

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Santa Monica police arrest teens suspected of murder

Two suspects accused of killing 19-year-old woman on beach

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica police have arrested and charged two people with murder for allegedly killing a young black woman at Santa Monica Beach less than two weeks ago.

Kristopher Charles Bean, an 18-year-old black male of Los Angeles, and a 17-year-old black female, also of Los Angeles, were booked on murder charges and taken into custody Wednesday.

They are accused of killing Tiffany Sharene Scott, 19, of Los Angeles, who was found shot to death near lifeguard tower No. 20 on Oct. 26 at 10:10 p.m. after witnesses heard gun shots and saw two people running away from the scene.

The female, whose identity is not being released because she is a juvenile, was arrested at the

Santa Monica Police Department at 7:30 p.m.

"She was here being interviewed by detectives and was later arrested," said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega.

Four and a half hours later, Bean was taken into custody at his home in the 2200 block of Hobart Boulevard in Los Angeles by Santa Monica police. After a search warrant was served on Bean, his car and home, he was arrested at 11:55 p.m. Evidence was recovered by police, but it's unclear what was found.

Bean is being held in the Santa Monica Jail without bail. The female was transported Eastlake Juvenile Hall in Los Angeles.

Scott was found lying in the sand on Santa Monica Beach between Bay Street and Hollister Avenue. Police said Scott had several gun shot wounds to her chest and stomach.

Detectives are not releasing a motive for the killing.

Many pieces of evidence were recovered at the scene by police. The next day, a homeless man

recovered an additional bullet.

"Some evidence was recovered by the use of a metal detector near the lifeguard stand," Fabrega said.

Although police are not saying what led to the arrests, an investigation into Scott's life led to questioning of her family and friends.

"We may not know any of the suspects, but once you find out who the victim is and her friends and who she went out with, that circle widens and more people talk," Fabrega said.

Scott's murder is the seventh homicide this year in Santa Monica. In three of the incidents, the suspected murderers committed suicide. Police have arrested and charged the alleged murderers in all of the other homicides.

In 2001, there were two homicides in the city.

Santa Monica detectives are investigating the crime. Anyone with information should call the Santa Monica Robbery/Homicide Unit at (310) 458-8451 or the watch commander at (310) 458-8426.

Skunk in the park



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Skunk the dog keeps his eye on the ball, thrown by his owner Tony Arias, in Reed Park Wednesday morning.

Lukewarm turnout for Santa Monica election

Voters unaffected by controversial issues, high profile campaigns

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press staff writer

Renters seemed unconcerned about local and state affairs earlier this week, when they skipped going to the polls, election documents reveal.

Proportionally, Santa Monica voters in precincts consisting of single-family homes voted in far greater numbers than those consisting of apartment complexes.

While renters make up more than 66 percent of Santa Monica's population, in some cases precincts in the city's wealthiest neighborhoods of single-family homes north of Montana Avenue voted two-times more than renters predominantly living in the city's urban areas.

Traditionally, Santa Monica homeowners tend to be more conservative politically and vote in greater numbers, while renters tend to be more liberal but often stay away from the polls, officials said.

"In gubernatorial races, we would have expected a higher Democratic renter turnout," said Denny Zane, a veteran of Santa Monica politics. "Democratic renters didn't go to the polls as much as they did in the past."

Zane is also co-chair of Santa Monicans for Renters Rights — a group that has dominated local politics for decades — and he ran the campaign in support of Measure EE, the school district's \$300 parcel tax.

Officials said there was a lack of concern this year by both liberals and conservatives over the outcome of statewide races, particularly the governor's race,

which may have failed to pull voters out even though there were many contentious local issues.

Voters were said to have been turned-off by the negative campaigns run by the gubernatorial candidates and the negative coverage of the race in the media, officials said.

This year 49 percent of Santa Monica registered voters went to the polls, while in typical gubernatorial elections 60 to 70 percent of residents vote.

However, compared to other areas of the state, Santa Monicans voted in higher percentages. In Los Angeles

County, 41 percent of those registered voted, while statewide 45 percent went to the polls.

City Clerk Maria Stewart said the initial numbers show that compared to other communities throughout the state, Santa

See TURNOUT, page 5

Jurors say no dice to Candy Spelling

TV producer's wife walks out of court with only an unpaid bill

BY DAVE DANFORTH
Daily Press Staff Writer

Candy Spelling's gamble in rebuffing a \$150,000 settlement offer over work done on her La Costa Beach house backfired Thursday when a Santa Monica jury sent her home empty-handed.

The jury spent only two hours delivering a unanimous verdict after a five-day trial. As an exclamation point in their rebuff, jurors ordered Spelling to pay project engineer Mel Bilow's unpaid \$6,419.65 bill. It was Bilow's bid, in small claims court, to collect the bill which preceded Spelling's \$450,000 lawsuit.

The Spelling name didn't go unnoticed in court. Aaron Spelling

is one of a small group of legendary television producers. His hits include "Charlie's Angels," "Dynasty," "The Love Boat" and "Beverly Hills 90210." At closing arguments, one attorney said the suit, if not the wealthy couple, was about arrogance.

But the Spelling magic evaporated in Judge Jacqueline Connor's courtroom. One juror told Spelling's attorney, Robert

See SPELLING, page 5

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♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Bosses appreciate your attitude. If you're the boss, you're well rewarded for your efficiency and kindness to employees. You willingly hash through an idea into the wee hours. You know what you want and where you're heading. Tonight: A force to reckon with.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ You might be more detached than usual when dealing with work and communication. Your graciousness toward an individual returns in multiples, not that you expected anything. A conversation helps you understand someone better. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Extend yourself to an associate or close friend. What might be easy for you could be difficult for someone else. Loosen up with your dealings. Add more zip to your life by doing something totally different. Others admire your forthrightness. Tonight: Indulge your favorite person.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Others seek you out. Separate business from your personal life. You find the urge to mix the two very high. What might work in the next 24 hours could prove to be a problem later on. Be smart. A meeting turns into a brainstorming session. Tonight: Roll with a friend's ideas.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Concentrate, but take time once in a while to enjoy those around you. You charge through work, especially if you allow a little socializing in. Take your time making plans. Be honest with yourself. You might want to do nothing for a few days. Tonight: At home.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ If you don't feel like working, find a fellow Virgo or maybe a Capricorn or Taurus. Many of you would prefer to let go and enjoy more of your life. Cut out of work early, if possible. You deserve some extra personal time, considering how diligent you normally are. Tonight: Show off Virgo's lively personality.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Your family wants your attention, and you want to give it to them. Good feelings flow in your present domestic environment. You decide to splurge a little on family members. Don't assume that just because you want something, someone else does, too. Tonight: Put your feet up. Enjoy.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Others seek you out. Though you usually express your opinions, clearly right now someone else wants to hear what's on your mind. Speak as though you have a willing and receptive audience. Realize more of what you want. Tonight: Treat a friend.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Someone shares a secret. If you're smart, you won't act on it, nor will you share it. The time for disclosure will arrive before you know it. Do some reading on different financial options, whether it is CDs or investments. Trust your decisions. Tonight: Shop on your way home.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ You have a way of stating opinions in which everyone agrees. You also don't have a problem if someone else decides your idea is his or hers. Flow. Significant events and discussions occur in a meeting. Don't miss it. Tonight: Ask for what you want.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Assume a low profile, and you will be far more comfortable. Others share much more as a result. Sometimes playing your cards close to your chest proves to be fruitful, even if that isn't in your nature. Choose your words with care. Tonight: Sleep like a baby.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Meetings and groups pave the way to success. Realize more of what you want from those you work and deal with. Explaining a concept might need to be done with visual or more concrete descriptions. Discuss what you need. Tonight: Join the gang.

QUOTE of the DAY

"The object of war is not to die for your country but to make the other bastard die for his."

— Brendan Behan

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LOCAL



CrimeWatch

Gas station in Pico robbed

By Daily Press staff

■ A Santa Monica gas station attendant was robbed at gunpoint on Sunday, Oct. 27. At 5:05 p.m., a man entered the UNOCAL in the 1900 block of Pico Boulevard and ordered a pack of cigarettes. He struck up a conversation with the employee, then pulled out a handgun and demanded the money from the cash register.

The employee handed over the cash, and the suspect dashed out the front door and jumped into a waiting vehicle. A second man drove the getaway car.

The man with the gun is described as male, 20 years old, six feet tall, 200 pounds and was wearing a black sweatshirt and dark pants.

The driver is a black man in his 20s.

The getaway car is a mid-1990s, white Ford Taurus.

The loss is an undetermined amount of money.

■ Santa Monica police arrested Norman Vancooper after watching him allegedly try to steal a beer on Oct. 22.

At 12:25 p.m., the victim was in a parking lot in the 1700 block of Pico Boulevard drinking a beer he just bought. Vancooper walked over and threatened to punch the victim if he didn't hand over the beer.

A Santa Monica police officer was cruising past, witnessed the event and gave chase to Vancooper.

Vancooper, a 45-year-old resident of Santa Monica, was arrested for strong-arm robbery and parole violation.

■ A woman was robbed in the private parking structure at the 500 block of Santa Monica Boulevard on Oct. 21.

The woman was exiting her car at 5:45 a.m. when a man approached her and demanded money. She handed over her cash, and the suspect took off on foot.

The assailant is described as a black male, in his mid to late 20s, five feet and eight inches tall, 180 pounds and was wearing a red ski cap and gray sweatshirt.

With any information regarding these crimes, call the Santa Monica Police Department's robbery/homicide unit at (310) 458-8451.

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Surf is in for a boom this weekend, but unfortunately conditions will be less than ideal, as rain causes concern of pollution and winds hurt shape.

Surf remains strong today and Saturday, as building west-northwest swell hits Southern California hard. Northern spots see waist-to shoulder-high waves, some better head-high sets on good tides, while spots in the south of L.A. County go off.

Expect head-high to over-head sets at El Porto.

Again, this surge in surf will likely be spoiled by poor weather conditions, wind and rain making surf dirty and choppy for the most part.

Winds are expected to mellow Sunday, but rain will likely persist.

If paddling out, check for updated beach advisories on <http://lapublihealth.org/beach/>.



Today's Tides:

High-	12:11 a.m.	3.66'
Low-	4:36 a.m.	2.52'
High-	10:48 a.m.	5.83'
Low-	6:37 p.m.	-0.41'

Location	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Water Quality
County Line	3-5'/Fair	4-5'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	B
Zuma	3-5'/Fair	4-5'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	B
Surfrider	1-2'/Poor	2-3'/Poor	2-3'/Poor	B-C
Topanga	1-2'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	B
Breakwater	3-5'/Poor	4-5'/Poor	3-4'/Fair	C
El Porto	4-5'/Poor	4-5'/Poor	3-5'/Fair	B-C

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24 hours of racing comes to Santa Monica

By Daily Press staff

A 24-hour adventure race that starts and finishes in Santa Monica next weekend will test the physical and mental endurance of the world's top racers.

On Nov. 16, the fifth and final stop of the 2002 Balance Bar 24-Hour Adventure will land in the 1550 beach lot just north of the Santa Monica Pier, which is the main site of the event. The race will start and finish near the pier and be the site of a festival for spectators that will feature clinics and games, as well as ongoing race commentary and updates.

The decisive adventure race is already a sellout with 100 teams preparing for the

final competition. Team SoBe, winners of two of the previous four stops on the tour, lead the standings with 380 points. In second place, 108 points behind Team SoBe, is Team Balance Bar. The third place team is Team Oxydol.

The adventure race includes mountain biking, trekking, kayaking, ropes and navigation. The 82-mile course will be laid out across the Santa Monica Mountains and includes 43 miles of mountain biking, 10,000 feet of climbing, 24 miles of trekking and 15 miles of kayaking in the Pacific Ocean.

A highly technical ropes course will be set up in Malibu Creek State Park, which is

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Santa Monica Daily Press



full of unique and dramatic rock formations.

The race already has made stops in Phoenix, Hood River, Ore., Boston and New York. Winners receive \$15,000 per event, and the race offers a total purse of \$110,000. The entry fee for each team is \$750.

The adventure races will be televised on the Outdoor Life Network in one-hour feature presentations. Upcoming broadcast airings include the Boston race on Dec. 4 at 7 p.m.; New York on Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. and the Santa Monica race on Dec. 18 at 7 p.m.

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OPINION

Election surprises and many lessons to be learned



AS I SEE IT

By Bill Bauer

Election Day has come and gone. Council members Kevin McKeown and Pam O'Connor can breathe a sigh of relief. They won second and third terms, respectively.

The big surprise was Bob Holbrook's victory. Rumors of Holbrook's political demise were premature. After the Police Officers' Association and firefighter's union refused to endorse him, observers thought Holbrook's political career was over.

Holbrook even weathered a somewhat incoherent but vicious campaign by the P.O.A. that claimed he was anti-police and a second smear campaign by Santa Monicans for Renters Rights, who falsely said he "repeatedly sides with hotel and developer interests — not with residents."

It looks like councilmen Richard Bloom, Ken Genser and Mike Feinstein contributed to SMRR-endorsed Abby Arnold's defeat when they put out a city-wide flyer Sunday night that stated, "She

has opposed SMRR's efforts to preserve housing and protect tenants." That move probably cost Arnold enough votes that it enabled Holbrook to slip ahead for reelection to a fourth term.

Measure JJ, the living wage ordinance, went down in defeat — barely. Aggressive pro-JJ supporters outside the polls turned off many voters. This time, I heard many neighbors say the whole thing was "none of my business" and was "between the hotels and their employees."

Measure HH (VERITAS) seemed to be destined to failure from the get-go. The voter reform measure was long, complicated and unwieldy. It was too easy to pick out something about it not to like. Although its author, Paul DeSantis, worked feverishly to get it approved, at times it seemed that he was one of a very few people for it.

Another surprise had to do with the failure of school supporters to pass a \$300 parcel tax increase. While I'm sure the school and Measure EE supporters think this is a disaster, it's really a "Phoenix rising" opportunity.

With the possibility of a special election coming as early as next March, there's time for district supporters to regroup and present a "good" school tax proposal to the voters. I hope they don't

do what school board president Julia Brownley did and tell a bunch of school supporters at a recent political fundraiser that "we'll put it right back on the ballot until it passes."

Last June, the district ad hoc advisory committee was advised that \$300 was more than was really needed. Even lifelong learning advocate Louise Jaffe warned, "Older people will choke (on \$300)," according to press reports. They and the school board also ignored a suggestion for a low-income exemption. Bottom line: A \$300 increase was too much for a lot of people to swallow and that's why EE went down.

Some voters had issues with district management and the arrogance of those advising and supervising the district. It didn't help that EE supporters were spending over \$160,000 — compared to the "No on EE" group's \$700 outlay.

School board member-elect Shane McLoud, who seems to have more common sense than the rest of the board put together, said it best when he told the Daily Press, Nov. 6, 2002, that we need to look at why this didn't work and why the community rejected it.

We all want what's best for the schools, so how about a parcel tax that's fair and

distributes the tax burden more evenly? How about one that taxes big property owners more than little ones, and gives low-income property owners and those on fixed incomes a break?

How about wording that guarantees certain percentages of money raised will go to arts, sciences, music and other classroom disciplines? How about calling out specific financial oversight measures?

And there's more ways to raise money than to just keep taxing residents and property owners. How about the school board president and board members going to the hotels and other big money businesses and asking them to endow a chair in the music or arts department, for example, instead of demanding they pay entry-level workers more money or to unionize?

Shouldn't the city dig deeper and provide more funding as well as assist in obtaining grants for our kids instead of spending tax money on social engineering and pet causes?

This is a great opportunity for our schools to excel, but will school leadership and school supporters rise to the occasion? They better. Our future depends on it.

Bill Bauer is a 25-year resident and a freelance writer.

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

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LOCAL



Renters out-numbered by homeowners at the polls

TURNOUT, from page 1

Monica voters still go to the polls in great numbers.

"Santa Monica is consistent with a high turnout, and it did so again in this election," she said.

But residents in some areas stayed home in far greater numbers than others. One polling station on Second Street recorded a 12.5 percent turnout, while the station at City Hall recorded a 28.5 percent turnout and another polling place on Second Street had 28.9 percent of its voters come out.

Meanwhile, a polling station at Marine Park — an area of single-family homes — had the highest turnout with a 55.8 percent of voters assigned to the precinct casting their ballot. The next two precincts with the highest participation were located north of Montana Avenue, and those each had a 52 percent turnout.

Zane said if Santa Monica's renters had turned out, the results of the election would have been much different.

"I think if you would have had a more normal turnout of Democratic renters, you would have had (Measure) JJ passing, (city council candidate Abby) Arnold winning and potentially EE passing as well," he said. "(Measure) EE needed to make up more ground than the other two, but its chances would have



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

A get out the vote flip chart, which was used to brief living wage canvassers, sits by a trash can at campaign headquarters Wednesday.

been significantly improved."

Instead Measure JJ — the "living wage" — was turned back by a margin of 745 votes, Arnold lost by 158 votes, and Measure EE fell 868 votes short of the two-thirds majority it needed to pass.

Air-conditioning system was not proven to be defective

SPELLING, from page 1

Chapman, "It was a tough case for you. We felt sorry for you." They faulted Chapman for neglecting to get expert testimony to back up Spelling's central claim: that the air conditioning ducts, located beneath the 9,000 square-foot beachfront home, were improperly exposed to waves and sand.

Instead, attorneys for Bilow and other defendants said Spelling simply decided she wanted a stronger system, and tried to pin the \$200,000-plus bill for replacing it out on the contractors.

Jurors also said after the verdict that even had they found fault with the installation, Spelling's testimony about the lost rental value of the home didn't carry water because no real estate professional backed it.

Spelling technically acts as the trustee for a pair of Spelling trusts that own the home.

The attorneys in the suit agreed with Judge Connor that jurors should hear no arguments about the Spellings' wealth. But that didn't stop one of them, Ted Lee, from asserting that the case was about "arrogance" instead. At closing argument, Lee scrawled the name "Spelling" on a display board, and then converted the "S" to "\$."

Because of the reference to the wealthy, Chapman was allowed to rebut it by asserting that in court everyone is equal.

Another close call came when an attorney faulted Spelling for suing over a system which had never broken down. "You're talking about movie industry people here," he told the jury. "Did they bring

one film strip showing gaping holes?"

Indeed, the lack of damages played a central role in the jury's quick decision. Chapman had argued for Spelling that a

"You're talking about movie industry people here. Did they bring one film strip showing gaping holes?"

— DEFENSE ATTORNEY

homeowner shouldn't have to wait for an oceanfront storm to prove damages. But one of the jurors noted that engineer Bilow hadn't considered the waves because they aren't even big enough to attract surfers on that stretch of beach.

The jurors were also perplexed when the judge issued an instruction that they weren't to consider the "performance" of the system at issue, as Spelling had originally argued. One of the defendants, architect Art Torres, settled with Spelling before the case, removing performance as an issue. Instead, Chapman urged jurors not to make Candy Spelling pay twice for a system which wasn't properly designed.

"There was no evidence that there was anything wrong with that system," a juror said after the verdict.



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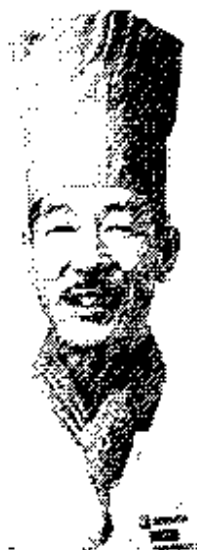
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STATE

Tough election could mean rough times ahead for Gray Davis

BY ALEXA H. BLUTH

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Governors of the nation's most populous states are often mentioned as potential presidential candidates, and California's Democratic Gov. Gray Davis was no different after his overwhelming election victory in 1998.

But Davis was barely returned to office Tuesday, and the prospect of more tough times in California have led some political analysts to conclude the governor's national star is now descending along with his popularity at home.

"It's not a pretty sight," said Mark DiCamillo of the San Francisco-based Field Poll. "For his own political standing, it only looks like the clouds are darkening."

Ironically, the person generating the most national buzz from California a day after Tuesday's election was not Davis, but actor Arnold Schwarzenegger — a Republican who led a successful drive for an after-school programs ballot measure and has toyed with running for governor in 2006.

Schwarzenegger denied Tuesday that he was positioning himself for a gubernatorial race and, in any case, Republican strategists said he wouldn't be a shoo-in for their party's nomination because of his moderate positions on social issues.

Davis, a career politician, was elected governor by a 20-point margin in 1998, taking control of a state with a booming economy and a treasury brimming with cash. He doled out dollars for popular projects like school improvements, cut taxes and enjoyed high popularity marks.

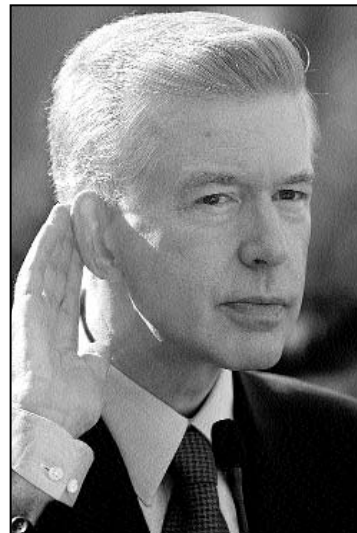
But then the economy slowed, the state was hit with a costly energy shortage, and when the time came to stand for re-election the treasury surplus had turned into a \$23.6 billion budget shortfall.

What followed was an ugly, mudslinging campaign with Republican businessman and political rookie Bill Simon that Davis won with only 47 percent of the vote to Simon's 42 percent. Four other relatively unknown candidates split the rest.

Davis now heads into his second term facing a budget deficit that is expected to exceed \$10 billion. He may have to raise taxes and cut popular programs while attempting to tackle issues that matter to voters, including rapidly rising home prices, overcrowded schools and worsening traffic jams.

He must also work with a Democrat-controlled Legislature that has been lukewarm in its support. Democrats also failed to capture the two-thirds majority needed to easily enact budget remedies, including tax increases, that Republicans have routinely blocked by withholding votes.

"The degree to which the governor is able to work with the new Legislature to overcome what are enormous structural problems in the budget is the degree to which he will be successful in his second term," said outgoing Assemblyman Fred Keeley, D-Boulder Creek.



Damian Dovarganes/Associated Press

California Democratic Gov. Gray Davis holds his ear as he listens to a question from a reporter on Wednesday at a news conference held at a hotel in the Century City area of Los Angeles. Davis won a second term in office Tuesday with a surprisingly low margin of victory.

Davis waged one of the most expensive non-presidential races in history, spending more than \$68 million to mount an unrelenting advertising assault on Simon, the millionaire son of the late William Simon, treasury secretary to Presidents Ford and Nixon.

Simon, who had never run for public office before and had failed to vote in several elections, spent much of his time on the defensive over a series of campaign blunders. As a result, he failed to capitalize on voters' dislike for Davis.

During the campaign, Davis said repeatedly he had no plans to run for another office during the next four years, leading to some speculation he may be looking ahead to a U.S. Senate run in 2006 when his term as governor is ending.

His unquestioned ability at raising huge amounts of campaign cash also has some experts speculating that he could seek a behind-the-scenes political role.

"You could stick him in the back room and he could raise the money, and then you could find somebody a little more appealing to put at the front of the ticket," said Bruce Cain, a University of California, Berkeley, political scientist.

But others speculate Davis is simply looking now to repair his legacy as governor.

"The fact of the matter is his standing with the public is at a historic low, and if you look at the near term future you really see no opportunities for him to revise that standing any time soon," said the Field Poll's DiCamillo.

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STATE



L.A. mayor sees secession failure as vote of confidence

BY PAUL WILBORN
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Campaigns to carve two new cities from Los Angeles lost because not enough voters believed the proposed municipalities would be able to cut taxes and provide better services, according to Mayor James Hahn.

"The secessionists never delivered a coherent vision of what they were trying to achieve," Hahn said Wednesday of the breakaway efforts in the San Fernando Valley and Hollywood.

In the aftermath of the breakaway effort's failure, the opinions of some San Fernando Valley residents seemed to bear that opinion out.

Chris Pechin said he voted against secession because he never saw clear evidence the sprawling valley where he lives was getting less attention from city leaders than other areas.

And Todd Wilson, another valley resident who voted against secession, said changing governments wasn't the answer.

"If the valley is not getting its share of money I think having a valley city would not change anything," Wilson said.

During the campaign, leaders of the movement to carve separate cities out of the valley and Hollywood accused Los Angeles officials of trying to make up for years of neglect by lavishing the regions with asphalt and attention.

Potholes were paved, streets were cleaned and Hahn, as well as other City Council members, made almost daily appearances in both areas.

"It's not just an election ploy," said Hahn, who promised that the improved services are "here to stay." He also said he would meet with secession leaders from both areas next month.

Had secessionists prevailed in Tuesday's election, the sprawling San Fernando Valley, with more than 1.3 million residents scattered across 270 square miles, would have rivaled Phoenix as the nation's sixth-largest city. The shrunken Los Angeles, without its famous

Hollywood sign, would have dropped from second to third place, behind New York and Chicago.

The breakup efforts were prompted largely by secession leaders' dissatisfaction with their share of city services.

The valley measure barely won on its home turf with 51 percent of the vote but was defeated 67 percent to 33 percent citywide. The Hollywood initiative was soundly defeated, even in the area that would have become a separate Hollywood city.

Los Angeles film agency head allegedly mishandled funds with Pittsburgh office

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The head of a film agency trying to lure movie and television productions to Southern California conspired to funnel more than \$46,000 with a Pittsburgh film commissioner, court documents show.

An affidavit released in Pittsburgh earlier this week alleges that Cody Cluff, head of the Entertainment Industry Development Corp., lacked authority to give agency funds to the Pittsburgh Film Office and a national film advocacy group called FilmUS, both of which are headed by Dawn Keezer.

Cluff is acting secretary of FilmUS, a group of 196 state and local film commissioners organized to stem the flow of film production from the U.S.

The document alleges that Cluff

and Keezer worked together to misappropriate \$46,834 in funds. It also shows that Cluff once sent flowers to Keezer and wrote a love letter to her.

The 20-page document, prepared by the Los Angeles County district attorney's office, also cited a \$1,489 bill paid for by the EIDC for a "Mr. and Mrs. Cody and Dawn Cluff" in 2000.

Los Angeles City Councilman Dennis Zine, who resigned from the EIDC board recently, called the new allegations "embarrassing" to elected officials.

"The more we learn, the more twisted the operation of Cody Cluff and the EIDC seems to be," he said. "It creates greater suspicion about the alleged misappropriation of funds, whether it's public or private."

A probe into the possible misuse of public funds by EIDC officials is underway. Los Angeles investigator served a warrant Tuesday in

To pass, the initiatives needed to win a majority of votes in both the proposed new city and the city as a whole.

Valley secession leaders, buoyed by the fact they won a small victory on their home turf, said Wednesday they would consider a number of options over the next few weeks to keep their campaign alive. Those could include pursuing a lawsuit to challenge the election results or supporting a plan to create a New York-style borough system that would give the valley more autonomy.

Pittsburgh because the film office there had received \$20,000 in donations from EIDC.

Cluff's attorney, Tom Brown, said that his client had done nothing wrong. Brown said the relationship between Keezer and Cluff "diverts attention from the real issue."

"It just doesn't have anything to do with what could or could not have been done with the funds," Brown said.

EIDC, which coordinates the issuing of film permits in Los Angeles County, spent as much as \$25,000 on legal fees and tax preparation to set up and incorporate FilmUS. Investigators said money directed to the Pittsburgh Film Office and FilmUS by Cluff was a misuse of public funds because the EIDC is public and was not organized to create other businesses in California or in other states.

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NATIONAL

Baltimore inmate walks free after two decades in prison

BY FOSTER KLUG
Associated Press Writer

TOWSON, Md. — A judge on Thursday ordered the release of a Baltimore man who has spent 20 years in prison for a rape that DNA tests show he didn't commit.

"I'm just happy to be out," said Bernard Webster, now 40, waving to reporters as he walked out of Circuit Court for Baltimore County a free man. He declined to say more.

Circuit Judge Christian Kahl ordered him freed at a hearing earlier in the day. "There's nothing that anyone can say to justify what happened in this case," Kahl told Webster. "Justice moves slow at times, and in your case, it moved very, very slow."

Webster was 19 when a 47-year-old teacher identified him as the man who broke into her Towson home and raped her in 1982.

Even before Thursday's ruling, Webster had been set for release in February. He wasn't entitled to compensation from the state for his time in prison, his lawyers said, and he is without a family, job or home.

Public defender Stephen Harris said Webster may be able to live with a foster sister, but she has not seen him for 20 years, Harris said.

"To go in at 19 with a 10th-grade education and then compound that with 20 years in prison — it's unfathomable. I don't see how you deal with this as a person," Harris said.

Webster was the third person in Maryland and the 115th nationwide to have a conviction overturned by DNA evidence, according to the nonprofit Innocence Project in New York City.

The victim told The (Baltimore) Sun on Wednesday that she was upset by the turn in the case.

"You can't imagine it, you just can't," she said.

Webster became a suspect because

police had arrested him in Towson months earlier in the theft of a pocketbook, according to court papers.

At trial, defense attorneys presented two witnesses who said they saw Webster playing basketball that day miles away from the rape scene. But two workers at the victim's apartment complex said they had seen Webster around the building that day, and the victim picked Webster out of a photo lineup.

"Our intention has always been to seek justice, and once this came to our attention, we moved as fast as we could."

— JOHN COX
Maryland assistant state attorney

Webster maintained his innocence, and the public defender's office took another look at his case as part of a project to see if new DNA tests could exonerate any prisoners.

DNA evidence taken from the victim hours after the attack was tested, and results sent to the defender's office last month showed the semen wasn't Webster's. Last week, the prosecutors' office got the same results from its own testing.

The judge overturned Webster's conviction and granted him a new trial, but prosecutors said they would not pursue the case.

"We didn't have this technology 20 years ago," said John Cox, an assistant state's attorney. "Our intention has always been to seek justice, and once this came to our attention, we moved as fast as we could."

Student group urges shoppers to avoid Gap during holidays

BY STEVE GIEGERICH
AP Education Writer

An international student group started a campaign that urges shoppers to avoid Gap clothing stores this holiday season by placing ads Thursday in newspapers at several leading universities.

The United Students Against Sweatshops said it is acting in response to anti-union activity at factories manufacturing Gap products in El Salvador and South Africa.

Ben McKean, the group's spokesman, said Gap suppliers in those two countries have used physical harassment, termination and blacklisting to impede organizing efforts.

"It's hard enough to organize unions in a lot of these countries," McKean said. "For management to take such a hard line is really unacceptable."

He called the group's action a two-month "holiday campaign" meant to convey a message from the foreign factory workers to the American public. McKean said the effort is not a boycott, which he

characterized as a movement that continues indefinitely.

The organization will assess the effectiveness of the campaign early in the new year to determine if it will continue, McKean said.

A Gap spokeswoman declined comment, referring to a section of the company Web site on "ethical sourcing," where the retailer pledges to promote fair treatment for workers by the vendors who make Gap clothing.

"All of us at Gap Inc. want factory workers to be treated with dignity and respect," a statement on the site says.

The anti-Gap campaign is starting with advertisements in five college newspapers, including those at Harvard University, the University of Arizona and the University of Michigan. The USAS plans to put ads in at least 12 other student papers and protest at Gap outlets.

Started in 1997, the United Students Against Sweatshops has worked to separate colleges and universities from nonunion production of clothing sold in the \$3-billion college apparel industry.

NATIONAL



Voter turnout up a little from last midterm elections

BY WILL LESTER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — This year's midterm congressional election apparently attracted more voters than the last one, in 1998, according to a survey on voter turnout.

Curtis Gans, director of the independent Committee for the Study of the American Electorate, estimated Tuesday's turnout at 78.5 million, more than 39 percent of voting-age citizens.

In the 1998 elections, the figure was 37.6 percent — the lowest midterm turnout since 1942.

Twenty-eight states had higher turnouts this year and 22 states and the District of Columbia had lower turnouts, according to the survey.

"A lot of it was the intensity of competition," Gans said Wednesday. "The greatest increases were in the states with the most intense competition."

Democrats had hoped to build on their success in getting out the vote in the last election, while the GOP tried to emulate the success of Democrats and organized labor.

Republican House candidates got more votes than Democrats, the survey found.

"This has happened in the last three midterms," he said. "The Democratic Party has been losing allegiance on a steady basis."

Gans said Florida's turnout was at least 6 percentage points higher than in 1998 because of Democrat Bill McBride's challenge to Republican Gov. Jeb Bush, for whom the governor's brother, President Bush, campaigned extensively.

Among the highest turnouts, according to preliminary figures, were Minnesota, with 61.4 percent; South Dakota, with 61.3 percent; and New Hampshire, with 48.7 percent. All three had tight Senate races.

Turnout rose 6 percentage points in Missouri because of another close contest for the Senate and 5 percentage points in Massachusetts because of a hard-fought governor's race, he said.

More voters also went to the polls in Tennessee, Oklahoma and Delaware, Gans said, but that may be because the last midterm election had no major issues or contests.

Mobster, filmmaker pleads guilty to racketeering charges

By The Associated Press

HACKENSACK, N.J. — Filmmaker and reputed mobster Daniel Provenzano pleaded guilty to racketeering charges, ending a three-year legal battle.

In the plea entered Wednesday, Provenzano admitted to four incidents of assault and threats to extort money, including having an underling break the thumb of a salesman accused of stealing \$9,000 from his printing company and storming the office of a businessman who he said wouldn't pay a \$181,000 bill.

Provenzano, 39, maintained he was a legitimate businessman trying to collect on genuine debts.

Provenzano, a nephew of reputed Genovese crime family associate Anthony Provenzano, has produced and acted in horror movies. He wrote, directed and starred in "This Thing of Ours," a movie about the nephew of a mob boss who runs a scheme to steal millions. He denies he is a mobster.

Prosecutors plan to seek a 15-year

prison term at sentencing Feb. 28. He could have faced more than 200 years if convicted on all counts against him.

Provenzano was among nine people named in a 1999 indictment accusing them of using beatings, kidnapping and murder threats to extort \$1.5 million from a dozen victims. He pleaded guilty to one count each of racketeering and of failing to file a state income tax return for not declaring more than \$800,000, Criminal Justice spokesman John Hagerty said.

He admitted in court to ordering an employee to break the thumb of the salesman who was accused of theft.

"I told him that if he intended to keep his employment, I would have to break his thumb," Provenzano said. "I didn't want to set the standard that somebody could steal from my company."

He said he ordered another man to drive the salesman to a hospital and break the man's thumb outside the emergency room, and to pick up the salesman after he was treated.

Miami caviar company owner gets 3 years for smuggling

By The Associated Press

MIAMI — The owner of a Florida caviar company was sentenced to more than three years in prison for smuggling more beluga caviar out of Russia in 1999 than the nation's entire export quota for the year.

Viktor Tsimbal, president of Beluga Caviar Inc., pleaded guilty in August to conspiracy, smuggling and money laundering.

The prized sturgeon fish eggs are protected under 1998 treaty restrictions.

"The caviar trade is rife with corruption, and this is having a devastating impact on the future of this species of prehistoric origin," said Tom Sansonetti, an assistant U.S. attorney general for envi-

ronmental resources.

Top caviar can retail for more than \$1,000 a pound in the United States.

As part of his sentence Wednesday, Tsimbal, a 42-year-old Russian, forfeited \$36,000 that he was carrying when he was arrested at the Miami airport.

More than \$860,000 worth of caviar and false labels for an unprotected species were also confiscated as part of the investigation.

Tsimbal paid smugglers \$500 plus airline tickets and hotel expenses to carry luggage filled with black-market caviar through Poland to Miami.

Nine people tied to caviar smuggling have been sentenced to prison in Miami federal court in the past two years.

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INTERNATIONAL



U.S. and France agree on new Iraq resolution

BY EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press Writer

UNITED NATIONS — The United States and France reached agreement Thursday on a new Security Council resolution on Iraq, removing a key hurdle toward passage of the U.S.-drafted plan for tough new weapons inspections.

French diplomats said the compromise was reached through negotiations at the United Nations and in telephone calls between President Bush and French President Jacques Chirac over the last day.

According to French diplomats, the United States agreed to change wording in a key provision that would declare Iraq in "material breach" of its U.N. obligations. The change addresses French and Russian concerns that the original wording would have let the United States determine on its own whether Iraq had committed an infraction. Such a determination, France and Russia feared, would have triggered an attack on Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

"The Security Council will now be the ones to decide whether Iraq is in material breach," said a French diplomat, on condition of anonymity.

Russia, like France, also appeared to be softening its position in favor of the American draft.

The latest American text, a product of eight weeks of intense lobbying by the Bush administration, signaled significant progress and included major concessions to Security Council members concerned about setting off another war in Iraq.

Bush said he wanted a vote Friday although Syria wanted it postponed because of an Arab League meeting this weekend in Egypt.

The president also spoke by telephone with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday as lobbying intensified a day before Washington planned to push for a vote on the resolution.

"He's a real threat," Bush said of Saddam, "and it's now time for the world to come together and disarm him."



Richard Drew/Associated Press
U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte, left, and Russian Ambassador Sergey Lavrov, right, arrive for a meeting with the other permanent members of the United Nations Security Council on Thursday at the UN headquarters. At center is Yahya Mahmassani, observer of the Arab League to United Nations.

Security Council members were expecting U.S. and British diplomats to circulate a revised text later Thursday with the new wording agreed upon earlier in the day.

Russian Ambassador Sergey Lavrov told The Associated Press a Friday vote was possible if the United States and Britain come up with a few more concessions. U.S. and British diplomats said a new version could be ready by the end of the day Thursday.

The U.S. draft resolution includes a greater role for the Security Council but still frees the United States to take military action against Iraq if inspectors say it isn't complying.

In Iraq, the government-controlled media called the draft resolution a pretext for war and urged the Security Council not to bow to American demands.

"America wants to use this resolution as a pretext and a cover for its aggression on Iraq and the whole Arab nation," the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al-Thawra said Thursday. "The Security Council should not give (the Americans) a pretext and a cover for the coming aggression."

That would give Iraq until Nov. 15 to accept the resolution's terms and could put an advance team of inspectors on the ground — for the first time in nearly four years — by the end of the month.

According to a strict timeline in the resolution, inspectors would have up to 45 days to actually begin work, and must report to the council 60 days later on Iraq's performance. In the meantime, any Iraqi obstructions or noncompliance would be reported immediately to the council for assessment.

At the same time, it offers Iraq the possibility of lifting a decade of crippling sanctions if it complies fully with its obligations.

U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte said the new resolution, co-sponsored with Britain, offered Iraq the best opportunity to avoid war.

For a resolution to be adopted, it needs at least nine "yes" votes and no veto by permanent members Russia, France, China, Britain and the United States. None of the five are likely to veto, though an abstention from Russia could hurt the resolution's credibility. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has said the way to send a strong message to Iraq is through unity.

Syria, Iraq's Arab neighbor, appeared to be the most likely of the 15 council members who could abstain or vote against the resolution.

On Thursday, China's Foreign Ministry said it had noted improvements in the new draft, but wouldn't say whether China would endorse it.

Negotiations for a new Iraq resolution began after Bush's Sept. 12 speech to the U.N. General Assembly, when he challenged world leaders to get tough with Iraq or stand aside as the United States acted.

U.S. tries to head off immediate release of drug lord

BY JUAN PABLO TORO
Associated Press Writer

TUNJA, Colombia — Stunned by a court order to release a former drug kingpin from prison after serving only half his sentence, U.S. investigators hurried to find evidence Thursday to support further charges — and possibly his extradition to the United States.

The court ordered the release of Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, who with his brother Miguel once controlled the Cali drug cartel, an empire that moved multiton shipments of cocaine across the globe.

Rodriguez, who was arrested in 1995 and sentenced to prison until 2010, was ordered released last week by Judge Pedro Suarez. As the government investigated Suarez to see if the convicted drug trafficker might have bribed him — Suarez has denied it — another judge upheld his decision on Thursday.

Dozens of police and soldiers surrounded the prison where Rodriguez was being held, outside the town of Tunja 60 miles northeast of Bogota, to prevent any violence as prison authorities prepared to let him go. With the clock ticking, U.S. officials hastened to stop his release.

"Some documents have arrived from the United States that officials are evaluating, and that could stop the release," President Alvaro Uribe's spokesman, Ricardo Galan, told The Associated Press.

Details on what information was being provided were not immediately available, but U.S. drug agents have been trying to link Rodriguez and his jailed brother Miguel to international crimes committed after 1997, when Colombia's constitution was revised to allow the extradition of its citizens.

Suarez's decision last week that the Rodriguez brothers should be freed

shocked the nation, and prompted the president to intervene. But Judge Luz Amanda Moncada ruled Thursday that Suarez's order on Gilberto Rodriguez should stand. She also ordered an investigation of the government for allegedly interfering in the judicial process.

Interior and Justice Minister Fernando Londono called the ruling a "terrible blow."

"This is a moment of mourning and pain for the country's image and for the administration of justice in Colombia," Londono said, but nonetheless added that the administration would respect the decision.

Moncada also ruled that Miguel Rodriguez must remain in prison to serve an additional four-year sentence for a bribery charge, which reportedly stemmed from a 1996 attempt to buy his way out of prison.

The Cali drug cartel once controlled 80 percent of the world's cocaine trade. It became the world's most powerful drug gang after the demise of the Medellin cartel, whose leader Pablo Escobar was killed by police in December 1993.

While the Medellin cartel was ultraviolent, killing scores of police, judges, journalists and top government officials in bombings

and by hit men in an attempt to force Colombia to bar extraditions, the Cali cartel ran the drug business more like a corporation — although one that did not hesitate to kill.

One of its victims was a crusading anti-drug journalist, Manuel de Dios Unanue, who was slain in New York in 1992.

The Cali cartel also tried to buy influence, contributing millions of dollars to the 1994 presidential election campaign of Ernesto Samper. The scandal soured relations with Washington after Samper won the presidency, and Washington revoked his U.S. visa.

Chinese communists expected to pick new generation of leaders at landmark congress

BY JOE McDONALD
Associated Press Writer

BEIJING — Preparing for a landmark congress that is expected to install a new generation of leaders, China's communist party pledged Thursday to modernize its ideology to keep pace with a fast-changing, increasingly capitalist society.

"China has entered into a new phase of development, in which we are to build a well-to-do society," said Ji Bingxuan, spokesman for the party's 16th National Congress, which opens Friday in Beijing's Great Hall of the People.

In keeping with the secrecy surrounding the event, Ji gave no details of the personnel changes planned at the congress, where President Jiang Zemin, 76, is expected to hand over the title of party leader to his 59-year-old vice president, Hu Jintao.

But Ji indicated that a key theme would be Jiang's personal campaign — known

awkwardly as the "Three Represents" — to bring entrepreneurs into the party and to amend its constitution to give them a formal role.

"We will ... comprehensively implement the important thought of 'Three Represents,'" Ji said at a news conference.

Jiang was picked to lead the party in 1989 by then-supreme leader Deng Xiaoping, who launched the country's economic reforms a decade earlier.

Jiang's campaign is aimed at keeping a party that still calls itself the "vanguard of the working class" in control of a society where reform has unleashed dizzying changes. Some people have gotten rich, but many face upheaval as state industry sheds jobs in an attempt to compete.

Ji defended the decision to embrace entrepreneurs, saying they would serve the party — not weaken its revolutionary zeal.

"Workers, peasants, intellectuals, our men and women in uniform ... are still the

backbone force of the Communist Party," he said. "This will further increase the influence and cohesion of the Communist Party throughout society."

Preparations for the congress have included sweeping efforts to tighten security in the capital and to block any possible demonstrations.

Hotels in Beijing have been ordered not to accept Tibetans or Muslim Uighurs from the restive Chinese northwest as guests, according to employees contacted at four hotels.

Nevertheless, activists used the event to appeal for political change.

A group of 192 dissidents inside China, in an open letter this week, urged delegates to release political prisoners and expand direct elections.

"Improvements in economic development cannot cover up more and more obvious problems of deep social peril," they said.



SPORTS

Fortunes of St. Louis Rams, San Diego Chargers have switched

BY DAVE GOLDBERG

AP Football Writer

■ At the start of the season, it seemed far more likely that when San Diego visited St. Louis to start the second half of the season, the Rams would be 6-2 and the Chargers 3-5.

Instead, it's the opposite.

Still, circumstances are changing. The Rams have won three straight after starting 0-5, and the Chargers, who started 6-1, were blown out 44-13 by the Jets at home last week.

"There's a lot of reasons why we lost that game," San Diego linebacker Junior Seau said. "We didn't play well, we didn't tackle well, we didn't protect the ball. We didn't do a lot of things. We couldn't even onside kick well. Those games happen."

The oddsmakers go with preseason perceptions: The Rams are favored by six, with Marc Bulger (3-0 as a starter) at quarterback instead of the still-injured Kurt Warner.

Warner's injury may be one reason the Rams are winning. Given Bulger's inexperience, coach Mike Martz has finally made sure Marshall Faulk is getting 30-odd touches a game and the results reflect it. Faulk has produced 703 yards in the three wins, 571 on the ground.

Two sure things:

1. The Chargers won't play another stinker. Marty Schottenheimer, who took the blame for the loss to the Jets, won't allow it.

2. St. Louis is a hard place to play when the Rams are playing as well as they are now.

RAMS, 24-20

■ Oakland (plus 5 1/2) at Denver (Monday night)

When you've lost four straight, as the Raiders have, you don't want to go to Denver on a Monday night. Especially when you've lost there seven straight times.

BRONCOS, 24-13

■ Miami (plus 1) at New York Jets
If the Jets win, the AFC East could be close to a four-team deadlock.

JETS, 16-13

■ Detroit (plus 11) at Green Bay
If the Packers win, they could be within a week of clinching the first-ever NFC North title.

PACKERS, 27-9

■ Atlanta (plus 5 1/2) at Pittsburgh
Too bad Kordell Stewart's a backup now. Imagine Michael Vick on the same field with Stewart, Hines Ward and Antwaan Randle El.

STEELERS, 26-21

■ Indianapolis (plus 9 1/2) at Philadelphia

Tony Dungy never had much luck in Philadelphia with better teams than he has now.

EAGLES, 24-11

■ New England (minus 3) at Chicago

The Patriots are the NFL's best

4-4 team.

PATRIOTS, 16-10

■ New Orleans (minus 5) at Carolina

Despite league-leading sack man Julius Peppers, the Panthers continue to lose.

SAINTS, 25-9

■ Kansas City (plus 6 1/2) at San Francisco

Will the 49ers punt?

49ERS, 37-34 (overtime)

■ New York Giants (minus 1 1/2) at Minnesota

The Vikings are competitive at home, the Giants are inconsistent, but ...

GIANTS, 27-20

■ Washington (plus 2) at Jacksonville

Plenty of folks in Florida think Steve Spurrier should be coaching the Jags.

JAGUARS, 19-18

■ Houston (plus 10) at Tennessee

The AFC South title is there for the Titans' taking.

TITANS, 30-10

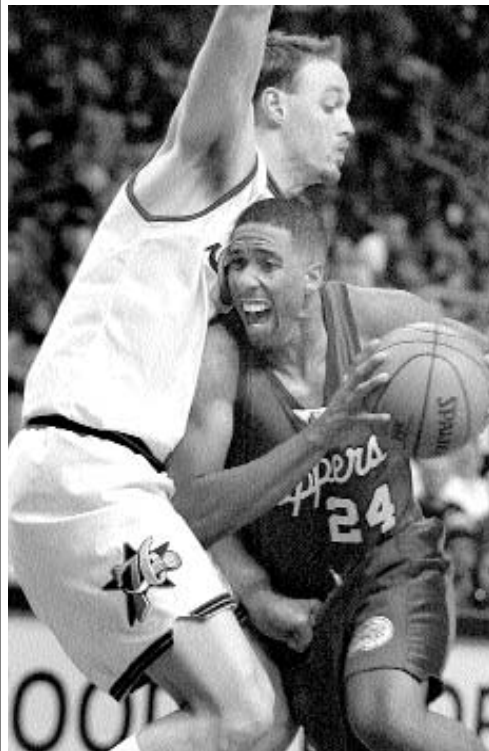
■ Cincinnati (plus 5 1/2) at Baltimore

The Bengals' fun stopped in Houston.

RAVENS, 15-8

■ Seattle (plus 3 1/2) at Arizona

Clippers fall



Miles Kennedy/Associated Press

Philadelphia 76ers' Keith Van Horn, left, holds his ground as Los Angeles Clippers' Andre Miller runs into him in the fourth quarter on Wednesday, in Philadelphia. The 76ers won in overtime 101-99.

Jeff George could be one week away from starting for the Seahawks.

CARDINALS, 20-10

■ **LAST WEEK:** 8-4-2 (spread), 10-4 (straight up)

■ **SEASON:** 63-64-3 (spread) 82-48 (straight up)

Poor attendance a problem for WTA Championships

BY TOM A. McFERSON

Special to the Daily Press

Facing meager attendance and dwindling interest, the Home Depot WTA Championships begin second round action today at Staples Center. While still hopeful that things may turn around, there is a real feeling of disappointment and dread among players and tournament organizers.

After last year's poor response in Munich, Germany, WTA officials, along with input from several top players, decided to move the tournament back to the United States. With Americans dominating women's tennis like never before, WTA officials believed that a large American city like Los Angeles, with its massive tennis playing population and state of the art arena, would be a perfect choice.

However, paid attendance to the event is below even the gloomiest of projections.

In an arena that seats 20,000, Wednesday afternoon's opening session had fewer than 200 spectators. Wednesday evening's session, featuring Venus Williams, Lindsey Davenport and Monica Seles, only drew a little over 4,000.

Fans found that only one out of every five concession stands was open. More than half of the luxury suites were vacant. And ticket scalpers, used to doing big business before basketball games, were offering courtside seats at well below face value.

Tournament organizers are still holding out hope that, with the weekend coming

and the marquis names still in the draw, attendance will drastically increase.

Friday's matches include:

■ Fourth seeded Justine Henin vs. fifth seeded Kim Clijsters. Both players are from Belgium and know each others games inside and out. Both players dominated their first round opponents (Henin defeated Elena Dementieva 6-3 6-3, Clijsters defeated Chanda Rubin 6-1 6-2), and both players appear to be hitting the

ball well. It should be an interesting match that could go either way.

■ Second seeded Venus Williams vs. sixth seeded Monica Seles. Again, there will be no surprises, as the two have played each other several times. Seles battled back to beat Lindsay Davenport 3-6 7-6(6) 6-3. Venus Williams played well enough to beat Patty Schnyder 6-2 7-6(7). The edge has to go to Williams. Seles will have to play extremely well just to keep it close.

The Home Depot WTA Championships at Staples Center feature the top 16 ranked women in singles and the top eight ranked teams in doubles. Americans dominate the field, with Serena Williams, Venus Williams, Jennifer Capriati, and Monica Seles, all entered.

The top qualifiers are Serena Williams, Venus Williams, Jennifer Capriati, Justine Henin, Kim Clijsters, Monica Seles, Daniela Hantuchova, and Jelena Dokic.

Zito edges Martinez for AL Cy Young Award

BY RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Now Barry Zito can stare at his own Cy Young Award every day.

After winning the American League honor for the first time Thursday, he thought back to his youth, when his parents paid former major leaguer Randy Jones \$50 a lesson and he went to his teacher's house after workouts.

Zito, 23-5 with a 2.75 ERA as Oakland won the AL West, received 17 first-place votes, nine seconds and two thirds for 114 points from a panel of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Boston's Pedro Martinez, a three-time Cy Young Award winner, got 11 firsts, 12 seconds and five thirds for 96 points after going 20-4 with a 2.26 ERA. Red Sox teammate Derek Lowe, 21-8 with a 2.58

ERA, was third with 41 points, and Anaheim's Jarrod Washburn (18-6, 3.15) got one point.

"It's amazing just to be mentioned in the same category as guys like Pedro," Zito said. "He's one of the greatest pitchers by far, of my era at least. To be mentioned in the same category is mind-blowing."

Zito, a 24-year-old left-hander, grew up in the San Diego area. When he was 12 years old, his parents saw an ad in a newspaper placed by Jones, who won the NL Cy Young Award in 1976.

Jones, like Zito a left-hander, saved the trips to his living room for the best of his 35 pupils.

"I would use that as inspiration for the ones that showed a burning desire. I'd show it to them and tell them, 'Your goal is to be one of the two best pitchers in the

world in any given year,'" Jones remembered. "It's a real joy for me to watch him. He ain't quite level because he's left-handed. That's what I love about him."

Zito led the AL in wins, was third in ERA behind Martinez and Lowe, and tied the Yankees' Mike Mussina for third in strikeouts at 182 behind Martinez (239) and New York's Roger Clemens (192).

Opposing batters had a .185 average with runners in scoring position against Zito, the lowest in the AL.

Zito's 47-17 career record gives him a .734 winning percentage, the best since 1900 among pitchers with 50 or more decisions. He became the fifth Oakland pitcher to win the award, following Vida Blue (1971), Catfish Hunter (1974), Bob Welch (1990) and Dennis Eckersley (1992).

Zito hopes to win many more honors.

COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

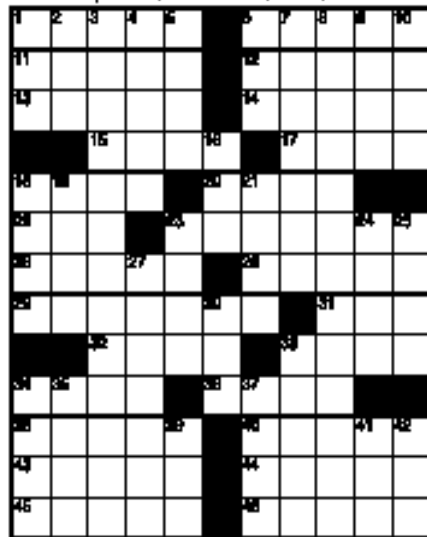
- ACROSS**
- 1 To date
 - 8 Indiana player
 - 11 Idolize
 - 12 Pal follower
 - 13 Leonardo
 - 14 Rice dish
 - 15 Gym concern
 - 17 Crooked
 - 18 Bit of change
 - 20 Woe
 - 22 Append
 - 23 Sealed nugget
 - 25 Do run-way work
 - 28 Paris divider
 - 29 Like some sports shows
 - 31 Top card
 - 32 Ichiro's finish after
 - 33 Hightailed it
 - 34 Diplomat's need
 - 35 Shower sprinke
 - 36 Bleeding
 - 40 Aching
 - 43 Recurring theme
 - 44 Music's Stray
 - 45 Sphinx setting
 - 46 Perhaps
- DOWN**
- 1 Used in sofa
 - 2 Keats creation
 - 3 Beijing landmark
 - 4 Hot crime
 - 6 Oboe part
 - 8 Music category
 - 7 Hit song of 1929
 - 9 "Pilgrims Progress" goal
 - 9 Actor Richard
 - 10 Film center
 - 16 Polio address
 - 18 Summer home, for some
 - 19 Sneaker problem
 - 21 Finish last
 - 23 Chowder ingredient
 - 24 Formerly
 - 25 Call for
 - 27 Selfish endeavor

ARTS	RESEDA
BAIT	AMULET
UBMA	VENICE
THETWINE	
BUE	DETRE
ACHED	STEIN
DOE	ADD
ALERT	ACRES
METER	GAS
	FIRESHIP
NATIVE	TERI
OPENED	LEOS
TENETS	ETNA

Yesterday's answer

- 18 Summer
- 30 Converted home, for some
- 33 Plant life
- 34 Broken
- 35 In — (confused)
- 37 Eden name
- 38 Salamander
- 41 Pen point
- 42 "Golly"

THOMAS JOSEPH'S CROSSWORD PUZZLES (4.15) (6.15) (8.15) (10.15) (12.15) (14.15) (16.15) (18.15) (20.15) (22.15) (24.15) (26.15) (28.15) (30.15) (32.15) (34.15) (36.15) (38.15) (40.15) (42.15) (44.15) (46.15) (48.15) (50.15) (52.15) (54.15) (56.15) (58.15) (60.15) (62.15) (64.15) (66.15) (68.15) (70.15) (72.15) (74.15) (76.15) (78.15) (80.15) (82.15) (84.15) (86.15) (88.15) (90.15) (92.15) (94.15) (96.15) (98.15) (100.15)



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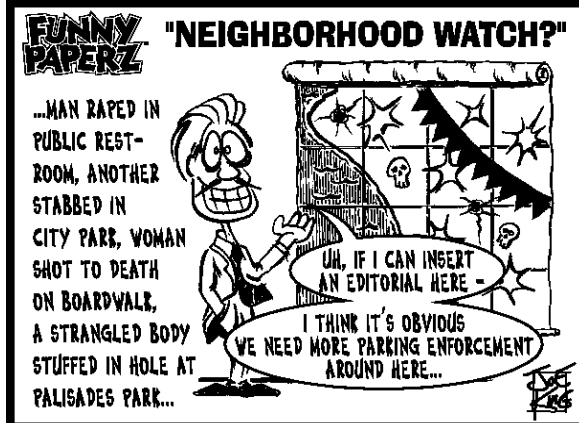


STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-285-0101 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

'Accident Group' employee causes accident

Otis Stansbury, 34, of Long Eaton, England, filed a lawsuit in August against door-to-door salesman Jay Sims and his company, Accident Group, whose business is helping customers in personal-injury lawsuits. Sims had just left the Stansbury home (after failing to sign them up) when, according to the lawsuit, he attempted to catch a ball among kids playing in front of the Stansbury home, slipped, and fell on top of 6-year-old Yohan Stansbury, sending the boy to the hospital with head injuries.



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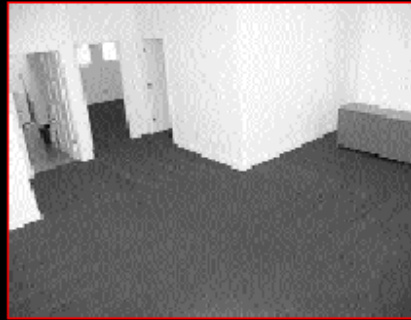
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Calendar

Friday, November 8, 2002

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
Comedian (R) 12:45, 3:05, 5:25,
7:45, 10:25. Femme Fatale (R)
11:15, 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 10:10.
Jackass: The Movie (R) 12:30,
2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:55. The Truth
About Charlie (PG-13) 1:10,
1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40.

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. Ghost
Ship (R) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30,
10:10. 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.
The Transporter (PG-13) 11:45,
2:15, 4:45, 7:40, 10:15.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street

Red Dragon (R) 1:15, 4:25,
7:35, 10:30. 8 Mile (R) 12:15,
1:00, 3:15, 4:00, 6:15, 7:00,
9:15, 10:00, 12:00, 12:45. Santa
Clause 2 (G) 1:35, 2:30, 4:10,
5:10, 7:45, 10:25. White
Oleander (PG-13) 7:25, 10:15.
Spy (PG-13) 12:30, 2:20, 3:00,
4:45, 5:30, 7:15, 8:00, 9:45,
10:35.

Landmark Nu-Wilshire
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
Bowling for Columbine (R)
1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00. Far
From Heaven (PG-13) 11:30,
2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30.

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.
Rules of Attraction 5:00, 7:30,
10:00.

Today Community

Holiday Bazaar presented by United Methodist Women of Santa Monica. Quilts, wreaths, boutique items and more. Simkins Hall, First United Methodist Church, 1008 Eleventh Street. 5pm to 8pm, tickets are \$3.50. Includes homemade soup, sandwiches, dessert & refreshments. For more information please call (310)391-6656.

Music/ Entertainment

Unurban Coffee House presents Bob Westbrook, 7pm. Music Open Mike, 8pm. Signup at 7:30pm. Hosted by Denise Bradley. 3301 Pico Blvd. (310)315-0056

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.

Comedy Underground presents the following improv groups: Addle Essence, show starts at 8pm, tickets are \$5.00. Off The Wall, show starts at 9pm, tickets are \$5.00. Unusual Suspects, show starts at 10pm, tickets are \$5.00. 320 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. For more information please call (310)451-1800.

Saturday

Community

Farmer's Market every Wednesday and Saturday. 9am to 2pm, Arizona between Second and Fourth Streets. Come and enjoy one of the largest and best farmer's markets in California! 20th Annual Fall Health Festival pre-

sented by the SM Chamber of Commerce. Free health screenings and services, entertainment & more! 10am to 2pm, Third Street Promenade, between Wilshire and Arizona. Admission is FREE. For more information call (310)393-9825.

Y Canned Fitness Week! November 4 thru 19. Just bring in ten cans of food per visit and you can participate in any one of our fitness classes, fitness center & lap swim for FREE! SM Family YMCA is located at 1332 Sixth Street. For more information please call (310)393-2721 ext. 118.

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

Music/ Entertainment

Comedy Underground presents Stand Up Nite! Howard Berger, 8pm, admission is \$5.00. Comedy Hideout's Rotating Talk Show, 10pm,

admission is \$5.00. 320 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. For more information please call (310)451-1800.

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

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

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