson
Westsider in Exile
Washington D.C.

Vote your conscience this election and help the poor

Gentrification; the deliberate and systematic process to purposely remove poor people from any given area or segment of society.

Another pretty word for economic discrimination. First you remove their sustenance, then remove as many options as possible for the basic human need for sleep and do not allow them access to affordable housing in the community in which they have chosen to live. Last but by no means least, remove or close down as many health care facilities exclusively designed for low-income residents as possible. After all these things are accomplished, make it a crime punishable by law to be poor. This is the end result of gentrification and Santa Monica is well on its collective way to accomplishing this goal.

On Nov. 5, voters from all over California will be able to make the choice on whether or not they want to be a part of this growing trend to subjugate poor and homeless citizens and drive them out of their individual cities. Luckily it will not be left in the hands of the Santa Monica City Council who have recently shown that it is not willing to allow poor people their basic human rights of food, sleep, or

affordable housing due to the self important business community who, by their very nature, have absolutely no use for people who have very little or no money to spend on their over priced products.

Proposition 46, a \$2.1 billion bond measure that provides emergency shelters for battered women, affordable housing for seniors, low-income families and homeless shelters with social services. It also will provide down payment assistance to teachers, police officers, firefighters, veterans, emergency shelters and rental housing for seniors. Proposition 46 sets aside \$195 million to build emergency shelters and \$910 million to build permanently-affordable rental housing for homeless families with children. (California Voter Information Guide).

Proposition 46 is an essential tool for addressing the housing needs for those among us who are less fortunate than most people who can afford the high cost of rent

in this city and elsewhere around the state. Affordable housing and short-term emergency shelter are imperative to the lives and well being of anyone unfortunate enough to find themselves in a situation in which it is extremely difficult to find a way out, no matter how great the desire.

Over the past few months we've been hearing all sorts of political excuses and so called reasons to justify the decisions that have been made in Santa Monica recently. By making it illegal to feed poor and hungry people, still one of the most ignorant things I've heard that an elected governing body has been allowed to do, is the first step towards gentrification. Hopefully California as a whole will speak out against this growing practice. According to the State Department of Housing, 360,000 Californians are homeless. This includes not only those who, by choice, are homeless, it includes families with children, senior citizens who can't

afford housing within their Social Security income, veterans, mentally ill, and more people from more different walks of life than I can describe.

Some of you have been led to believe it's just criminals who are homeless. That's just not even slightly true. Although now, when I get arrested for giving a hungry person a sandwich, it's a crime. Apparently there are a lot more poor and homeless people than just criminals and the decisions that you make will affect more than just those who you may see in Palisades Park or the Promenade. There are many diverse groups of people who will be positively affected by this proposition.

Although we will need to pay it back over 30 years, think of how many people you can personally help just by checking YES. Listen to your conscience and do the right thing. No more excuses, reasons, or imaginary justifications needed.

(Michael Beattie is homeless in Santa Monica and is staying at Samoshel, one of the city's homeless shelters.)

Guest Commentary

By Michael Beattie

LOCAL



Restaurants donate to anti-living wage cause

LIVING WAGE, from page 1

Families, which consists of unions, among other groups.

While the Hotel Employees & Restaurant Employees Union has been the most notable organization working on the campaign to enact the living wage, the organization accounted for less than 10 percent of the total amount raised this filing period.

However, the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy, or LAANE, donated almost 60 percent of the supporter's funding. LAANE is a coalition of clergy, poverty activists and unions that helped enact Los Angeles' living wage in 1996.

"Clearly the labor unions have the most at stake in these elections and they are spending at a level that reflects that."

— SETH JACOBSEN
Living wage opponent

"Clearly the labor unions have the most at stake in these elections and they are spending at a level that reflects that," said Seth Jacobsen, a spokesman for groups opposing the living wage.

The Santa Monica City Council approved an ordinance last year requiring businesses near the coast that make more than \$5 million in annual revenue to pay their employees between \$10.50 and \$12.25 an hour, depending on whether health benefits are provided. Voters will decide on Nov. 5 whether to enact the living wage ordinance, which is known as Measure JJ.

Santa Monica's proposed living wage law has drawn national attention because it's the first of its kind to regulate salaries paid by businesses with no direct financial ties to a municipality.

Political pundits believe Santa Monica's ordinance could act as a test case for more similar wage laws nationally, and each side of the issue is expected to raise and spend millions to convince voters of their views.

The result has been residents citywide

being inundated with fliers and canvassers from both sides of the issue. Combined, both sides have raised more than \$700,000 this year, which translates into more than \$100 per citizen to convince the approximately 60,000 registered voters of their cause.

No on JJ had almost \$120,000 on hand and owed \$15,000 in loans as of Oct. 24. But Jacobsen said most of the money has already been spoken for and the group has little left to work with.

"I would say most of that has already been allocated to our grassroots walking program," he said.

However, Jacobsen said the group was hoping to raise a significant amount before election day from national retail chains with local outlets.

"We've talked to Sears, Macy's, GAP, and Toys-R-Us and they are all considering making large contributions to the campaign," he said. "They very well may come in at the last minute."

And for the first time in the campaign, numerous Santa Monica restaurants began donating large sums of money to help defeat the living wage. El Cholo donated \$5,000; Sushi Roku gave \$6,500 and Houston's gave \$10,000, among a half dozen other restaurants with smaller donations.

Many Santa Monica restaurant owners will display cards on each table this weekend that urge patrons to vote no on Measure JJ.

"It's good that the restaurants came out because I believe everybody thinks this campaign is about the hotels versus the union," Jacobsen said. "And it's not. Restaurant participation is a good example of the concern that is out there about the damage this measure will do."

On the other side, Yes on JJ — Santa Monica Coalition to Protect the Living Wage has \$26,680.35 on hand and the group is in debt \$60,976.62.

"We're spending far more than we have, when it comes down to it," Feingold said. "We're doing the best we can against a campaign with a huge infusion of corporate money. We're trying to make this a fair fight."

To make up for the lower funding level, living wage supporters said they have depended on hundreds of volunteers who are coordinated by a group of about 25 paid full-time workers, the majority of whom are on leave from their jobs at hotels across Los Angeles.

"They are not the hired guns or the mercenaries the opponents of the living wage have brought in over the past two years," Feingold said.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Matt LeBlanc is one of 'All The Queen's Men'

BY SEAN DALY
Special to the Daily Press

Matt LeBlanc is finally ready to tie the knot. The only question remaining is ... when?

The star of TV's hit comedy series "Friends" says he plans to marry actress Melissa McNight, his girlfriend of five years, "sometime soon," but denies rumors that the ceremony will take place during the upcoming Christmas holidays.

Why the secrecy? "I don't want helicopters overhead," he says. "The idea of standing up there and taking your vows and hearing a helicopter or some jerk in the bushes ... I just don't want to have that in the back of my head."

That's precisely what happened when his "Friends" co-star Jennifer Aniston married actor Brad Pitt on a Malibu cliff in July, 2000. LeBlanc, 35, was the only principle cast member not in attendance for the nuptials — he was in Austria at the time filming "All The Queen's Men," a new historical comedy which opened Friday. "But I saw the pictures from the helicopter," he laughs.

With or without a formal ceremony, LeBlanc has already assumed the role of father to McNight's two children: Tyler, 12, and Jaqueline, 8. "It's not like I said, 'I want to meet a single mother with two kids ... I think that will be good for me,'" he admits. "But that's the package and that's OK with me."

It's an arrangement he knows all too well. An only child, LeBlanc's parents divorced shortly after his birth. He was raised in the suburbs of Boston by his mother, Pat, a computer parts designer.

"My mom worked very hard to make sure we had food on the table," he says. "I remember from a young age being really aware of the sacrifices she had to make for me."

So far, LeBlanc's mom has yet to see "All The Queen's Men," a comedic tale about a group of Special Services agents who infiltrate a factory in Berlin by dressing as women.

"I haven't really told her too much about it," he confesses. "Just that I am doing this World War II movie. I might have left the drag thing out."

LeBlanc says most of his tips on how to get in touch with his feminine side came from co-star Eddie Izzard, a comedian and well-known transvestite.

"He taught me how to walk like a man trying to be a woman," the actor remembers. "It was pelvis forward, tits out, shoulders back, chin up and smile."

Despite the coaching, LeBlanc says he looked more like "a gorilla" than a woman, adding: "I am just built all wrong to be wearing ladies clothes." Funny enough, step-daughter Jacqueline seems to agree.

"She was like, 'Matt, I saw that movie and you don't look like a girl at all,'" he admits. "There is a brutal honesty that kids have. They smell bullshit a mile away and they don't pull punches."

Neither does LeBlanc — especially when it comes to his private life. He admits to being uncomfortable with fame and says he would gladly trade any Hollywood party for an afternoon at his northern California ranch. That's where the 6' 1" former model spent most of last week riding his dirt bike.

Today LeBlanc is relaxing in a penthouse office suite staring out toward the

Hollywood Hills. He is wearing a dark navy two piece suit, careful to keep the jacket closed to conceal a salad dressing stain he acquired during lunch.

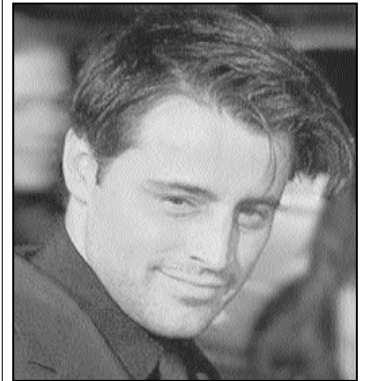
Those who don't know LeBlanc are often surprised to find he is nothing at all like Joey Tribiani, the high-energy, dim-witted soap opera star he plays on "Friends."

"People tend to talk very slowly around me," he laughs. "I don't have the energy he has. People are always asking 'Are you OK?' 'Are you tired?'" And I say, "This is who I am."

"I have to kind of crank it up before the show every day," he adds. "I have a bunch of coffee, get all wired up and go out there. So I guess I will miss that ... but my body won't."

There are a few other things that seem to bring LeBlanc to life. One is riding motorcycles.

"I am a full on race nut, gear head kind of guy," he says.



Matt LeBlanc

LeBlanc received his first bike as a gift at age 8, and entered numerous competitions as a teen, hoping one day to race professionally. But his mother disapproved, so he turned his talent briefly to carpentry before deciding to become an actor.

By 1987, LeBlanc had landed spots in TV commercials for Levi's, Coca-Cola and Doritos. The following year he began formal training and landed a starring role in the short-lived TV series "TV 101."

After nine seasons on "Friends," he hopes to now turn his attention to feature films — (he has a small role in "Charles Angels 2") — but LeBlanc has not entirely ruled out appearing in a widely-rumored "Friends" spin-off series.

"If it was done correctly and the idea was right and I trusted the writers, absolutely I would consider it," he says. But first there is the small matter of wrapping up the storyline on "Friends."

So how would LeBlanc like to see the series end?

"Lisa Kudrow and I had a pitch we thought was great — that Joey and Phoebe (Kudrow's character) have been sleeping together the whole time," he reveals. "You flash back to all these really monumental events during the show, like Ross and Emily's wedding in London and five minutes before the wedding is a scene you never saw of Joey and Phoebe coming out of the back room together. We wanted to do it as a flashback thing. But they didn't go for it."

(Sean Daly is a freelance writer based in Santa Monica and president of Showtime Entertainment.)

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LOCAL



Court nullifies municipal laws banning ATM fees

FEES, from page 1

The two cities also argued that California consumer protection laws allow such ordinances.

"The ATM surcharge is an outrageous and duplicative fee that is unfair to consumers," Radinsky said. "We're disappointed with the court's decision because it appears the court failed to address the opinions of cases in other cities."

Radinsky wouldn't go into specifics in the case because it's still pending, he said. It's unclear whether the Santa Monica City Council will petition the full 9th Circuit of Appeals to review the case before taking it to the Supreme Court.

"Obviously the City Council hasn't had time to decide its next move," Radinsky said.

Santa Monica may have to pay attorney fees for the banks if it loses the case in the higher court. It's unknown exactly how much money has been spent in staff time to argue the city's case, but at least one City Council member believes enough is enough. Councilman Herb Katz said he could have predicted the court's decision.

"I'm not surprised at all. It shows you our city has wasted so much time and money on something that shouldn't have come up in the first place," he said. "If you don't want ATM fees then don't use them. It's that simple. But you don't have one small city take on the universal banking system."

"This was Kevin McKeown's project and this is what he has done with our money in this bleak economic environment we're in," Katz continued. "He doesn't care that what he's doing is spending taxpayer's money, which is being completely wasted. This is irresponsible — the whole thing was. I don't like being charged ATM fees. But I'm not suing the banks ... As a city, we've got to quit meddling in private enterprise."

McKeown was unavailable for comment on Friday.

Leland Chan, a lawyer for the California Bankers Association that challenged the rules, said the court made the right decision. He called the rules contrary to free-market capitalism.

"Can you imagine voters telling Intel how much to charge for its chips?" he asked.

The 3-0 decision upholds U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker, the San Francisco federal judge who blocked the ordinances

from being enforced at the request of Bank of America, Wells Fargo Bank and others. In July 2000, Walker ruled that any local ordinances restricting automated teller machine surcharges violate both the National Banking Act and the Home Owners Loan Act, which govern nationally chartered banks and federal savings banks.

In essence, Walker said those congressional acts precluded local entities from enacting such legislation, a decision the appeals court affirmed Friday.

But Radinsky has argued that Walker's interpretation of the law is wrong. The National Banking Act actually leaves open cities' ability to regulate bank fees, he contends.

"The United States Congress has repeatedly spoke on this issue and emphasizes the right for cities to pass consumer protection laws like this," Radinsky told the Daily Press in January. "The district court got it wrong and we are confident that the law is on our side."

The law doesn't challenge fees a bank charges its own customers to use a different bank's ATM. Those fees range around \$2.

It became clear during oral arguments in January that the court ultimately would rule as it did Friday. At the time, the judges appeared unmoved by city lawyers defending the ordinances.

"What's the constitutional problem to charge what you want?" Judge Sneed asked.

Judge Stephen Trott added: "You're prohibiting what federal law allows."

Banks in Santa Monica were forced to drop the extra fees for a couple of weeks directly after the ban went into effect in 1999. Later, Wells Fargo and Bank of America — the state's two largest banks — filed the suit in San Francisco.

The original hearing convinced a judge to make the banks put ATM fees collected into escrow for possible return to customers. As a result, banks were ordered to put all the fees into that escrow account until the issue is decided in court. That account has grown to well over \$1 million.

Banks say they need the surcharges to expand their ATM networks. Consumer organizations backing the bans say the fees merely pad bank profits.

(The Associated Press contributed to this report.)

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STATE

Los Angeles' top cop sworn in as LAPD's 54th chief

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — William J. Bratton was sworn in Friday as the city's new police chief, with a mandate to reform the corruption-tainted department and a goal of eliminating graffiti and minor offenses as a way of preventing more serious crimes.

The former New York police commissioner took his oath of office from City Clerk J. Michael Carey and then shook hands with Mayor Kenneth Hahn in a brief private ceremony in Hahn's office. Bratton and Hahn then headed for Lake Arrowhead to attend an emergency management workshop.

A public swearing-in ceremony will be held Monday at the Police Academy.

Bratton, 55, will serve a five-year term. He said he will move quickly to name three assistant chiefs.

Bratton has promised to work with the mayor on reforms, increase recruiting and implement community policing policies, something past chiefs have resisted. He also has said he wants to reduce top-down management and give more authority



Former New York City Police Commissioner William Bratton, center, signs papers after being sworn-in as the city's police chief during a private ceremony in the Mayor's Los Angeles office on Friday. Los Angeles City Clerk Michael Carey, left, who administered the oath and Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn, right, look on. There will be a public ceremony honoring Bratton on Monday.

Damian Dovarganes/Associated Press

to the LAPD's 18 division commanders.

Bratton subscribes to what has been called the "broken-win-

draw" theory of policing that holds elimination of minor crimes prevents larger ones.

"I hate it with a passion," he said.

The city's 54th police chief said he believes fighting graffiti will reduce the city's rising crime rate.

Allowing gang members and graffiti crews to deface communities is "effectively surrendering the authority of government to them," Bratton told the Los Angeles Times. "You cannot let them control your streets. If they're trying to do it by marking the streets with graffiti, then get rid of it."

When Bratton ran the New York Police Department from 1994 to 1996 that city's murder rate was cut in half and serious felonies dropped 33 percent.

After touring the city recently, Bratton said the graffiti is the worst he has seen. More than 30 million square feet of graffiti were cleaned up in the city last year, more than New York City officials cleaned in four years of an anti-graffiti campaign.

Bratton told the Times that he wants "all officers to take cognizance of graffiti and to make arrests when appropriate." The chief also said he may create a special division to combat the problem.

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NATIONAL



Sen. Paul Wellstone killed in plane crash

BY BRIAN BAKST
Associated Press Writer

EVELETH, Minn. — Sen. Paul Wellstone, the passionately liberal Democrat whose re-election campaign was vital to control of the Senate, was killed in a plane crash in northern Minnesota on Friday along with his wife, daughter and five others.

The crash came just 11 days before the election. Stunned party officials said it was too early to discuss replacing Wellstone on the ballot.

The twin-engine private plane went down about 10 a.m. in freezing rain and light snow near the Eveleth-Virginia Municipal Airport, about 175 miles north of Minneapolis. A pilot in the area said the plane seemed to have veered away from the usual approach to the airport.

"It's just terrible. Say a prayer," said Lisa Pattni, an aide at the crash site.

The wreckage was still smoldering several hours after the crash in a wooded, swampy area two miles from the airport and several hundred yards from the closest paved road. A 16-member team from the National Transportation Safety Board arrived Friday night to determine the cause, and NTSB acting chairwoman Carol Carmody said the first priority was finding the cockpit voice recorder.

Wellstone, a 58-year-old former college professor and one of the foremost liberals on Capitol Hill, was on his way to a funeral.

The death brought an outpouring of grief from supporters and opponents alike. In St. Paul, thousands of mourners stood in a cold rain to pay tribute at the Capitol and outside the senator's headquarters. Many wept.

All eight people aboard the 11-seat King Air A-100 were killed, said Greg Martin, spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration. Campaign officials confirmed the victims included Wellstone's wife, Sheila, 58, and daughter, Marcia, 33; three campaign staff members; and two pilots.

The last senator to die in office was Sen. Paul Coverdell, a 61-year-old Georgia Republican who died of a stroke two years ago.

"Today the state of Minnesota has suffered a deep and penetrating loss," Gov. Jesse Ventura said. "With all of us suffering from the numbing experiences of our nation's recent tragedies, this loss seems especially cruel."

Wellstone's death threw the battle for the Senate into uncharted territory. Before Friday, Democrats held control by a single seat.

Minnesota law allows the governor to fill a vacant Senate seat, but it also allows a political party to pick a replacement if a nominee dies. In this case, the name must be offered by next Thursday.

Ventura wouldn't say what he would do, saying only that he would not appoint himself to serve the rest of Wellstone's term in the lame-duck session of Congress between Election Day and the arrival of new members.

Shaken Democratic officials wouldn't comment on possible replacements. Rebecca Yanisch, the state trade commissioner who ran for Senate in 2000, indicated she might be interested, while former Sen. Walter Mondale didn't take questions at an appearance and didn't return a call seeking comment.

Two years ago, Missouri Gov. Mel Carnahan, his son and an aide were killed in a crash three weeks before Election Day as he campaigned for the Senate. His name remained on the ballot and he beat Republican Sen. John Ashcroft. Carnahan's widow, Jean, was appointed to serve in his place and is now running in a special election against Republican Jim Talent, with the winner completing the six-year term originally won by Mel Carnahan.

Mrs. Carnahan canceled campaign appearances Friday and called Wellstone's death "heartbreaking news."

Wellstone was up against Republican Norm Coleman, a former mayor of St. Paul and President Bush's choice to challenge the two-term incumbent.

Wellstone had leased the Beech King Air turboprop for the flight to the town of Virginia for the funeral of state Rep. Tom Rukavina's father.

The pilots called the Eveleth-Virginia airport to get clearance for landing when they were about seven miles out and they reported no problems, said Gary Ulman, who was on duty at the airport at the time.

When the plane didn't land, Ulman said, he took off in a plane to search for it. He soon saw smoke.

At the site, FBI spokesman Paul McCabe said there was no indication the crash was related to terrorism. He also said it would take time to recover the bodies, which remained in the wreckage late Friday.

In Texas, Bush called Wellstone "a man of deep convictions."

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said Wellstone was the "soul of the Senate. He was one of the most noble and courageous men I have ever known."

Before running for office, Wellstone was a professor and community organizer who fused the two passions in a course he taught at Carleton College in Northfield called "Social Movements and Grassroots Organizing."

He stunned the political establishment by upsetting Republican Sen. Rudy Boschwitz in 1990. Afterward, left-leaning Mother Jones magazine called him "the first 1960s radical elected to the U.S. Senate."

Wellstone said he spent most of his time blocking what he viewed as harmful Republican legislation, from drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to legislation that would make it harder for people to declare bankruptcy.

He took a special interest in the nation's poor, embarking on a "children's tour" in 1997 to focus attention on the need for social programs. He started in Mississippi, retracing a visit Robert F. Kennedy made to the poverty-stricken region in 1967, went through Appalachia and on to Chicago.

Wellstone said he wanted "to observe the face of American poverty — not from behind a Senate desk, but in the streets, the villages and neighborhoods of those in distress."

Liberal to the end, Wellstone cast his vote earlier this month against legislation to authorize the use of force in Iraq — the only Democrat facing a tough re-election to go against Bush on the issue.



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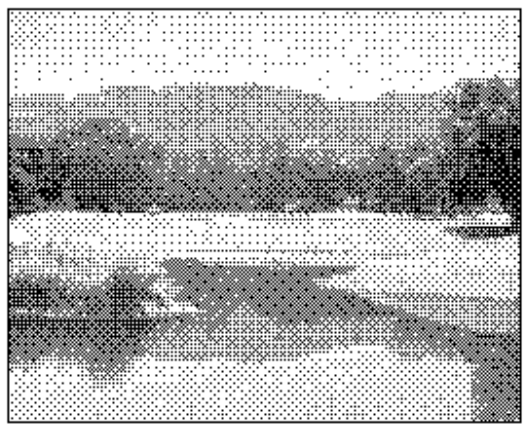
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NATIONAL

Terrorist suspects' release: How many are innocent or guilty?

BY PAULINE JELINEK

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — They've been called killers, terrorists, liars, the enemy.

Now, the planned release of several suspects from the U.S. military's high-security prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, raises the questions: How many more should be let go? Might some have been imprisoned wrongly to start with?

"The administration was extremely gung-ho in describing everyone held as terrorists and killers while denying them the most basic rights," said Amnesty International USA spokesman Alistair Hodggett.

He called plans to release in the coming days four of the 598 detainees "at least a partial climb-down" by the Bush administration.

"I think what we have is the United States holding people who are known to be totally innocent," said Thomas Wilner, attorney for a dozen detained Kuwaitis.

Citing safety considerations, the Pentagon refused to name those being released or reveal their nationalities.

Two are elderly, officials said Friday on condition of anonymity. At least two are reported to be Pakistani, since Pakistan's government requested that the United States release 58 detainees after questioning them and judging they were not a threat to the United States.

Foreign delegations have gone to interrogate their citizens held among the 598 men from almost four dozen countries at the U.S. Navy base in Cuba. The Bush administration has labeled them "enemy combatants" and said they don't get rights accorded prisoners of war.

Some have been held almost a year, captured in November by Afghan fighters on the ground as Americans waged the air campaign that opened the war against Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network and the country's now-ousted Taliban regime.

Transfers of prisoners from Afghanistan to Guantanamo began in January.

Families, rights groups and legal observers have been waiting for more details since Wednesday when Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said a small number of men were "likely to come out of the other end of the chute."

They've gone through a process that found them no longer needed for intelligence, not wanted for prosecution and no threat to America or its allies, he said.

Families of the Kuwaitis are "waiting on pins and needles" to learn whether their sons and husbands are among those getting out, Wilner said. Kuwaitis said months ago their government was assured by Americans that at least nine of their nationals would be freed because they'd committed no crime, U.S. officials deny that.

Pentagon officials have played down the release of

prisoners, noting it's a small number, and the men are not the first to get out of Guantanamo.

In 10 months since they opened the prison, officials have sent out only two. One was reported mentally ill, the other an American transferred for detention inside U.S. territory rather than outside for legal reasons.

"It's a small positive step that they are recognizing that they are holding some people wrongly," said Hodggett, but he contended the administration still has not proved "statements over the months that these are hard-core killers."

Some observers have questioned whether the move is aimed at placating Pakistan, where President Pervez Musharraf has taken a huge political risk by becoming one of the strongest allies in the U.S.-led terror war.

"Why the Pakistanis? Were they prioritized?" said Hodggett. "Are these people being released because some kind of judicial process happened, or are they just political bargaining chips? There are people around the world saying: 'Let's at least hear the proof.'"

Pentagon spokesmen would not say whether interrogators had obtained useful information from the men being released, and if so, what it was.

They also refused to say where they were captured, which could go to claims by critics that some were unknowing workers for charities that later had assets frozen for allegedly funneling money to terrorists. Some alleged detainees were turned over to authorities by Afghans seeking money U.S. agents were reported paying local militias and others for help in the war.

Lawyer Najeeb al-Nauimi, who says he represents 92 Arab detainees from the Persian Gulf state Qatar, reported that U.S. officials told him people from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Pakistan and six Kuwaitis are among some 300 to be released soon.

Lt. Col. Bill Costello, a spokesman for the U.S. Southern Command in Miami, called the estimate exaggerated.

Rumsfeld said from the outset that some probably would be prosecuted, some sent to other countries for punishment, some released and some held indefinitely. The principal function of interrogation at Guantanamo Bay, he said, was to obtain information that might prevent future terrorist attacks or lead to the capture of other suspects.

U.S. critics have said for months that the men at Guantanamo were at best midlevel members or foot soldiers in the al-Qaida and Taliban organizations, unlikely to be tried.

Still, officials noted, from among thousands captured, those who ended up in Guantanamo had gone through preliminary investigation abroad, which means there was reason to believe they were worth keeping awhile and worth transferring to Cuba.

Serial killer to be executed by firing squad, Utah Supreme Court says

By The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — A serial killer who asked to be executed by firing squad without the traditional hood over his head will be granted his wish, the state Supreme Court ruled Friday.

Roberto Arguelles made the unusual request after he was convicted in 1997 of killing three teenage girls and a woman in her 40s.

A court gave its approval, but the execution was delayed after Arguelles attempted to hang himself with a prison laundry bag.

Arguelles underwent a psychiatric evaluation following the suicide attempt. As required by state law, his case was appealed to the state Supreme Court, which ruled Friday that the firing squad execution could go forward.

The execution date was expected to be set soon by a lower court.

Arguelles' attorney, Ed Brass, said Friday's ruling marks the end of appeals that can be made without

Arguelles' consent.

In March 1992, Arguelles kidnapped 15-year-old Tuesday Roberts and her 16-year-old friend Lisa Martinez. He sexually assaulted and strangled Roberts and stabbed Martinez more than 40 times.

Earlier that month, Arguelles had kidnapped, sexually assaulted and killed 13-year-old Stephanie Blundell. He also abducted and strangled 42-year-old Margo Bond.

Brass argued in court that Arguelles had a history of mental illness, suffered physical and sexual abuse as a child, and has occasional blackouts and hallucinations.

Utah is the only state in which death row inmates can elect to die by firing squad.

John Taylor, who was sentenced to death for raping and strangling an 11-year-old girl, was the last person to go before the firing squad. He was executed in 1996.

INTERNATIONAL



Moscow theater gunmen continue to threaten hostages

BY MARA D. BELLABY

Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW — Chechen rebels threatened to begin killing their 600 hostages in a Moscow theater at dawn Saturday, but later promised to free the captives if Russian President Vladimir Putin declared an end to the war in Chechnya and began withdrawing troops.

The new demands were brought out of the theater just before midnight Friday by Anna Politkovskaya, a Russian journalist who is respected by Chechens for her reporting on the war. She was called in by the rebels to mediate.

After five hours of talks, she quoted the rebels as saying, "We're going to wait only a little while."

Politkovskaya listed rebel demands, foremost among them were Putin's declaration of an end to the war and the start of a Russian withdrawal from one region anywhere in Chechnya to show good will. If verified, the rebels promised to free the hostages.

She said the rebels agreed to her suggestion that verification be done by Lord Judd, a member of the Council of Europe who has made many trips to investigate the human rights situation in Chechnya.

Earlier Friday, the heavily armed rebels, some with explosives strapped to their bodies, freed 19 hostages — including eight children. A total of 58 people have been released and about 100 escaped in the confusion during the takeover.

There was no immediate response from the Kremlin to the latest rebel demands. Officials already were scrambling to frame a response that would avoid bloodshed as the hostage crisis moved into its third day. The standoff began Wednesday night when about 50 Chechen rebels, including women who said they were war widows, stormed the theater.

After a meeting with Putin, Federal Security Service chief Nikolai Patrushev promised the hostage-takers would not be killed if they freed their captives.

From the start the rebels have said they are ready to die and take the hostages with them. Putin said "the preservation of the lives of the people who remain in the theater building" was his overriding concern and the Kremlin was "open for any contacts."

Azerbaijan television broadcast an audiotape Friday of what it said was an interview with a rebel.

"We know they (the Russians) will storm the building all the same. We are waiting for it and we are ready for it. If the storming takes place, we'll explode the hall and nothing will be left of it," the hostage-taker, who wasn't named, told the private Azerbaijani News Service.

"We must fulfill the will of Allah. This plan has been worked out long before. We haven't yet begun our activities," the hostage-taker said in heavily accented Russian.

Several influential figures were sent into the building — including former Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov, Aslanbek Aslakhanov, who represents Chechnya in the Russian parliament and is despised by rebels as a tool of the Kremlin, and Ruslan Aushev, former president of



Sergei Grits/Associated Press

Russian Interior Ministry officers check their weapons at positions around a theater in Moscow on Friday, where Chechen rebels are holding hundreds of hostages.

neighboring Ingushetia.

Primakov, a Mideast specialist, later left without comment and went to meet Putin. Aushev emerged and said there was a risk the rebels might take "extreme measures" and would only negotiate with a presidential representative. It was not clear if Aslakhanov remained behind.

Aside from Patrushev's brief statement, the Kremlin has kept its strategy under wraps. In the past, Putin has rejected negotiations with the rebels unless the talks focused on their disarmament and abandonment of the drive for Chechen independence.

The head of U.S. security in Moscow has joined Russians in a 24-hour command center near the Moscow theater. The move implements a promise President Bush made by telephone to Putin offering support and assistance.

While releasing 19 hostages Friday — including four from mainly Muslim Azerbaijan — and raising hopes for a bloodless outcome, the rebels failed to deliver on an earlier promise to free the 75 foreigners — including three Americans, Britons, Dutch, Australians, Canadians, Austrians and Germans.

Deputy Interior Minister Vladimir Vasilyev said the Kremlin had failed to reach Aslan Maskhadov, a rebel leader who was president of Chechnya for the three years between the first and current Russian military occupations of the region.

"The leader of the terrorist act is Maskhadov. It was organized with his participation," Vasilyev said in a television interview. Other state-run networks carried videotape apparently designed to link Maskhadov and the hostage crisis.

The tapes showed Maskhadov saying rebels had shifted from guerrilla warfare to an "offensive" strategy. "I am certain that in the final stage we will carry out a still more unique action, like the jihad, and with this operation we will liberate our land from the Russian aggressors."

Hostages gave varying accounts of conditions in the theater.

"We are safe and sound, it's warm and we have water and there's nothing else we need in a situation like this," captive Anna Adrianova told a radio interviewer early Friday, but she later said conditions had deteriorated. Another hostage said the situation was tense and the captives had not received food or water and were using the orchestra pit as a toilet.

Yelena Malyonkina, a spokeswoman for the Nord-Ost musical that was being staged in the theater, said hostage production official Anatoly Glazychev told her a bomb was placed in the center of the theater and all the aisles and stage were mined.

About 80 demonstrators outside the theater carried banners and chanted anti-war slogans. Several said they were responding to requests from relatives who were among the hostages.

Alexander Petrov, a demonstrator with friends in the theater, said he had not opposed the Chechen war, but now "what way out is there?"

Dozens of Nord-Ost cast members showed up later, crying as they sang tunes from the musical in a gesture of support and concern for those inside.

The Media Ministry on Friday ordered the Moskvia television station off the air for its coverage of the hostage crisis "in flagrant violations" of the law. The ministry also asked the Communications Ministry to shut down a radio station Web site for carrying rebel statements.

Other Russian television stations reduced coverage from the full-time, live broadcasts of the first day. The state television channel RTR interspersed news reports with screenings of patriotic, Soviet-era movies.

Also Friday, officials identified the body of a woman who was shot and killed inside the theater and was the only known fatality. Olga Romanova lived in the theater neighborhood, but it was unclear why she was killed.

The hostage-taking, occurring just 3 miles from the Kremlin, undermines claims by Putin and other Russian officials that the situation in Chechnya is under control. Russian soldiers there suffer casualties daily in small skirmishes and mine explosions.

Over the past decade, Chechens or their sympathizers have been involved in a number of bold, often bloody hostage-taking situations in southern Russian provinces. More than 170 hostages and rescuers were killed in just two of them.

Hurricane Kenna slams into Mexico's Pacific coast

BY LISA J. ADAMS

Associated Press Writer

TEPIC, Mexico — Hurricane Kenna crashed into Mexico's Pacific coast on Friday, destroying houses and cutting roads in fishing towns while burying hotel swimming pools under seawater in the resort of Puerto Vallarta.

There were no immediate reports of death, but officials evacuated more than 20,000 people from coastal areas before Hurricane Kenna hit land about 40 miles northwest of Tepic with winds of 140 mph.

Waves thundered over the coastal boulevard of Puerto Vallarta, 60 miles to the southwest, and swept over hotel swimming pools. Power was out to much of the city.

The brunt of the storm hit Nayarit state, where Gov. Antonio Echeverria met aides by the light of a battery-pow-

ered fluorescent lamp to monitor the crisis. Power was knocked out in parts of the state capital of Tepic, a city of 250,000 people, and officials cut the rest due to danger from downed power lines.

"We are worried because never before in the history of the state have we had a phenomenon of this magnitude," Echeverria said, flinching as a metal window guard banged against the glass.

The National Hurricane Center in Miami said the storm hit land near the fishing and tourist town of San Blas. Sustained winds — which had reached 160 mph on Thursday — dropped to 140 mph before the storm hit the coast. They then slipped to 80 mph as the storm raced into north-central Mexico in the direction of Texas at 24 mph.

The Hurricane Center said the storm might re-form near the Texas Gulf coast late Saturday.

Nayarit Civil Defense Director Jose Heriberto Betancourt said 20,000 people were evacuated from coastal areas of his state. Neighboring Jalisco and Sinaloa states reported thousands more evacuated there.

Red Cross officials said the coastal highway from Tepic to Mazatlan — a key section on the road from Mexico City to the Arizona border — was washed out, blocking ambulances. Some drivers were trapped by fallen trees on the highway from Tepic to San Blas. Local television reports said hundreds of houses in San Blas had been damaged or destroyed.

Trees and power lines littered the streets of Tepic, 18 miles from the sea at 3,000 feet in a coastal mountain range. Some falling branches smashed into cars. The Red Cross reported several dozen people were cut by flying glass.

About 3,000 evacuees, most from San Blas, gathered at a Tepic high school

whose classrooms were crowded with children sleeping on blankets.

"You can replace things, but not life," said Alicia Ortiz, 46, who brought her two sons to the shelter. Her husband stayed behind in San Blas to protect the ice factory where he works.

In Puerto Vallarta, Mayor Pedro Ruiz said at least 42 people were treated for injuries and 2,000 others had been evacuated to shelters — which ranged from humble schools to the meeting salons of luxury hotels.

Hazel Burns, a 26-year-old student from England said she and friends had tried to leave the resort early Friday, but their bus was forced back by a fallen tree blocking the road.

Back in town, they took a taxi through flooded streets, past floating cars and fleeing seaside residents.



SPORTS

NBA '02-03: Lakers go for four in a row

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

AP Basketball Writer

The quest for a four-peat has begun, and so has the taunting from the Los Angeles Lakers.

"I'm not worried about the Sacramento Queens," Shaquille O'Neal said. "Write it down. Take pictures. When we get back, there's going to be trouble."

The 2002-03 NBA season begins Tuesday night with another ring ceremony at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, the third straight year the Lakers have added to their jewelry collection.

Now, the swaggering, strutting defending champions will try to do something that no NBA team has done in almost four decades — win a fourth consecutive title.

The other 28 teams — and especially the target of the taunts 400 miles up the road — can only wonder whether there is a way to prevent the mighty Lakers from walking off as winners again next June.

Nobody has found a way to knock them off in the past three seasons, although the Sacramento Kings came close last spring. After taking a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven Western Conference finals, the Kings lost a controversial Game 6 before dropping an overtime decision in Game 7.

The Lakers moved on and swatted away New Jersey in a four-game sweep, getting as much pleasure from taking potshots at the Kings as they did in taking out the overmatched Nets.

O'Neal and Phil Jackson have picked up where they left off, directing their jabs directly to the north when speaking about the upcoming season. O'Neal accused Vlade Divac of purposely fouling out in Game 7, and Jackson wondered aloud how the Kings might be affected by Divac's advancing age (34) and Chris Webber's indictment in a case involving a former Michigan booster.

"The jabs have continued back and forth, but that's just going to bring great anticipation for when we play each other," Kings coach Rick Adelman said.

Sacramento will get its first shot at the Lakers on Christmas Day in a nationally televised matchup. By then, O'Neal should be back from the foot surgery that sidelined him for all of training camp and the preseason.

Besides the Kings, the San Antonio Spurs and Dallas Mavericks shape up as the strongest candidates to challenge the Lakers in the Western Conference. It may come down to a question of confidence when the playoffs arrive, and one of those team faces the daunting prospect of beating the defending champions not once, but four times.

Another playoff team could be the Houston Rockets, who add 7-foot-5 rookie sensation Yao Ming of China.

They'll all say they're capable of knocking off the Lakers, but will they believe it?

"Talk is real cheap as far as believing goes. You have to beat the team to gain confidence," Mavericks coach Don Nelson said.

Confidence when facing the Lakers has been a problem for many of the better teams in the West.

The Spurs are 1-8 against Los Angeles in the past two postseasons; the Mavericks are only 1-7 against them in the past three seasons (4-41 in the past decade).

The Kings appeared capable and cocky enough to finish the job in last year's playoffs, but their 14-for-30 free throw shooting and their offensive meltdown in overtime of Game 7 doomed them.

"I think with them, the most important thing is you have to believe you can get it done," said Spurs coach Greg Popovich, who jokingly suggested stealing O'Neal's car battery as perhaps the best plan for beating the Lakers.

"With Kobe we'd probably do something similar, I just haven't thought of it yet," Popovich said.

No similar confidence concerns burden teams from the East.

The Nets shocked everybody by winning the No. 1 seed in the conference and a berth in the finals last season. The East remains wide open, with many teams having made major adjustments to their rosters in an effort to become next June's designated underdog.

"Obviously, the West is a stronger conference. I think everybody respects that and knows that," said Nets coach Byron Scott, whose team acquired Dikembe Mutombo from Philadelphia with the clear aim of having a weapon to defend O'Neal should the teams meet again in the finals.

First, of course, they have to get there. And plenty of

teams — including Michael Jordan and the Washington Wizards — will try to stop them.

The Wizards added Jerry Stackhouse, Larry Hughes and Charles Oakley in an effort to put together a team that can advance through the postseason. The Boston Celtics added Vin Baker, the Philadelphia 76ers acquired Keith Van Horn and Todd MacCulloch, and the Detroit Pistons dealt for Richard Hamilton.

"The Eastern Conference is going to be who can stay healthy and whose team can blend well together," Washington coach Doug Collins said. "It's wide open."

The low down on the NBA teams

SACRAMENTO KINGS

LAST SEASON: 61-21, eliminated 4-3 by Lakers in Western Conference finals.

COACH: Rick Adelman, fifth season with Kings, 187-109; 13th season overall, 544-361.

ADDED: C Keon Clark (free agent, Raptors), G Damon Jones (free agent, Pistons).

LOST: None.

STRENGTHS: They were a well-oiled machine until then final two games of the conference finals, and they addressed one of their few needs by bringing in a shot-clocker and rebounder in Clark. Lost only five times last season at Arco Arena, the league's most hostile venue for visiting teams.

WEAKNESSES: Will begin the season without Mike Bibby, who will miss at least a month with a broken foot. Also will have to deal with an inferiority complex when it comes to themselves and the Lakers, whose mental edge over Sacramento was a crucial factor in Game 7 of the conference finals in June.

WHAT THEY'LL DO: If Bobby Jackson and Jones can hold the fort until Bibby returns, another 60-win season is in store.

LOS ANGELES LAKERS

LAST SEASON: 60-22, won third straight NBA title.

COACH: Phil Jackson, fourth season with Lakers, 183-63, 13th season overall, 672-230.

ADDED: G Kareem Rush (draft, No. 20, Missouri), G A.J. Guyton (free agent, Bulls), G Tracy Murray (trade with Raptors), C Soumaila Samake (free agent).

LOST: F Mitch Richmond (retired), G Lindsey Hunter (traded to Toronto), C Jelani McCoy (free agent, Toronto).

STRENGTHS: Trying to become the first team in almost four decades to win four consecutive titles — something Jackson couldn't do (for reasons beyond his control) in Chicago. O'Neal is due back by the end of November after foot surgery. Bryant spent the summer lifting weights and showed up at camp stronger than ever.

WEAKNESSES: There is a distinct possibility of getting off to a poor start because of O'Neal's absence. It won't be easy for the Lakers to dig themselves out of a big hole, either, since they tend to play to the level of their opponent while coasting through the regular season.

WHAT THEY'LL DO: Belittle the Kings, swagger through 82 sellouts and use their experience to march through the postseason.

PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS:

LAST SEASON: 49-33, swept 3-0 by Lakers in first round.

COACH: Maurice Cheeks, second season, 49-33.

ADDED: G Antonio Daniels, C Amal McCaskill (trade with Spurs), C Arvydas Sabonis (unretired), F Qyntel Woods (draft, No. 21, Northeast Mississippi CC), G Jeff McInnis (free agent, Clippers), G Charles Smith (free agent, Spurs).

LOST: F Shawn Kemp (buyout, signed with Orlando), G Steve Kerr, G Erick Barkley (traded to San Antonio), G Rick Brunson (free agent, Chicago).

STRENGTHS: Cheeks has a year of experience under his belt, and his team responded to his leadership over the latter half of last season. The Blazers found out last season how much they missed Sabonis, as Dale Davis was unable to match up with the better centers in the West. Now Sabonis is back.

WEAKNESSES: There will be playing time issues for Cheeks to deal with, especially at point guard as Damon Stoudamire, McInnis and Daniels all compete for minutes. They've lost to the Lakers three straight times in the playoffs, making them cousins to the Kings and Spurs in terms of inter-conference inferiority complexes.

WHAT THEY'LL DO: If they don't repeat last season's 20-20 start, Blazers can win this division.

LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS

LAST SEASON: 39-43, missed playoffs.

COACH: Alvin Gentry, third season with Clippers, 70-94, seventh season overall, 158-187.

ADDED: G Andre Miller (trade with Cavaliers), C Wang Zhi-Zhi (free agent, Mavericks), F Chris Wilcox (draft, No. 8, Maryland), C Melvin Ely (draft, No. 12, Fresno State), G

Not so in the West, where the team at the top is as clearly defined as the newly enlarged muscles on the arms of Kobe Bryant after a summer of weightlifting.

Bryant and O'Neal give the Lakers a one-two combination that is becoming one of the most successful in NBA history, right up there alongside Bill Russell and Bob Cousy, Magic Johnson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and Jordan and Scottie Pippen.

Jackson has had the good fortune to coach two of those dynamic duos, and his nine coaching titles tie him with Red Auerbach for the most in NBA history.

Marko Jaric (2001 draft, Kinder Bologna-Italy), F Cherokee Parks (free agent, Spurs), G Bryant Stith (free agent, Nuggets).

LOST: F Darius Miles (traded to Cleveland), G Jeff McInnis (free agent, Portland), G Earl Boykins (free agent).

STRENGTHS: Elgin Baylor made a bold move to try to get the Clippers into the playoffs, acquiring the league leader in assists. Several players are in their contract years, when they tend to play harder to increase their earning ability for next summer. Michael Olowokandi will be Exhibit A for that argument.

WEAKNESSES: Another team that has been riddled with injuries in the preseason, they don't expect to have Lamar Odom back until late December at the earliest, and it's possible that Olowokandi and Elton Brand will both be sidelined to begin the season.

WHAT THEY'LL DO: Compete with Seattle, Houston and Utah for the eighth and final playoff spot.

SEATTLE SUPERSONICS

LAST SEASON: 45-37, eliminated 3-2 by San Antonio in first round.

COACH: Nate McMillan, third season, 83-66.

ADDED: G Kenny Anderson, C Vitaly Potapenko, G Joseph Forte (trade with Celtics), F Reggie Evans (free agent, Iowa).

LOST: F Vin Baker, G Shammond Williams (traded to Boston), F Art Long (free agent, Philadelphia), G Earl Watson (free agent, Memphis).

STRENGTHS: The development of Yugoslav forwards Predrag Drobnjak and Vladimir Radmanovic made Baker expendable, and the improvement of Desmond Mason will add to the strength of the backcourt anchored by Gary Payton and Brent Barry.

WEAKNESSES: Just good enough to be a playoff contender, they have very little hope of getting out of the first round if they do qualify for the postseason. Payton is angry that Seattle didn't give him a contract extension.

WHAT THEY'LL DO: Shopping Payton as the trading deadline approaches seems a possibility.

PHOENIX SUNS

LAST SEASON: 36-46, missed playoffs.

COACH: Frank Johnson, first full season, 11-20.

ADDED: C Amare Stoudemire (draft, No. 9, Cypress Creek HS, Fla.), F Casey Jacobsen (draft, No. 22, Stanford), F Scott Williams (free agent, Nuggets).

LOST: G Milt Palacio (free agent, Cleveland), G Dan Majerle (retired), F John Wallace (free agent).

STRENGTHS: Have acquired some good, young big men while easing into a rebuilding mode, and Stoudemire has the makings of a big-time player. Tom Gugliotta is healthy after playing just 44 games last season.

WEAKNESSES: Management may be having its doubts as to Stephon Marbury's suitability as a franchise cornerstone. Payroll is top heavy with the contracts of Gugliotta and Penny Hardaway, both of whom are past their prime.

WHAT THEY'LL DO: Expectations are low, along with local interest.

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS

LAST SEASON: 21-61, missed playoffs.

COACH: Jeff Musselman, first season.

ADDED: F Mike Dunleavy (draft, No. 3, Duke), G Jiri Welsch (draft, No. 16, Benetton Treviso-Italy/Czech Republic), G Steve Logan (draft, No. 30, Cincinnati), G Rafer Alston (free agent, Bucks).

LOST: Larry Hughes (free agent, Washington), G Mookie Blaylock (free agent), C Dean Garrett (free agent).

STRENGTHS: Jason Richardson and Gilbert Arenas played well together in the backcourt, with Richardson making first team All-Rookie. The Warriors were the league's best offensive rebounding team, with a front line that would be the envy of many teams in the Eastern Conference.

WEAKNESSES: In an eternal rebuilding mode, the Warriors have no realistic hope of making the playoffs. The best they can hope for is to finish with a better record than Denver and/or Cleveland.

WHAT THEY'LL DO: The over/under is 20 wins.

COMICS



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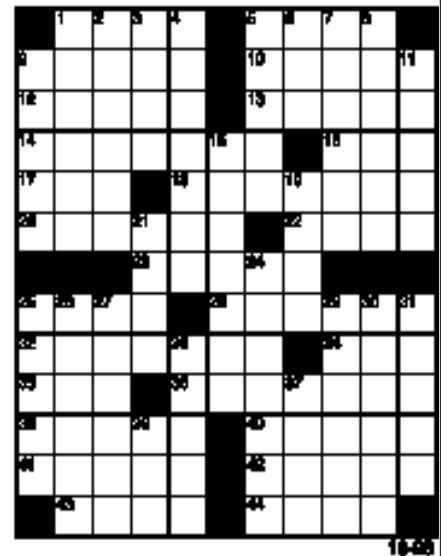
CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fert talk
 - 5 Teal proctor's call
 - 9 Belief
 - 10 Whatso-ver
 - 12 Comics Viding
 - 13 Determination
 - 14 U-235, for one
 - 16 Rank material
 - 17 Negative conjunction
 - 18 Global hot spot
 - 20 Tooth coat
 - 22 Chew
 - 23 Wine words
 - 25 Con
 - 26 Case
 - 29 Cola additive
 - 34 Woody's ex
 - 35 Literary collection
 - 36 Grove output
 - 38 Victim of a 1995 assassination
 - 40 Cast
 - 41 Movie
 - 42 Ready for battle
 - 43 Uliars
 - 44 Performa
- DOWN**
- 1 Fall, e.g.
 - 2 Sweater material
 - 3 Theatrical unit
 - 4 Directed the crew
 - 5 Breaks, perhaps
 - 6 Skater Midori
 - 7 High points
 - 8 Draw out
 - 9 Friend's possessive
 - 11 Lowd looks
 - 16 Idle talk
 - 18 Boulder



- Yesterday's answer**
- 21 Baby's call
 - 24 Purest of the knights
 - 25 Muffler
 - 26 Variation ways
 - 27 Midwest region
 - 28 "Count me in!"
 - 30 Colander's in
 - 31 Moved carefully
 - 32 Cowled group
 - 37 Adopted son of Claudius
 - 38 Far from friendly

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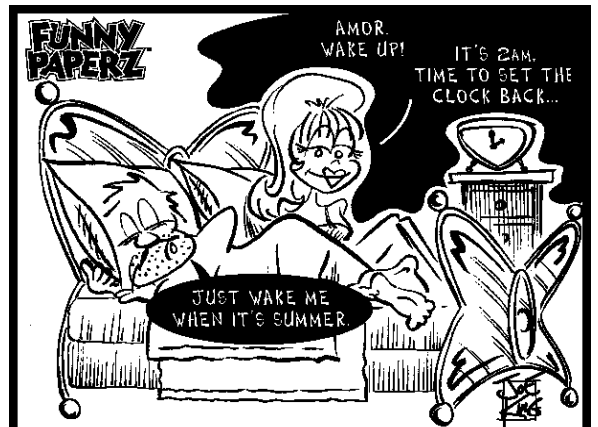
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Stop, drop and roll

A 16-year-old boy was sent to Sherman Hospital in Elgin, Ill., in September with second-degree burns after he and two pals started playing a game in which each would splash gasoline on their shorts and set themselves on fire before rolling on the ground to try to extinguish the flames. One of the boys told police they agreed to three rounds each as sort of competition.





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VENICE BEACH \$1125.00 1BD/1BA, with hardwood floors, 1/2 block to beach, all utilities paid, 1 year lease, no pets. (310) 396-4443 x102.

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VENICE BEACH \$1995.00 2bdrm/2ba totally remodeled apt. in charming building one block from the beach. Hardwood floors, w/d and dishwasher, lots of light, upper unit. 1 year lease, no pets. (310) 396-4443 x102.

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

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VENICE BEACH Starting @ \$2,400.00 Residential loft, completely renovated. 1bdrm/2ba, oakwood floors, high ceilings, rooftop patio, balcony, 2 car parking, lots of windows, lots of storage. Great looking unit. (310)396-4443 x102.

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Houses For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$750.00 Guest House, r/s, w/d, yard, very quiet, prking, utils incld. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

Houses For Rent

2BDRM/1BATH WITH patio. Walking distance from Main St./Beach. \$1,700.00 Monthly cleaning service included. (310)392-6651

MAR VISTA, 2 Bed, 2 Bath, split floor plan with 2 fireplaces, new carpet and paint, 2 car gated parking. 1 Year lease, no pets \$1,350. (310)396-4443. x102

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

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
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SANTA MONICA House w/yard. \$2000.00 Completely renovated, Pergo flooring, large kitchen, old fashion bathroom. Close to beach and shopping, next to new park. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext. 102

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SM 1115 Berkeley, 3bdrm/1ba, dining room, hardwood floors, new bathroom/kitchen, stainless steel appliances. \$3800.00 (310)454-1015.

Roommates

S.M. SHARE 2bdrm furnished apt., all utilities paid including cable, 9th & Wilshire. Male only. \$750.00 (310)394-1050.

SANTA MONICA \$525.00 House, prvt rm, r/s, hrwd flrs, must see, w/d, yard, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$500.00 Apartment, prvt rm, r/s, hrwd flrs, Indry, prking, utils incld. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

Commercial Lease

OFFICE SPACE, 6 offices+ 2 bathrooms +kitchenette +reception. 1,250 SF. Year sublet +renewal option. Prime local Yale @ Colorado (SM) incl. parking. Lease negotiable. Contact Tom @ (310)612-0840.

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

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

PRIME STORE front property for medical and/or retail, in downtown Santa Monica for sublease below market value. 2400 sq. ft. Call Linda (310)393-2598.

VENICE BEACH \$1695.00 Office space with 4 parking spaces, one large room with high ceilings, skylights, rollup door, bathroom with shower. 1 year lease (310)396-4443 x102.

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VENICE BEACH \$595.00 Small office space with bathroom on ground floor. High ceiling, large window. Fresh paint. Just off Abbot Kinney. 1 year lease. (310) 396-4443 x102

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Massage

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

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

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

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

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

WOULD LIKE to trade deep-tissue and Swedish bodywork with female therapist. Platonic. Paul (310)741-1901.

Announcements

PRO SE of Neighborhood Project needs volunteers for events that honor our heroes. (310) 899-3888 pro.se@adelphia.net.

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

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

Services

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

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

HANDYMAN
(714)998-1862

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

Services

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

OVERPRICED DIAL-UP? Use VisionOne. \$16.95 monthly, fast clean connection, no long term contracts, 24/7 customer service. Visit www.visionone.com/icingonthecake or call (310)820-4152.

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

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

Business Opps

YOU: Ambitious, goal-oriented, workaholic who wants to make serious long-term income in telecommunications. Call Jamie (310)820-4152.

Yard Sales

SAT 10/26 8am-12pm. Furniture and a variety of household items. 1420 Franklin St. (btw. SMB and Broadway)

Health/Beauty

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

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

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

Personals

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

STEADY GIRLFRIEND Wanted. You will get \$200.00 every week to go shopping, pamper yourself. Fit lady into rock climbing, hiking, roller-blading, jogging. Can you teach me Spanish or Russian or Chinese? Please be down to earth, domestic and good company. I'm color blind, classy, 5'11", 155 lbs., 52 year old European man. Cabinet maker/designer. Very kind/warm hearted and sensual. (310)201-5553.

CLASSIFIEDS



Be in the middle of it all!

Professional office space available on the Third Street Promenade.



950 square feet of office space conveniently located downtown, a walk away from shops, restaurants and the beach. Bright office space with high ceilings, natural light, two large private offices and a spacious reception area. Quiet location with a shared kitchen. New paint and carpet. Parking. Available now.

Call (310) 458-7737 ext. 104

Calendar

Saturday, October 26, 2002

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
Jackass: The Movie (R) 12:00,
1:00, 2:15, 3:15, 4:30, 5:30,
6:45, 7:45, 9:00, 10:00. The
Truth About Charlie (PG-13)
11:30, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15.
The Tuxedo (PG-13) 11:00,
1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:15.

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.

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.

Weekly Storytime, 11:00 a.m. Come to Barnes &

Noble for Saturday readings with the kids! Call
310-260-9110 for more information.

Puppetoloi! presented by the Santa Monica
Puppet & Magic Center. All ages, 3 and up. This
musical revue features marionettes, ventrilo-
quism, 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

MAGICOPOLIS presents HOCUS POCUS!
(Fish Bones Choke Us). The stage explodes with
a colorful mix of Magic, Special Effects, Sleight
of Hand, Comedy and Music that's sure to
delight audiences of all ages. At MAGICOPOLIS,
1418 Fourth Street, Santa Monica. Fridays &
Saturdays at 8pm, \$20. Saturday & Sundays at
2pm, \$15. For tickets call 310-451-2241.

Save the Aero! "Gris Grimly's Tour of Fiends"
Illustrator and Author Gris Grimly leads a live
monster show, followed by The Addams Family
(1991). Starts at 3pm. Tickets are \$10.00, 1328
Montana Ave. (310)395-4990. www.aerothe-
atre.com

Santa Monica Woodwind Quintet at the Miles
Memorial Playhouse. 4pm to 4:15pm, 1130
Lincoln Blvd. Admission is FREE!

Music Showcase. UnUrban Coffeehouse. 3301
Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

Sunday

Community

15th Annual Garage and Bake Sale hosted by
The Early Years School. 8am to 2pm, at 302
Montana Ave. in Santa Monica. More than 100
families have done some spring cleaning and
donated fabulous stuff. All purchases are tax

deductible. Proceeds benefit the school's
Scholarship Fund that helps to provide a pre-
school education to children. Info (310)394-
0463

12th Annual Hunger Walk presented by the
Westside Food Bank is being held today at
Santa Monica High School in the Science Quad.
Starts at 12:30pm. For more information please
visit www.westsidefoodbankca.org or call
(310)828-6016.

Save the Aero! "The Faerieworlds Festival"
Author Brian Froud will speak to the audience
and sign books. Clowns and musical groups will
perform. Followed by The Dark Crystal (1982).
Starts at 2pm, tickets are \$30, 1328 Montana
Ave. (310)395-4990. www.aerotheatre.com

Almost Vaudville. 2 pm and 5 pm. UnUrban
Coffeehouse. 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica,
(310)315-0056.

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

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Producer Peter Guber among those to judge Ryder

BY LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent

BEVERLY HILLS — A jury made up of several members of the entertainment industry, including former Sony Entertainment Pictures Chairman Peter Guber, was sworn in Friday to judge actress Winona Ryder on shoplifting charges.

Prosecution and defense attorneys accepted the eight-woman, four-man panel after questioning whether their occupations might prevent them from being fair.

Defense attorney Mark Geragos asked the 12 whether the fact Ryder is "pretty and rich" would prejudice her in their eyes. No one answered affirmatively.

Addressing the former Sony executive, he said: "Mr. Guber, you're not afraid of working in this town again if you get on this case, are you?"

There was laughter in the courtroom as Guber answered, "No."

Other jurors included a legal secretary who works at Sony Studios, a man who is involved in program development for television and a doctor the judge said he knew from the local Rotary Club.

As the panelists were quizzed, Ryder sat beside Geragos, taking notes and studying each one.

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. She could face up to three years in prison if convicted of three

"Quite a few of you are in the entertainment industry. Do you think at any point in the future you might hope to work with Ms. Ryder?"

ANN RUNDLE
Prosecutor

felony counts of grand theft, second-degree burglary and vandalism.

In the final moments of jury selection, Superior Court Judge Elden Fox asked the prospective jurors if any were Saks Fifth Avenue shoppers and if they were familiar with the store's layout. Five panelists said they do shop at Saks.

The judge had told all prospective panelists that if they were selected for the jury they would be required to stay out of Saks Fifth Avenue until the trial is over.

"I am sure they won't appreciate that, but it's only five to seven days," he said, a reference to how long he expects the trial to last. Opening statements are to begin Monday.

"Quite a few of you are in the entertainment industry," prosecutor Ann Rundle told the panel. "Do you think at any point in the future you might hope to work with Ms. Ryder?"

All shook their heads no.

Rundle asked Guber if he had any reservations about serving on the jury.

"No," he replied. "But I would rather be doing something else."

Guber was chairman of Sony Pictures Entertainment for five years until resigning in 1994 to become an independent producer. During his tenure, Sony released the 1992 Francis Ford Coppola thriller "Dracula," in which Ryder appeared.

Fox had asked all 48 prospective jurors if they had not heard of Ryder or her shoplifting case. None raised their hands.

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

Before proceedings began, Geragos and Rundle met with the judge at his bench and agreed to dismiss eight prospective

jurors based on answers they gave on written questionnaires handed out Thursday, the first day of jury selection. Reasons for the dismissals were not disclosed.

The judge, who had excluded the press and public from portions of the proceedings on Thursday, agreed to hear arguments from a lawyer representing the Los Angeles Times and The Associated Press, but denied her request to reveal what took place in private.

Fox said the matters he kept secret involved evidence that will not be presented at trial because it was ruled irrelevant.

"It is the court's intention to prevent the public and potential jurors from being aware of evidence that will not be presented in court," the judge said, noting he wasn't trying to keep the media from covering the trial.

He said there are transcripts of the secret proceedings, "and at some time, if I am ordered to do so by an appellate court, I will certainly make that information available."

Ryder's attorney denigrated the arguments made by media attorney Susan Seager, saying she cited federal and civil cases that were not binding in a state court.

Geragos said they were only made because "the Los Angeles Times, the AP and RTNA (Radio Television News Association) chose to report on this shoplifting case rather than the sniper and other matters people may deem more important."

3 NEW Ways To Live, Love, Eat!



Weekend Breakfast
Enjoy a delicious breakfast with a choice of eggs, sausage, and pancakes. \$5.95. [View Menu](#)



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Enjoy a drink and appetizer for \$4.95. [View Menu](#)

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Enjoy a delicious bar appetizer with a choice of wings, fries, and a drink. \$4.95. [View Menu](#)

3 One FREE Dessert on Jazz Night
Enjoy a delicious dessert with a choice of chocolate cake, cheesecake, and ice cream. \$4.95. [View Menu](#)

[Reservations: 310-315-1111](#)

Santa Monica Daily Press presents

"SQUIRM NIGHT"

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 30
7-9PM

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.