

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

5-13-21-35-46

Megamember: 5

Jackpot: \$24 million

FANTASY 5

12, 16, 2, 30, 6

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 6, 7, 2

Evening picks: 2, 4, 2

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 09, Winning Spirit

2nd Place: 01, Gold Rush

3rd Place: 07, Eureka

Race Time: 1:48.61



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Thailand's leading massage-parlor/prostitution entrepreneur, Chuwit Kamolvisit, reacted with outrage when he was charged this summer in connection with two criminal cases because, he said, he has paid police the equivalent of U.S. \$2.5 million in bribes to get immunity. Mr. Chuwit called a series of press conferences in July, at which he released information on whom he had been bribing and who some of his customers were, and in September, he announced he would form a new political party to put an end to Thailand's culture of official corruption.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Samo as an alternative to mindwash"

— Jean-Michel Basquiat

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Mother of teen killer must stand trial

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

A judge has decided to put the mother — but not the father — of the teenager who killed a Santa Monica High School sophomore on trial in connection with the murder.

The ruling came as Superior Court Judge Linda Lefkowitz also noted that the teenager, Katrina Sarkissian, had a history of violent behavior and had assaulted her mother on several occasions. But the father didn't have custody of the girl and didn't know as much about her behavior, Lefkowitz indicated.

The judge ruled last week that a civil lawsuit against Angelique Bernstein, the mother of the 17-year-old Sarkissian, should go to trial before a jury Dec. 15.

Bernstein, along with her ex-husband, Sarkis Sarkissian, were sued by Santa Monica residents Harriet and Ilja Maran in May 2002 after their 15-year-old

daughter, Deanna Maran, was fatally stabbed by Katrina Sarkissian at an unsupervised party in Westwood. The Marans claim the parents should have known Katrina Sarkissian was emotionally unstable and violent.

In the same ruling, Judge Lefkowitz tossed out the suit against Sarkis Sarkissian, saying he had no opportunity to control his daughter on Nov. 17, 2001. On that evening, Deanna Maran was attacked in front of dozens of teenagers.

Judge Lefkowitz pointed out that Sarkis Sarkissian didn't have custody of Katrina Sarkissian on the night of the murder and didn't have enough first-hand knowledge of his daughter's violent tendencies.

But Bernstein may have had that knowledge, court documents suggest. Bernstein apparently had been assaulted by her daughter.

See BERNSTEIN, page 5



DEANNA MARAN



KATRINA SARKISSIAN

Parents forge ahead with wrongful death suit

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

The parents of a 17-year-old girl who died of a drug overdose while in police custody will continue with their lawsuit against the LAPD, despite warnings from the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office that it will pursue attorney fees if they lose the case.

See LAWSUIT, page 7

Protesters gather, call for peace in Middle East

Jewish, Palestinian groups want the wall to come down

By Daily Press staff

Hundreds of protesters took over Palisades Park on Sunday afternoon in support of peace in the Middle East.

While the message, delivered by local Jewish and Palestinian groups,

was to protest Israel's construction of a wall annexing the West Bank, intense emotions created a shouting match amongst the crowd.

Santa Monica Police arrested one protester who ripped a sign out of the hands of another man while the two screamed obscenities at each other on Sunday. The man, whose identity is unknown, was arrested for assault and battery, based on a private person's arrest to police.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Santa Monica police converge around a protester shortly before arresting him on assault charges Sunday in Palisades Park.

Dozens of SMPD officers were on hand to keep the peace while the crowd exercised its First Amendment rights.

Members of Women in Black, the Palestinian Aid Society and more than 20 other organizations were on hand for the protest, where a 10-foot-tall cardboard replica of the 30-foot-tall "Apartheid Wall" served as a backdrop. The 400-mile long wall in the Middle East is a massive barrier that runs deep into Palestinian territory. It includes a 27-foot-high concrete wall, razor

wire and electric fences, roads and trenches.

The replica wall was ripped down at the end of the event in Palisades Park to symbolize the group's desire to see the actual "Apartheid Wall" removed from the Middle East.

Protesters depicted two scenes from "Convergence," a play dramatizing the conflict between the Jews and Palestinians in Israel and the occupied territories.

Rabbis, professors and reverends spoke to the crowd about the conflict and ways to achieve peace.

Alternative School House seeks charter membership

SMASH's approval would be a first for district

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Space at the Santa Monica Alternative School House is already in high demand, but if a proposal being made to the local school board is approved, the K-8 public school in Ocean Park may soon be even more popular.

District officials are expected this month to consider conferring the coveted "charter" status on SMASH. If they do, teachers and parents

See CHARTER, page 6

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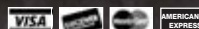
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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, November 10, 2003:

You want to work with others this year, especially on an individual level, be it personally or professionally. You might discover that a family member is full of good and unusual ideas. An investment involving property or real estate could be unusually successful, but be careful if this property has water around it. Also, be careful with your home. You could discover a leak. Emotional extremes mark this year. A child or new romance is quite volatile. If single, you will meet a lot of people and will network. Friends will be your best source for meeting suitors. Get to know someone very well before launching into a relationship. If attached, allow more common goals to come forward, and work together on a special one. GEMINI understands you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Tempers flare, causing you to wonder what is provoking this strong reaction. You might be inadvertently triggering someone close. Your voice might betray your true feelings. Work with a group. Tonight: Out at a favorite spot.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ A boss's or authority figure's ideas could set you back quite a bit. You might find this person's logic to be ungrounded. Be very careful how you bring up your point of view. You might inadvertently start World War III! Tonight: Pay bills.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Though the Moon enters your sign, you might be a little put off by a difficult boss or a key person in your life. Read between the lines with what is going on here. You might also decide to hop on the computer and escape whatever is going on. Tonight: Think "spring vacation."

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Step back, but listen to a partner's or associate's opinion. Your feedback is key to one person in your life, while others prove to be deaf to your words. Close your door and get whatever you need done. Tonight: Vanish. Cocoon.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You might want to toss up your hands in confusion when a close associate or partner changes his or her colors on you. Avoid a fight; just observe. You will be making decisions in the next few days as to what is tolerable or not. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You might not get a boss or authority figure completely. Think in terms of following through on a request. A loved one or a close friend could be the source of enormous flak. Ignore it for the moment, unless you want a problem. Tonight: Work late.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You must take an overview if you are to gain a perspective on today's events and others' reactions. Stay within your mind, and say as little as possible. You will find the right time to express yourself. Tonight: Flip through travel brochures for ideas.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You don't have to agree with everyone, but certainly a partner does have a way of giving you a new perspective. Consider your options carefully regarding a creative venture or idea. For parents, a child might act up. Tonight: Steer clear of a "hot" personality.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Just when you thought everything was peachy keen, you find yourself in a difficult jam about a real estate matter or something akin. Others seek you out all day, allowing you a greater perspective. Tonight: Tread carefully at home. There could be a loose fuse.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Make it your business to complete your to-do list right now. You might be inspired by an associate or friend regarding a money matter. Do yourself a favor; say neither "no" nor "yes." Keep conversations open. You might hear something most controversial. Tonight: Get into a favorite hobby.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You have solutions where others hit snafus. Use your imagination and creativity. Express your belief that there are no problems, only solutions. Be careful about lending any funds right now, as you might not like the reaction you get. Tonight: Be a kid again, or play with a kid.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You might feel more pressured than you acknowledge. As a result, even though you might want to be a team player and share more of yourself, you easily could lose your temper. Take your time. Take frequent breaks. Be easy on yourself! Tonight: Stay close to home.

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LOCAL

Georgian has homeless on its mind at 70th bash

BY LEE RAJSICH
Special to the Daily Press

After seven decades, the city's second oldest hotel is still standing tall amongst heightened competition in Santa Monica.

The Georgian Hotel celebrated its 70th anniversary last week with a gala charity fundraiser aimed at getting people off the street.

The event, attended by celebrities and prominent figures from the hotel's past, raised more than \$2,000 for the Ocean Park Community Center, a 40-year-old organization that provides shelters for homeless adults and low-income families.

It marks the first time that the Georgian Hotel has raised money for the OPCC. But Paul Hortobagyi, the hotel's general manager is no newcomer to addressing the growing homeless population in Santa Monica. Before joining the Georgian Hotel in August of 1996, Hortobagyi was a spokesman for the Santa Monica Hotel Association and has addressed the negative effect the homeless population has on tourism.

"The homeless really drive our business into the ground," Hortobagyi said, adding tourists are often put off guard by panhandlers and vagrants who engage in anti-social behaviors. "I think we have to do something about it."

To fuel the fundraiser, everything was donated — from the red carpet to the search light, which brought back memories from the times when the hotel was frequented by Hollywood legends Clark Gable and Carol Lombard, and notorious mobsters Bugsy Siegel and Fatty Arbuckle.

The evening began with a cocktail reception in the lobby where art deco furniture, geometric marble floors and crown-molded ceilings visually transport the viewer to the height of the 1930s and Los Angeles' art deco era. Later, dinner was served to about 60 guests in the Red Griffin Room, a sleek and handsome basement room that served as one of the first speakeasies in the Los Angeles area during prohibition.

Opened in 1933 after being commissioned by Rosamond Borde in the late 1920s, the present-day art deco landmark has not only withstood the test of time and design but also the fierce competition in the industry. The Georgian Hotel has focused on its distinct, unique and historic

characteristics in order to stand apart from the large, luxury beachfront hotels.

The Georgian Hotel, 1415 Ocean Ave., currently has 56 rooms and 28 suites. It is only outdated only by the Fairmont Miramar Hotel, which became a hotel in 1921 after being built in 1898 as a private mansion for Senator John P. Jones. From 1961 to 1987, the hotel was converted to apartments under former owners Bud and Penny Wayne. During that conversion, much of the historical accuracy was lost.

In 1993, the hotel underwent a \$5 million restoration project. Under the supervision of Hortobagyi and current owner Dick Dodrill, the hotel was brought closer to its 1933 state. Besides efforts which accentuated the art deco style on the facade, lobby and hallway areas, the hotel personnel and service procedures were reorganized, Hortobagyi said.

By reintroducing the position of the elevator attendant and changing the way guests are received in the lobby, Hortobagyi said the purpose of the restoration is not only to highlight the hotel's architectural and interior design, but also to evoke the same feeling in guests who walk in now as was felt by those during the hotel's first years.

With the old style of service comes a heightened level of personal attention that isn't present in modern, larger hotels, Hortobagyi said. He believes that the little things — like remembering guest's names — are what have allowed the Georgian Hotel to survive in the competitive marketplace.

"In this business you have to be nimble and adjust to different kinds of guests," he said.

While the hotel radiates with a wealth of history, Hortobagyi said the renovation is in its initial phase.

"The next step is the contact the National Trust," he said.

With the National Trust providing guidelines for further restoration, the hotel will be able to be authentically stocked with the most minuscule of details, all the way down to the sinks and faucets.

"I want to do it to be historically correct," Hortobagyi said.

surf report

Look for 3- to 4-foot waves with the occasional 5-footer and fair conditions. There will be a building WNW wind and ground swell, with a building S swell. Waves should be winding down slowly heading into Tuesday.

OUTLOOK: A SSW swell looks good early today. Look for a stronger NW wind developing by Tuesday.

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	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	1:55	1.5	2:58	0.0	8:08	5.9	9:10	4.1
SUNDAY	2:16	1.8	3:30	-0.1	8:29	5.9	9:48	3.9
MONDAY	2:36	2.1	4:04	0.0	8:52	5.9	10:30	3.6
TUESDAY	2:56	2.4	4:43	0.1	9:17	5.8	11:21	3.4
WEDNESDAY	3:15	2.7	5:27	0.3	9:44	5.6	N/A	N/A
THURSDAY	3:28	3.0	6:21	0.5	12:32	3.2	(10:15)	5.3
FRIDAY	N/A	N/A	7:27	0.6	10:54	5.0	N/A	N/A

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OPINION

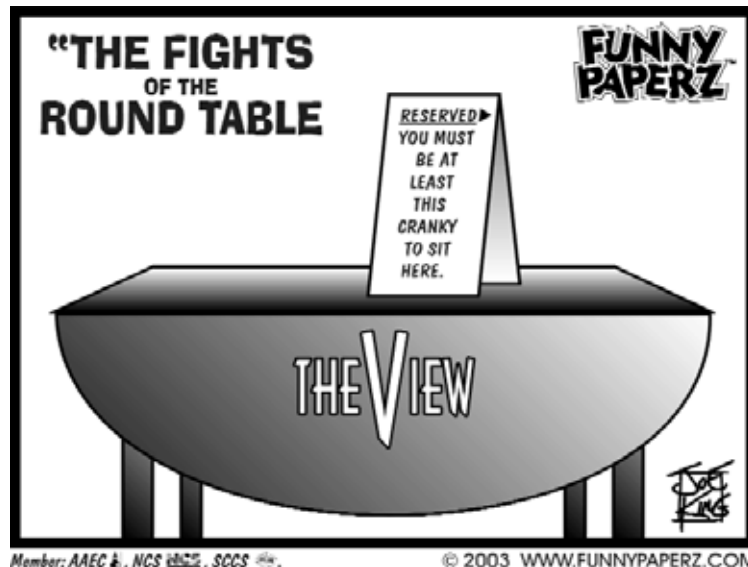
LETTERS

City ride program needs work

Editor:

In regards to the Access Paratransit, I am writing to inform you that Access Service Inc. is not complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Access Paratransit has left many disabled people stranded in the cold. When I started with Access Paratransit in August, 1997, I had none of the problems that I am facing now — for example, drivers coming late or not coming at all. Now that a new company called CTSA has taken over Access Services Paratransit, the pickups are late or drivers don't come at all. When CTSA took over they lost all my standing orders, which are preset pickup times that I had. Access Paratransit needs to be cited by the government because what they are doing is wrong. Access Paratransit customers pay \$1.80 each way if it's less than a mile. If it's more than a mile, it's \$2 or more, depending on how far the person is going. I'm a disabled student, and as a disabled person using this service, I believe that this company needs to make sure that they are helping disabled people in the greater Los Angeles area.

Margaret Talai
Santa Monica



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.

Giving the homeless junk food is misguided mercy



There are many excellent programs to help the homeless here in Santa Monica. And there are many unselfish, devoted individuals working very hard to help the less fortunate — those people, who for any number of reasons, have lost their homes. Most shelters dealing with limited financial resources must rely on donations and food banks to feed their residents. This can present a problem when it comes to nutrition. Well-meaning people donate canned food and pasta, breads, pastries, cookies and candy. Some people give fresh vegetables and fruit, or prepare much-appreciated, wholesome meals with plenty of protein for shelter residents. However, these kinds of foods are not available often enough.

It's true that a sizable percentage of the more noticeable homeless individuals struggle with mental illness and/or substance abuse. The mental illness can be subtle (apathy, mild depression, irritability, distractibility) or it can be obvious. The connection between mental illness and severe malnutrition is rarely made. Most alcoholics and drug abusers likely suffered from malnutrition and the resulting imbalances even before becoming addicted.

In fact, as a resident of a shelter myself, I have fairly recently sighted at least four cases of a skin disease called "dermatitis herpetiformis," which is a subset of celiac disease. Celiac disease is an extreme form of gluten intolerance. Gluten is a protein that is found in wheat, rye, barley, oats, spelt, kamut and everything derived from them. With celiac disease, the intestines produce a mucosal secretion in reaction to ingested gluten.

Over time this destroys the intestinal villi by flattening them, thereby hindering their ability to absorb nutrients. This can also cause holes in the intestines, which allows larger particles of food into the bloodstream. Then commonly ingested foods begin to cause inflammation reactions, including inflammation of the brain.

There are several studies in medical literature that link celiac disease and holes in the intestines to schizophrenia. I know of at least two individuals whose schizophrenic symptoms completely resolved after beginning a gluten-free diet. So you can see how a vicious cycle of worsening mental health can begin once a person is homeless, unable to hold a job and is dependent on shelter food or free food for sustenance. There seems to be no escape from pasta, bread, cookies, pastries, donuts and cereal. Sometimes it's a choice between those foods or no food at all.

Lots of refined carbohydrates with a very small amount of protein (often processed with nitrates and other preservatives) causes serious fluctuations in blood sugar. Throw coffee into the mix and you've set the stage for temper tantrums and bickering over virtually nothing.

According to Dr. Donald Rudin, author of "The Omega-3 Phenomenon," the intake of omega-3 fatty acids has declined by 80 percent over the past 75 years. We've eaten too many fast foods, refined grains, sugars, partially hydrogenated oils and trans-fatty acids, and not enough fish and whole grains. A deficiency of omega-3 leads to many physical and emotional problems. Mental symptoms include irritability, depression, attention deficit, mood swings, lethargy, learning problems and aggressiveness.

Imagine yourself with these emotional

problems as a homeless person, without the resources to allow you to choose differently. "Well, beggars can't be choosers" you might say. Beggars, who cannot make informed and beneficial food choices, will remain mentally compromised beggars. Don't say "Let them eat cake" and then turn around and judge them for behavior that is caused by nutritionally starved brains. If you were foolish enough to put sugar in your car's gas tank and it sputtered to a stop, you wouldn't blame your car for becoming useless, would you?

If we truly want to help the homeless help themselves, we must begin by feeding them quality, unprocessed and additive-free fresh food that includes a variety of fruit, vegetables, lean meats, fish,

nuts and seeds, brown rice and whole grains — including uncommon ones like quinoa, millet and buckwheat groats for the gluten-intolerant. A healthy

sack lunch could be filled with carrot and celery sticks, hummus, nuts and seeds, some cheese, fresh fruit and bottled water. Some churches have homeless ministries that give out lunches that usually consist of sandwiches with lunch meat, chips, cookies, colas or artificially colored and flavored drinks. We are not doing the homeless any favors by giving them this kind of food. The same can be said for gift certificates to fast food joints. A growling stomach would momentarily be grateful. But over time, those misguided acts of mercy would take their toll. They already have.

An article in the New York Times (Oct. 7, 2003) entitled, "A Pregnant Mother's Diet May Turn the Genes Around," talked about how through studying some rats with genetically caused obesity, scientists have been able to pinpoint some biological mechanisms called "methyl groups" that can actually

disable that faulty gene's expression in the rat's offspring. Do you know what caused those mechanisms to swing into action? Nutrition!

The "methylation" process also might be activated within our own bodies, given the availability of the necessary nutrients. Correctly targeted supplementation makes a huge difference in combating genetically based illness.

Recently, I read another article entitled "Miracle at a Wisconsin High School." It was about an experiment at Central Alternative High School in Appleton, Wisc. Since 1997, a company called "Natural Ovens" has provided old-fashioned cooked meals made from basic, unprocessed foods for lunch. Gone were burgers, fries and pizza. Soda and candy vending machines were removed. Fresh fruit, salads and good water were brought in. This high school used to have the same problems that most inner city schools have today. But now grades are up and the rates for suicide, drug abuse, violence, students expelled and truancy have plummeted to zero and have remained there every year since that program was put into place. One student said that once her problem with concentration was resolved, she found it easier to get along with others. Teachers have reported that teaching has once again become a joy.

Imagine applying these principles to homeless shelters and the distribution of free food. Perhaps then there would be no need to implement a law limiting free resources for those who can't climb out of dependence on the shelter system. Imagine interpersonal problems falling away and the wealth of human potential re-awakened! What a beautiful thing it would be to see marginalized and maligned people raised up on eagles' wings — their own wings!

(Ann Petersen lives and works in Santa Monica).

Guest
Commentary

By Ann S. Petersen



LOCAL



Judge: Mother might have been able to foresee violence

BERNSTEIN, from page 1

ter during monthly physical confrontations — episodes to which Judge Lefkowitz referred. On at least one occasion, the police were called to Bernstein's Brentwood home and Katrina Sarkissian was arrested for attacking her mother. Another time, Bernstein suffered a bruise during a fight with her daughter.

Bernstein had full custody of Katrina Sarkissian.

Under California law, the Marans will need to prove both that Katrina Sarkissian's mother had prior knowledge of her violent propensities and had the opportunity to control her.

"There has to be a nexus between a specific trait and the conduct," Judge Lefkowitz said during a court hearing last month. "The zone of notice has to have some relationship to the crime committed."

In her ruling, Judge Lefkowitz said Bernstein had enough knowledge of her daughter's problems that she might have been able to foresee the behavior getting more violent. It will be up to a jury to decide that question.

"While admittedly there is no instance of Katrina's prior use of any weapon, including a knife, there is also no question that Ms. Bernstein had specific knowledge of her daughter's assaultive tendencies and, in fact, had been a frequent victim of such assaults," Lefkowitz wrote.

The suit also targets Sarkissian's 15-year-old half-sister, whose name is being withheld because she's a minor. She allegedly kicked Maran while Katrina Sarkissian stabbed her with a knife.

According to the lawsuit, Deanna Maran got into an altercation with the 15-year-old girl at the party. After friends broke up the initial fight between the two girls, the 15-year-old called Katrina Sarkissian, who came to the party and stabbed Deanna Maran.

Katrina Sarkissian died in police custody on Nov. 18 — the day after the murder. She overdosed on anti-depressants.

Bernstein and Sarkis Sarkissian sought to have the case dismissed. Their attorneys argued last month that Bernstein and Sarkis Sarkissian did not have prior knowledge that their daughter was going to commit murder.

Tony Glassman, the attorney representing the Marans, attempted to establish his case in front of Judge Lefkowitz last month, arguing that Bernstein and Sarkis Sarkissian knew their daughter had violent tendencies, but did nothing about it.

Lefkowitz agreed that, based on testimony and evidence presented, Katrina Sarkissian was a teenager who was "spinning out of control" and had a drug and alcohol abuse problem.

Glassman argued that Sarkis Sarkissian was just as responsible for Deanna Maran's death as Bernstein because both ignored their daughter's problems for years. Since the eighth grade, Katrina Sarkissian had been kicked out of at least one private school, had been placed in a therapeutic residential school in Utah and had been in numerous fights with other girls, according to court documents.

Lefkowitz wrote in her ruling that Bernstein and Sarkis Sarkissian must have been concerned enough about their daughter's conduct and behavior that in January of 1999, they admitted her to the Utah facility. Bernstein had advised the admissions director that her daughter had been involved in altercations at school

with female peers ranging from "taunting to, on occasion, being physical," according to court documents.

While in Utah, Katrina Sarkissian attempted to flee the facility. The school considered a nine-month to one-year stay as necessary to achieve maximum results for adolescents. However, in June, Bernstein and Sarkis Sarkissian took their daughter home on a temporary pass, and contrary to medical advice, she didn't return, according to court documents.

School officials also said that Katrina Sarkissian's return to her former family setting was likely to cause her defiance and psycho-social stress to recur and degenerate, according to court documents.

School officials recommended that Katrina Sarkissian attend boarding school rather than return to the family dynamics, according to court papers. At the time of the murder, Katrina Sarkissian was being "home schooled" by Bernstein.

When it was apparent that Katrina Sarkissian's drug and alcohol abuse had flared up again, a therapist suggested that Bernstein insist that her daughter attend and receive treatment at Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. Bernstein responded that she would not allow her child to "associate with all that 'low life,'" according to court documents.

Bernstein had told the therapist that her daughter's only problem was that she suffered from a sleep disorder and was on anti-depressants for it.

"The facts are obviously in dispute as to Katrina's problems," Judge Lefkowitz said at the court hearing. "But it appears that she is a deteriorating child spinning out of control ... There is no question that she had an alcohol abuse problem, a drug abuse problem and she was engaged in acts that are inappropriate for a 17-year-old child."

In her ruling, Judge Lefkowitz noted that Katrina Sarkissian had begun to sneak out of the house at night and engaged in indiscriminate sexual activity.

Testimony from officials at Harvard Westlake, a private school Katrina Sarkissian once attended, show that she harassed other girls there, made verbal threats and menacing gestures, and tried to intimidate them.

And even while she was being treated at the Utah facility, Katrina Sarkissian had physical altercations with other teenagers there, according to testimony from the facility's therapist.

Both Bernstein and Sarkis Sarkissian were aware of those incidents, yet did little to help their daughter seek help, Glassman argued. Judge Lefkowitz said she was unsure whether Sarkis Sarkissian was privy to his daughter's problems simply because he stayed out of her life.

"Maybe he didn't want to know," Lefkowitz said. "But he was absent some knowledge that his daughter was engaged in assaultive behavior. It does not put him on notice to have the foreseeability of the crime."

Paul Ash, Bernstein's attorney, argued that there is no evidence that shows his client knew Katrina Sarkissian was going to commit murder.

"The bottom line is at the time of the incident, was it foreseeable?" he asked. "There is no evidence before the court to prove that and Angelique Bernstein could have foreseen this horrible tragedy."

Lefkowitz also ruled last month that Katrina's psychological records and doctor testimony can be used at trial, despite protests from her parents' attorneys, who moved last month to have them quashed.

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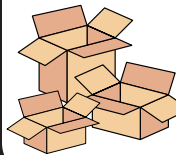
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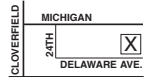
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LOCAL

SMASH's success could influence school board

CHARTER, from page 1

there will have more flexibility in how they craft classes and spend money, and more autonomy in governing the school.

SMASH has already made a name for itself among parents and educators, even without charter status. With enrollment limited to 180 students and teacher-to-student ratios especially favorable, principal Carrie Ferguson said she can place only one-fifth of applicants into her kindergarten class each fall. Students are picked on a lottery basis.

"The curriculum is co-created between students and teachers, so there's a lot more individual child interest in what they study," Ferguson said, adding that many compare it to the hands-on Montessori-style teaching. "It's based on constructivist learning, which is much more project-based."

Ferguson submitted a formal petition Oct. 16 to the board of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District requesting charter status. The board on Thursday continued the matter until later this month, when district staff will present an analysis of the proposal and a public hearing will be held. Board members will then have 60 days to make a decision on the proposal.

If they grant it, SMASH would become the only public charter school in the district.

Superintendent John Deasy said he supports charter schools, as long as they're of high quality.

"The charter law was designed specifically to increase choices for students and parents," he said, adding that charter schools almost always have substantially smaller class sizes. "Charter schools allow for innovation in instructional technique, assessment technique. A charter school provides for opportunities for students to explore, and faculty, a non-traditional governance structure."

But because charter schools receive the same amount of funding as other schools, which is based on daily attendance, some sacrifices have to be made, Deasy added.

"What it means is SMASH doesn't provide things that other schools provide," he said. "The whole scope of services you might find at other schools you wouldn't find there."

Ferguson said it has more to do with being a small school than being a charter school.

"When you're a small school you can't fuel a marching band and you probably don't have enough students to have a football team," she said. "And you can't offer a wealth of language abilities because you have a small staff."

In her petition to the school board, Ferguson said if SMASH is given charter status, the school will expand from K-8 to K-12 and grow its student body from 180 to 360. Being a dependent charter school will give SMASH several advantages, according to the report.

Funding flexibility is one of the most important, Ferguson said, because it allows the school to spend money as it sees fit and also allows it to apply for public and private money available only to charter schools. Most of the outside money is in the form of federal grants available to charter schools, she added.

Parent Teacher Student Association

"We do all kinds of fun things. It's not just like, 'Read this, do this' and that's homework."

— EMMA BECKER
11-year-old SMASH student

president Barry Cassilly said getting that funding will be crucial to expanding to upper-grade levels. Cassilly, who said PTSA participation is always at 100 percent, said expanding the alternative school will benefit students and teachers, but also the cash-strapped district, which would own any property the school buys to expand its classes.

"I think we need two or three of them in the district," he said, adding that he lives in Santa Monica solely so that his two kids can attend SMASH.

Being a charter would also give SMASH more flexibility with its curriculum, Ferguson said. By partnering with Big Picture Company, a national organization whose mission is to educate one student at a time, SMASH would "continue its work in delivering a student-driven curricular program ... In this model, SMASH students will work with community mentors, family members and SMASH teachers to develop individual learning plans comprised of goals driven by student interest," the petition reads.

Finally, Ferguson lists enrollment flexibility as a key reason SMASH wants to be granted charter status. If it becomes a charter, the school would rearrange funding to ensure that classes of K-8 students are no larger than 20 students and cores of 9-12 graders are no more than 15 or 17 students.

The central philosophy is that students play an active part in their education and an active part in society.

"SMASH believes that in order to be successful, our students must become active citizens in a democracy that is still being shaped," the petition reads. It also said there are three critical components to the development of an educated person in the 21st century: Knowledge, skills for functioning in a global environment, and character and a sense of community. "As we seek to educate the whole child at SMASH, we herald his or her character development and sense of place and role in the community as equally important to the development of knowledge and skills."

It's an approach that students said works.

"SMASH is a really fun school because somehow they make learning fun, I don't know how," said Emma Becker, 11. "We do all kinds of fun things. It's not just like, 'Read this, do this' and that's homework."

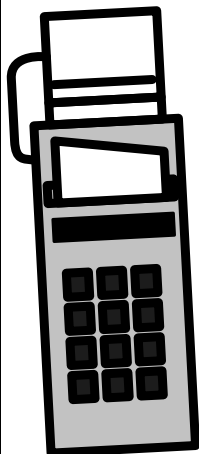
Marty Smith, Emma's mother, said she shares her daughter's enthusiasm.

"When I first put her into SMASH it was in kindergarten and I honestly wasn't entirely sure what to expect," she said. "There is a great emphasis on helping a child become a good citizen, and a person who is socially aware and a solid critical thinker."

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Parents pursue lawsuit, despite DA's warnings

LAWSUIT, from page 1

LA Deputy City Attorney Geoffrey Plowden last month pressured Angelique Bernstein and Sarkis Sarkissian, the parents of Katrina Sarkissian, who fatally stabbed Santa Monica High School sophomore Deanna Maran in 2001, to drop their wrongful death suit against the LAPD.

Katrina Sarkissian was being questioned by police on Nov. 18, 2001 when she passed out at the West Los Angeles Police Station. Police took Sarkissian and her 15-year-old half-sister into custody for their role in the fatal stabbing of Maran, 15, the night before at an unsupervised teenage party in Westwood.

The Los Angeles County Coroner's Office ruled that Sarkissian had overdosed on antidepressant capsules before she left her Brentwood home with detectives. The autopsy revealed that Sarkissian had taken 43 capsules of Nortriptyline, a prescription antidepressant — twice the average fatal dose.

Katrina Sarkissian and her half-sister were picked up by police at 1:55 p.m. Paramedics were called 45 minutes later, after she collapsed. Katrina Sarkissian allegedly told detectives that she felt sleepy during the interview. She was pronounced dead at 5:32 p.m.

Gary Cassleman, the attorney representing Bernstein and Sarkis Sarkissian, said he wasn't ready to drop the case because more research has to be done.

"It may turn out that we dismiss the case, but it will be my decision," he said. "I'm not going to dismiss it just because

they told me to."

Prosecutors had warned Cassleman that they would go after legal fees if he didn't drop the lawsuit.

The suit alleges that Sarkissian would have survived had the two detectives, Jim Hays and Kirby Carranza, immediately summoned paramedics when they were questioning her.

Cassleman said the detectives should have observed odd behavior from the teenager as the drugs kicked in, especially since Bernstein told police that her daughter was prescribed the pills.

Cassleman, who is operating strictly on a contingency basis, said he isn't threatened by the prospect of his clients paying high attorney fees because Plowden collects a salary.

"He's just a guy that sits down there and collects a paycheck anyway," Cassleman said.

Plowden said he will make a motion within the next two months seeking to have the case thrown out of court. Otherwise, a jury trial is set for May 11, 2004.

Plowden said police possess certain immunities when responding to life and death situations, particularly because of lawsuits like this. If they didn't have immunity, paramedics and police would be hesitant to save anyone's life for fear of being sued, Plowden added.

Plowden added that Cassleman must prove that police and emergency workers acted with "deliberate indifference" or "reckless negligence" when they responded to Katrina Sarkissian's seizure.

Contractors in short supply as fire victims seek to rebuild

BY RON HARRIS

Associated Press Writer

SAN BERNARDINO — Contractors, electricians, masons and other tradesmen are in such short supply that victims of the Southern California wildfires may have to wait years to rebuild their homes.

"Contractors are stretched thin today. In Southern California, business is healthy, and it's difficult to get good contractors in normal economic situations," said LaDonna Monsees, vice chairman and president of La Jolla-based Newland Homes, a developer that sells lots to builders.

The wildfires destroyed more than 3,600 homes and killed 24 people.

Contractors and workers in the construction trades were busy even before the wildfires. While many workers are expected to pour in from other states, the number is expected to be far too small to handle the thousands of new customers.

"It's going to be tough," said bulldozer driver Jim Birdsell. "There's only so much of us to go around."

Most homebuilding in Southern California is done by companies that erect tracts of dozens or hundreds of homes at a time. They buy vast parcels of land, acquire materials in bulk, offer a limited number of designs and work fast.

The big builders plan to take part in some of the larger-scale reconstruction. But those types of builders are ill-suited to help the many homeowners who lived

in the countryside in scattered ranch-style homes or mountain cabins.

"If all the folks who lost their home decided to rebuild their home on their lot, that is going to take a lot longer than 12 to 18 months, because the production builders like myself are not going to be involved in that process," said Steve Doyle, president of San Diego-based Brookfield Homes.

Newlyweds Gilbert and Jessica Flores lost their home in the San Bernardino Mountains and hope to rebuild in the same neighborhood. They worry that the onset of winter and scarcity of quality contractors will delay those dreams.

"I'll probably wait until the spring, and I'm sure everyone else will be looking to do the same thing," Gilbert Flores said.

He also is concerned that wealthier fire victims will be able to get a head start on rebuilding, securing the best contractors early.

"I've never built a house, so it's going to be a learning process, as well," he said.

California's last catastrophic wildfire, in 1991 in the Oakland Hills, destroyed 3,175 homes and apartments. The quick rebuilding led to allegations of shoddy workmanship. Similar pitfalls could lie ahead this time.

Fire victims should "watch out for people asking for large down payments and then taking off with the money," said Bob Tuck, a board member of the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning National Association.

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NATIONAL

Geologists contend site of Ice Age floods deserves trail

BY JOSEPH B. FRAZIER

Associated Press Writer

THE DALLES, Ore. — Picture an ice dam 30 miles wide, forming a lake 2,000 feet deep and 200 miles long, stretching from the Idaho panhandle into western Montana, containing more water than Lake Erie and Lake Ontario combined.

Now picture that dam giving way, the water thundering out in 48 hours, through four states, across Washington and into the Pacific.

These cataclysmic events, called the Missoula Floods, took place at the end of the last Ice Age, 14,000 years ago. The biggest scientifically documented floods ever, they left canyons, valleys, lakes and ridges that still dominate the terrain today, some so dramatic they can be seen from outer space.

Yet no marked trail commemorates the floods' path or explains their significance to the public. A growing number of amateur and professional geologists fascinated by the floods think that's a shame, and a study by the National Park Service has

proposed a remedy.

The Park Service study, issued in 2001, suggests an Ice Age Floods National Geographic Trail that would follow the 600-mile path of the flood, mostly along existing highways, with signs highlighting important features.

The interpretive flood pathway would cross four states as part of the national park system, recognizing the floods and the 16,000 square miles they covered as a nationally significant resource.

Some markers already exist along the floods' trail, but they were placed by a variety of organizations and are hit and miss, according to Jim O'Connor, a geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey.

The Park Service study envisions a comprehensive route, with towns near key flood features as "gateway communities." Hiking and horse trails, canoeing and kayaking routes would help visitors realize the scope of what happened. The study also recommends that no private land be taken for the project.

The Ice Age Flood Institute, a private

nonprofit group that educates the public about the floods, would also like to see visitors' centers on the trail.

But while funding for the Park Service study came from Congress, Congress has not followed up.

"No bill has been introduced yet," said Dale Middleton of Seattle, president of the flood institute, which met Oct. 11 to discuss the project. "We are trying to get someone in the Northwest congressional delegation to do so."

Evidence of the floods are everywhere. They hit the Columbia River near present-day Wenatchee, Wash., probably swelling the river to 4,000 times its present-day flow and spilling over the Columbia River Gorge.

The gorge, 80 miles long and up to 4,000 feet deep, couldn't contain the water, which scoured the rock walls clean and spilled over, probably widening the gorge.

Geologists compare the gorge to a nozzle that sent the floods pouring out in a wall of water perhaps 500 feet high at 80 mph, putting Oregon's Willamette Valley under 400 feet of water as far south as the Eugene area and present-day Portland.

"Most of Portland is a big sand and debris bar deposited where the flood slowed down as it spread out over the Portland Basin," said O'Connor, who is with the USGS Portland office and has researched the floods extensively.

Willamette Valley's fertile soil — which attracted settlers from the Oregon Trail — comes from deposits of flood silt that reach 100 feet deep in places.

"The Oregon Trail might have gone somewhere else if the floods hadn't filled the valley full of sand and silt," he said.

Residents of Portland's comfortable Alameda Ridge and posh Lake Oswego still curse as they tussle with boulders on their property, unaware that they may have ridden the floods for 500 miles encased in icebergs.

The Willamette Meteorite, at nearly 16 tons the largest ever found in the United

States and the sixth-largest in the world, apparently also rode the flow. It was identified near West Linn south of Portland in 1902 and is on display at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

Flood deposits 50 feet thick in the Beaverton area west of Portland are considered a factor in the area's vulnerability to earthquakes.

In what is now eastern Washington, water flooded today's Spokane Valley to a depth of about 500 feet. The floods ripped away bedrock and formed deep canyons, or "coulees," which remain. Erosion and washed-out channels are visible from space. Some scientists say they curiously resemble those on Mars.

O'Connor said it is not clear whether the floods hit inhabited regions.

Scientists also believe that the Missoula Floods occurred repeatedly over the course of about 2,500 years, as new glacial ice dams plugged the river outlet, Glacial Lake Missoula refilled with water, and the dam then ruptured once again.

University of Montana geology professor David Alt, author of "Glacial Lake Missoula and its Humongous Floods," says the lake broke through ice dams and refilled at least 36 times, probably averaging once every 50 years.

U.S. Geological Survey experts have estimated the flow near the dam breach at 10 times more than the combined flow of all the rivers in the world.

But scientists have often disagreed over the floods' size, scope and frequency. Some have been pilloried for what they thought, none more than J Harlen Bretz, a geologist who worked at the University of Chicago and did extensive field work on the floods.

In 1923 he came up with the theory of a catastrophic flood that deluged the landscape over a matter of days. According to Alt, Bretz's theory contradicted prevailing scientific thinking that geologic events took place gradually, not all at once.

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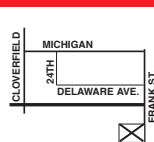
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NATIONAL



Comparisons of Iraq, Vietnam take toll on Bush's popularity

BY WILL LESTER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A nation is sharply divided over the president's job performance. Political opponents grumble about the economy. Growing numbers of Americans say going to war was a mistake.

The time was summer 1967, the president was Lyndon B. Johnson and the war was Vietnam.

The moment proved to be a tipping point in the Democrat's presidency. Months later, as the war raged and the public ranted, Johnson recognized he couldn't go on. He stunned the nation in March 1968 by announcing that he would not seek another term.

Today, comparisons of the Iraq war to Vietnam are growing louder and steady reports of American troops killed on the battlefield are having a corrosive effect on public opinion of President Bush.

One of the most telling numbers of late: four in 10 Americans, 39 percent, think the United States made a mistake by sending troops into Iraq — roughly the same number that said that about Vietnam in the summer of 1967.

Early on, people approved of Johnson's handling of Vietnam by a 2-1 margin, according to Gallup polls from 1965. By the summer of 1967, four in 10 thought Vietnam was a mistake, and people were evenly divided on Johnson's handling of the war. Public support then slipped steadily.

The decline in public opinion about Iraq has come more quickly for Bush.

In April, three-fourths approved of the way Bush was handling the war. In a CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll released Thursday, 54 percent disapproved and 45 percent approved. The number who say it was a mistake to send in troops has almost doubled from the 22 percent who thought so in July.

The steady trickle of U.S. troops dying in Iraq now

"When there's more reporting of bad news, as there is with 24-7 news coverage, it can have more of an impact on public opinion. For Bush to improve in the polls, there has to be a sense that things are getting better and he will really be hurt if they get worse."

— ANDREW KOHUT

Director, Pew Research Center for the People & the Press

totals more than 350 since the war began March 20. That number barely compares to Vietnam, in which thousands of U.S. troops had been killed by 1967 in a war that eventually claimed about 58,000.

John Mueller, a political scientist who wrote the book, "War, Presidents and Public Opinion," said that while the death tolls differ, "there's a considerable similarity that you get in declining support as more casualties come in."

Unlike the Vietnam era, today's public is more exposed to each violent incident because of the Internet and round-the-clock cable television news, compared to newspaper accounts and reports on the networks' evening news in the 1960s.

"When there's more reporting of bad news, as there is with 24-7 news coverage, it can have more of an impact on public opinion," said Andrew Kohut, director of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. "For Bush to improve in the polls, there has to be a sense that things are getting better and he will really be hurt if they get worse."

New reports of deaths and casualties force people to assess how they feel about the war, weighing the costs against the benefits, said Steven Kull, a pollster who studies opinion on international affairs.

Some 30 years ago, Johnson faced a rebellion over the war from the political left and presided over the slowing of a lengthy and robust economic expansion.

Bush's political outlook is far different. With solid support from his Republican base, the incumbent has no GOP primary challengers and has amassed a hefty war chest that outranks his Democratic rivals. The economy is showing signs of revival.

Still, footage of car bombings in Iraq, funerals at Arlington National Cemetery and grieving families are taking a toll.

Some have even suggested that the Bush administration's descriptions of progress in Iraq compared to the escalating violence echoes the claims from the Vietnam era.

Republican Sen. John McCain, who spent 5 1/2 years in solitary confinement as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, told Newsweek, "This is the first time I have seen a parallel to Vietnam in terms of information the administration is putting out versus the actual situation on the ground."

Speaking of the Bush administration, another decorated Vietnam War veteran, Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, said last month, "At the rate that they're going, it reminds me of the 'light at the end of the tunnel' language during Vietnam."

Buffalo roam onto Grand Canyon, not all ready to build them a home

BY ANABELLE GARAY

Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — From the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, a herd of buffalo can be seen grazing in pristine meadows among ponderosa pines and scattered springs.

The animals have been wandering in and out of Grand Canyon National Park since about 2000. About 150 now make it their home.

But though both the bison and the breathtaking canyon share a common bond as icons of the West, it's not necessarily a welcome union.

Officials at the park, which includes more land than just the canyon, are concerned about what the nonnative bison are doing to the area's delicate ecosystem and rare native animals.

The bison trample vegetation, defecate in ponds, pollute springs and create wallows, said Elaine Leslie, a wildlife biologist at the Grand Canyon. Some of the soil they tread on has also begun to erode, putting trees and plants at risk.

Consequently, park officials have been meeting with the state to discuss how to remove the bison, which the state owns and maintains on land outside the park.

"We need to figure out how to get these animals out of the park eventually," Leslie said.

There's been discussion about a fence, but that would also keep other animals, such as elk, from moving freely. Few other concrete ideas have emerged.

"We're at the learning step to determine what action, to determine which way to go," said Dawn O'Sickey, a Grand Canyon spokeswoman.

American bison were introduced into northern Arizona about 100 years ago as part of a ranching operation to crossbreed them with cattle. The goal was to combine a desirable food source with the bison's ability to withstand harsh environments. The state bought the animals in 1925 after the experiment failed.

Arizona's Game and Fish Department has been keeping the free-ranging herd at the House Rock Wildlife

Area, a parcel of land on the Kaibab National Forest. The state makes some money from allowing the bison to be hunted.

The bison began wandering up the Kaibab Plateau in the 1990s and into the park about three years ago.

Ron Sieg, a Game and Fish Department regional supervisor, said the bison favor timbered areas and were likely attracted to the park's improved habitat.

Preliminary DNA results of more than 20 samples taken from the herd shows all but one of the buffalo have a high frequency of cow genes, Leslie said. So although they resemble bison, the herd includes hybrids, sometimes called beefalo or cattalo.

The bison don't enter the canyon itself. They do enter other sensitive areas in the park, however.

Leslie said the bison graze in the Mexican spotted owl critical habitat, an area essential for conserving the endangered bird. They also venture into what is home to lions and mule deer and an area along the canyon's rim where mountain sheep graze.

She said officials are concerned about diseases and parasites the bison could carry.

Park visitors haven't had any negative encounters with the animals, but the possibility also remains a concern.

"Folks aren't used to coming to Grand Canyon National Park and dealing with bison," Leslie said. "National parks always have issues with people approaching the wildlife."

For now, Grand Canyon officials are monitoring the land where the buffalo roam to document the long term effect they could have on the vegetation and water sources, Leslie said.

They plan to gauge the land's carrying capacity, since the soil may not be evolved to withstand such large creatures, she said.

Workers also are taking inventory of cultural sites, for fear the animals will trample on archaeological areas, Leslie said.

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NATIONAL

University's film students majoring in adventure

BY GAIL SCHONTZLER

Associated Press Writer

BOZEMAN, Mont. — John Shier has backpacked more than 100 pounds of camping and camera gear into the mountains to videotape grizzly bears in the wild.

Sara Slagle has hiked 23 miles into the most remote section of Yellowstone National Park to get one interview — and hiked out with plastic garbage bags on her feet after her boots froze.

Praveen Singh has spent a night up in a tree in the jungles of India — almost too afraid of getting eaten to turn on his camera — to film a leopard feeding.

It takes the curiosity and intellect of a scientist and sometimes the daring and determination of Indiana Jones to be a student in Montana State University's graduate program in science and natural history filmmaking.

The program's first students have reached their third and final year. They have traveled as far as Australia, Argentina and Afghanistan. Already they're racking up some remarkable footage and recognition.

Shier recently won the Michael Brinkman Emerging Filmmaker Award at the 2003 Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival. Student Tracy Graziano has received a \$2,000 grant from the American Wildlife Research Foundation to pursue her dream of making a film about coyotes. And the program was recently featured in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* for offering a unique educational program.

The Brinkman award will provide Shier with four months' worth of equipment, worth about \$100,000, to make a film about the Gobi bears of the Mongolian desert.

A longtime filmmaker himself, program director Ronald Tobias has made 15 hours of science and natural history films for the Discovery Channel. He has traveled to remote jungles and mountain wilderness to make films about mountain lions, wolverines, wolves and the Amazon's piranhas and anaconda snakes.

He has stood in a vampire bat cave where the floor was covered with a pool of blood. He has squatted bare-chested in a Brazilian jungle village and had natives decorate his body with hand prints, as the photos on his office wall attest. He has come home from expeditions with malaria, dysentery and mystery infections.

Still, Tobias misses it and would like to get back out in the field and do what his students are doing. He has one proposal out to the BBC to work with a scientist in New

Guinea who's studying the world's largest varanid lizard, known as a tree crocodile.

"People call it 'death from above,'" he said. The adults have never been filmed, perhaps because this is in head-hunting territory.

The Brinkman award means that in addition to spending three months filming bears in Mongolia, Shier can spend a month filming brown bears in Alaska in Katmai National Park. That's the same park where bear lover, author and filmmaker Timothy Treadwell and a female companion were recently killed and eaten by bears. Treadwell was trying to show that bears are harmless.

Shier said he works differently. He won't camp on a path next to a salmon stream, or in a brushy area where the bears can't see him from a distance.

"Basically he violated every rule," Shier said. "I'm aware, alert. I realize dangers are there."

Shier, 26, studied engineering at Marquette University in Wisconsin and was heading to a job with a Seattle computer firm after graduation. Then one day he spotted the MSU natural history filmmaking program's eye-catching poster — a snarling cougar with a roll of film flying out of its mouth. He said he is happy with his choice.

"I remember being in Yellowstone. I thought, 'Holy cow, I could work 24 hours straight and it wouldn't feel like working.'"

He is passionate about filmmaking for other reasons, as well.

"Of all the arts, film can incite the most emotion in viewers," he said. "If you want to effect change in people's perceptions of the environment, you've got to affect their hearts."

It was over \$6 beers in a bar in Sweden that the idea for an innovative filmmaking program first bubbled up. Tobias recalled a colleague saying that the people who make films about science and nature really ought to have a background in science and nature.

"It's no secret there's a gulf of incomprehension between scientists and filmmakers," Tobias said.

Filmmakers have resisted working closely with scientists, partly out of fear the scientists will meddle. So filmmakers tend to show up with a camera, grab a quick talking-head shot and leave to finish their film — often inserting conclusions that the scientist would never have made. The scientist feels misquoted and misrepresented and that his reputation is in danger.

"Too many filmmakers made enemies in the past,"

Tobias said.

To Discovery executives, he pitched the idea of a program that would train scientists to be filmmakers.

"I said the magic words — 'This would be the first in the world.'"

Students who apply have to have a degree in science, engineering or technology or at least a minor in the sciences. Now the program gets so many applications, it accepts only one student in five.

By the second year, students must make a professional quality film that will be broadcast on TV, used in a museum or in some other significant way. And they have to raise the money to pay for it.

In the third year, students have complete creative control to make the films they want to make.

One goal of the program, Tobias said, is to get natural history filmmakers out of their rut. For about 100 years, they've stuck to a straightforward format: Make an argument and prove it with pictures. He urges students to try new methods, such as showing images with no voice-over, or first-person story telling, or using actors and recreations.

Sara Slagle, 25, has up on the editing screen one of her interviews with the self-proclaimed king of slime, scientist Bill Costerton, head of MSU's Center for Biofilm Engineering.

She is finishing a 25-minute film on biofilms and the role they play in cystic fibrosis, a disease that produces excess mucous in the lungs. It often kills victims in their 20s or 30s.

Slagle has followed a 15-year-old girl from Billings in her daily battle to breathe, to show how bacterial infections make the disease even more miserable, and how scientists are fighting back.

Costerton is enthusiastic about the filmmaking program.

"Reporting on science is really difficult," Costerton said.

Scientists tend to feel that everything they say gets twisted or misconstrued in sound bites. The MSU student filmmakers, he said, are instead explaining science by using a strong human-interest hook — a girl fighting a terrible disease — and then educating viewers with accurate information.

"This is the very best way for science to get interpreted," Costerton said. "We get to explain what we're doing and why."

SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2003

EVENTS

Animal adoption

Animal adoption featuring rescued dogs and cats. Steve Truitt, host of HGTV's "Ground Rules" and NBC4 personality, will be a celebrity volunteer. The event will be hosted by Bodies in Motion, and Much Love Animal Rescue, and will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bodies in Motion, 2730 Santa Monica Blvd.

Expand your business contacts

The Women's Referral Service, Southern California's leading business and professional organization for men and women, holds their "Saturday Brunch Chapter monthly Networking meeting," at 9:30 a.m. Buy tickets at the door or call (818) 995-6646 to make reservations. Four Points Sheraton, 530 West Pico Blvd.

CULTURE

Craft Faire and Boutique comes to SM

The students and faculty at Pilgrim Lutheran School will host a Craft Faire and Boutique to raise funds for classroom improvements. Items for sale include jewelry, pottery, woodwork, handmade clothes, hats, handbags, Christmas ornaments, holiday gifts, baked goods and more. The sale will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Interested vendors are welcome to rent a booth for \$55. For more information, call (310) 829-2239. Pilgrim Lutheran School, 1730 Wilshire Blvd.

Writing workshop

Joanne Kyger leads a writing workshop which

focuses on everyday writing — by looking at examples of the uses of notebooks from Sei Shonagon and Basho to Jack Kerouac and Philip Whalen. The workshop will help writers "put their personal breath line on the page." The workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and costs \$40. For more information, call (310) 822-3006. Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd.

2003 Los Angeles Dedcorative Arts fair

Discover an eclectic mix of exquisite antiques, contemporary art and more at the second annual Los Angeles Decorative Arts fair from Nov. 7 to Nov. 9. Designed for homeowners, private collectors and holiday shoppers, the show will appeal to those who seek unique, quality and authentic decorative pieces for the home. More than 60 top international dealers representing art, antique and design will exhibit at the event. Tickets for the event are \$10 per person. The show will be held from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 7 and Saturday, Nov. 8, and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 9. There will also be a preview event tonight from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., during which guests will be offered the first chance to view and purchase the artwork on display. Preview night tickets cost \$40 and include admission throughout the weekend. For more information, call (310) 455-2886 or visit www.caskeylees.com.

The Lower Topanga poets

The Lower Topanga poets will read from their *Idlers of the Bamboo Grove* collection from their 50-year-old community. The collection explores the

beauty and loss experienced by the residents of the Lower Topanga artists' community, who were evicted to make room for a State Park. The readings will begin at 4 p.m. and will cost \$7, \$5 for students and seniors. Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd.

The Other Shoe: Original Short American Plays

The Edgemar Center for the arts will present a compilation of musical and comedic plays. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. and costs \$20. Reservations can be made at (310) 392-7327. Edgemar Center for the Arts, 2437 Main Street

Because of You:

The Life and Loves of Sholom Aleichem

Evelyn Rudie and Chris DeCato created "Because of You" a musical based on the letters and stories of Sholom Aleichem, the creator of the characters in "Fiddler on the Roof." Aleichem wrote about the Russian-Jewish experience, including works in Yiddish at a time when there was no literature in the language. Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 Fourth St. (310) 394-9779

ENTERTAINMENT

Harvelle's

Established in 1931, Harvelle's is the oldest blues club on the west side. This is the kind of blues joint you'd expect to find in a dark Chicago alley; yet even if it's your first visit, it feels familiar. On Saturday night, Harvelle's features Jessie and the Raindogs, and on Sunday, the Toledo Show. 1432 4th St., (310) 395-1676

MOVIE °GUIDE

LAEMMLE'S MONICA 4-PLEX

1332 2nd Street

Mambo Italiano — 1:15, 6:05 p.m.

Shattered Glass R — 12:15, 2:40, 3:40, 5:05, 6:05, 7:30, 8:30, 9:55 p.m.

The Singing Detective R — 12, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:15 p.m.

The Station Agent R — 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10 p.m.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd

Elephant R — 4:45, 7, 9:30 p.m.

Pieces of April PG-13 — 5, 7:30, 9:45 p.m.

LOEWS CINEPLEX BROADWAY CINEMAS

1441 Third Street Promenade

Kill Bill Vol. 1 R — 12, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:20 p.m.

Love Actually R — 11:30 a.m., 12:30, 2:45, 3:45, 6:15, 7, 9:30, 10:15 p.m.

Mystic River R — 12:45 p.m., 3:15, 7:15, 10:30 p.m.

AMC SANTA MONICA 7

1310 Third Street Promenade

Alien: The Director's Cut — 9:15 p.m.

Brother Bear PG — 1, 3:05, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30 p.m.

Elf PG — 2, 4:30, 7:25, 9:50 p.m.

In the Cut R — 1:40, 4:20, 7, 9:45 p.m.

Intolerable Cruelty PG-13 — 1:50, 4:40, 7:35 p.m.

Scary Movie 3 PG-13 — 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:45, 10 p.m.

School of Rock PG-13 — 1:20, 4, 7:05, 9:40 p.m.

The Texas Chainsaw Massacre R — 1:35, 4:50, 7:10, 9:35 p.m.

MANN CRITERION 6 THEATERS

1313 Third Street Promenade

Good Boy! PG — 10:45 a.m.

The Human Stain — 11:30 a.m., 2:15, 4:50, 7:50, 10:40

The Matrix Revolutions — 11 a.m., 12:30, 1:15, 2, 3:30,

4:15, 5, 6:30, 7:15, 8, 9:30, 10:15, 11 p.m.

Radio — 10:50 a.m., 1:20, 4, 7, 9:40 p.m.

Runaway Jury — 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 p.m.

If you know of an upcoming event which may be included in the calendar please send the information to calendar@smdp.com or fax it to (310) 576 9913



WORLD BRIEFLY

Arafat standing tall amid the rubble

By The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has come out the winner after weeks of bitter political infighting with his prime minister, keeping his grip on security forces and putting a handpicked confidant in the post of interior minister.

The agreement clears the way for the formation of a government in the coming days and the resumption of high-level talks with Israel, but frustrates American efforts to sideline Arafat.

Also this weekend, Israeli troops shot and killed two Palestinians in violent street clashes and blew up a large explosives lab hidden among buildings in a cramped West Bank refugee camp. In Gaza, soldiers killed two Palestinians in an off-limits zone near the fence with Israel.

Arafat and Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia met Saturday with top officials from the ruling Fatah movement to finalize agreement over control of eight security branches and the makeup of a new Cabinet. With the arrangement, an intense power struggle and weeks of political limbo appeared close to an end.

"I hope we will finish forming (the Cabinet) in the next couple of days," Arafat said. "We will announce it as soon as possible."

Arafat came out the clear winner, maintaining his ultimate hold on security forces by placing them under the command of a 12-member national security council that he chairs. Qureia had demanded that those forces be put under the control of an interior minister.

Iran opening doors to nuclear inspectors

By The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — A powerful Iranian official affirmed this weekend that his country will allow stringent inspections of its nuclear facilities and suspend uranium enrichment to end suspicions Tehran is developing atomic weapons.

The promise — from Hasan Rowhani, who heads Iran's Supreme National Security Council — came less than two weeks ahead of a top-level meeting by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The agency director general, Mohamed ElBaradei, told reporters that Rowhani gave him the assurances during a meeting and would make an official announcement next week specifying the suspension dates.

"We will also next week get the letter for the conclusion of the additional protocol," which would allow U.N. inspectors access to all of Iran's nuclear activities, the Vienna-based agency chief said.

"I also was told that next week a letter indicating Iran's agreement to suspend enrichment activities" was expected, ElBaradei said.

On Nov. 20, the IAEA board of governors will meet to scrutinize a report by ElBaradei on Iran's past nuclear activities, which the United States says points to a clandestine weapons program. Saturday's meeting was held just days before the confidential report is to be given to board member nations.

If the board decides the report justifies declaring Tehran in violation of the Nonproliferation Treaty, meant to stop the spread of nuclear arms, it will ask the U.N. Security Council to get involved. It, in turn, could impose sanctions.

P.O.W. Lynch struggled to save her leg

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former prisoner of war Pfc. Jessica Lynch screamed and struggled with Iraqi doctors trying to anesthetize her after one of them said they were going to amputate her leg, according to newly released excerpts from her soon-to-be-released authorized biography.

The surgery never took place, and Lynch later heard that it was planned so she could be taken more easily to Baghdad, then still under Saddam Hussein's control, "probably for a propaganda video," according to

excerpts of "I Am a Soldier, Too: The Jessica Lynch Story" being published Monday in Time magazine. The book will be released Tuesday.

The excerpts also say hospital workers wanted U.S. forces to find her in the days before her April 1 rescue, and even moved her bed within sight of an American soldier a doctor had spotted on a nearby rooftop.

Previously released excerpts of the book, written by former New York Times reporter Rick Bragg, said medical reports indicate Lynch was raped in the hours after her 507th Maintenance Company convoy was attacked March 23, although she has no memory of the assault.

Swing voters swinging away from Bush

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Independent voters are leaning against the re-election of President Bush amid doubts about his handling of the economy and Iraq, a poll released this weekend indicates.

A majority of independents, 53 percent, said they oppose Bush's re-election, while 40 percent favor it, according to the Newsweek poll. Republicans favor his re-election by an 86-10 percent margin, while Democrats oppose it by the same amount.

Overall, his re-election was favored by 44 percent of respondents and opposed by 50 percent. More of those surveyed favored his re-election in May, but since then, people have been evenly split or slightly opposed on that question.

Bush's overall job approval in the poll was 52 percent. People were closely divided on his handling of the economy, with 44 percent approving and 48 percent disapproving. Just over half, 51 percent, disapprove of his handling of Iraq, while 42 percent approve.

The poll of 1,002 adults was taken Nov. 6-7 and had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points, slightly larger for subgroups.

Catholics call for ouster of N.H. bishop

By The Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. — A Roman Catholic reform group has petitioned the Vatican to remove New Hampshire Bishop John McCormack, calling him unfit to lead the diocese.

The complaint, filed Oct. 28 by New Hampshire Catholics for Moral Leadership, says McCormack and Auxiliary Bishop Francis Christian lost their moral authority during the clergy sex abuse crisis and that church law requires the resignations of bishops unfit to serve, according to a draft copy of the documents sent to Rome and obtained by The Associated Press.

"The credibility of the church's moral leadership is horribly eroded," the group wrote. "The effectiveness of these bishops as teachers of the faith has been unspeakably compromised by their hypocrisy and bad example."

The complaint also says "a terrible injustice infects our diocese and both bishops remain a source of great scandal." The groups asks the Vatican, "for the good of the church in New Hampshire, to remove these bishops as our pastoral leaders."

The Rev. Ed Arsenault, a spokesman for the Diocese of Manchester — which encompasses all of New Hampshire — said Saturday he had not seen the complaint and did not believe McCormack and Christian were aware of it.

Neither bishop plans to step down, Arsenault said.

Parades in doubt, with troops overseas

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Even as thousands of U.S. troops are stationed in war zones abroad, plans for Veterans Day parades across the country are being scaled back or scrapped.

The problem: Not enough troops, tanks and Humvees to wow the patriotic crowds.

"With the large number of active and reserve units called up, a lot of them that would normally be available

are on duty," said Bill Smith, a spokesman for the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Washington.

Some cities are depending on boy scouts and other non-military marchers to fill the gaps. In California, several small towns have joined the bigger San Jose parade, said Lee Harris, a spokesman for the American Legion in Indianapolis.

The military has 131,600 troops deployed in Iraq, in addition to troops serving in Afghanistan. War equipment usually available from state armories and military bases has been shipped out with troops.

Deployments aren't the only problem. While a dwindling number of retired veterans are available, younger veterans often have to work on Veteran's Day, Harris said.

"We've really hit bottom as far as returning veterans are concerned," said Russ Geyer, an Army veteran who heads the parade committee in Miami Lakes.

CIA: N. Korea feels their nukes are ready

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The CIA has concluded that North Korea has been able to validate its nuclear weapons designs without a nuclear test, the agency disclosed to Congress.

The intelligence service believes that conventional explosives tests, conducted since the 1980s, have allowed the North Koreans to verify their nuclear designs would work. The agency believes North Korea has one or two nuclear weapons similar to what the United States dropped on Hiroshima during World War II; a minority of U.S. analysts believe the communist country may already have made more.

CIA officials do not describe the precise mechanism by which the North Koreans could have verified their designs. The explanation to Congress provides the rationale behind the agency's conclusion that North Korea already has a nuclear weapon.

The relatively simple fission weapons that North Korea is believed to have produced would presumably detonate a precisely built shell of conventional high explosives around a plutonium core, and the tests may have involved the designs of that shell.

A CIA spokesman declined last week to expand on the agency's conclusions.

Rumsfeld meets Vietnamese counterpart

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Symbolism and substance blend when Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld meets today with his Vietnamese counterpart, the first defense minister from the communist country to visit the Pentagon since the war's end in 1975.

Some 30 years after America's defeat in Vietnam, Pham Van Tra is expected to talk with Rumsfeld and Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, about lingering problems from the war and how the countries can become allies in the fight against terrorism.

"It's symbolic of a new stage in Vietnamese-American relations," which have been broadening slowly over the years, said Charles Morrison, president of the East-West Center in Honolulu.

The United States and communist Vietnam had no formal relations and limited contacts in the two decades after the last American combat troops left South Vietnam in 1973.

The first President Bush initiated cooperation in such areas as accounting for Americans missing in action. President Clinton lifted the trade embargo in 1994 and the next year established diplomatic relations.

Over time, Vietnam and the United States have developed trade ties and discussed issues such as U.S. misgivings about Vietnam's human rights record.

Recent developments in the relationship include last month's aviation agreement to begin direct flights between the two countries. A U.S. Navy ship will visit Ho Chi Minh City this month in the first such port call since the war.

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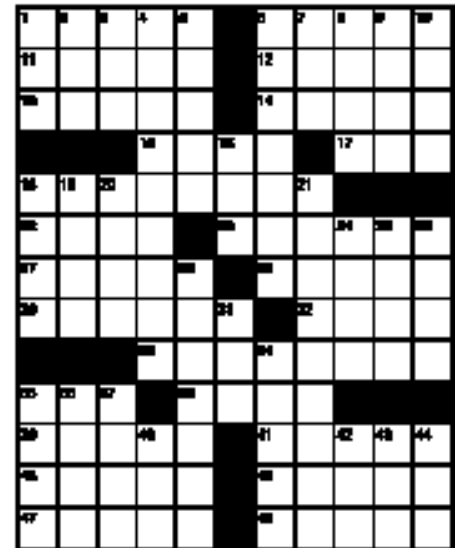
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MARKETING FOR arts studio, bright, upbeat with good phone personality & people skills. (310)258-9030.

P/T RETAIL. New chic Santa Monica dog boutique seeks p/t help w/minimum 2 yrs. retail sales exp. call (818)400-1025.

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 Warehouse Clearance
 Everything Must Go!
 Over 1,000 items, including an exquisite collection of American classics, traditional elegance and contemporary furniture, lighting artwork, fine handmade oriental rugs from 2x4' to 12x18'
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SANTA MONICA: \$1695, custom triplex, 2 bdrms, living & dining Rooms, cat ok, r/s, w/d, yard, french doors.

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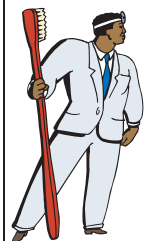
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Get over it: Nader labels Democrats as 'whiners'

By The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Former Green Party presidential candidate Ralph Nader called Democrats "chronic whiners" for continuing to accuse him of spoiling the 2000 presidential election for Al Gore.

"They should realize that the retrospect on Florida concluded Gore won Florida," the consumer activist told the Wisconsin State Journal on Saturday. "It was stolen from the Democrats. And they should concentrate on the thieves and the blunderers in Florida, not on the Green Party."

A media-sponsored review of more than 175,000 disputed ballots found that Gore would have won by a small margin if there had been a complete statewide recount. President Bush won Florida, and thus the White House, by 537 votes out of more than 6 million cast.

Nader, in town for a speech at the National Conference on Media Reform at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, noted that 300,000 registered Democrats in Florida voted for Bush.

"I think the Democrats can be fairly charged with chronic whining, and they ought to look at themselves first and foremost," Nader said.

During his speech, Nader reiterated that he would decide by the end of the year if he's running for the White House in 2004.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The lineup for Monday's Johnny Cash tribute concert says a lot about the late singer's place in popular music.

He inspired rockers Kid Rock, Sheryl Crow and John Mellencamp as well as twangsters George Jones, Willie Nelson and Brooks & Dunn.

"He influenced music in such a profound way, beyond the genre of country," said Ronnie Dunn.

Kix Brooks added: "The first song book I had was '100 songs by Johnny Cash.' I learned every one of them. ... Those are shoes that will not be filled."

Cash hits such as "Ring of Fire," "I Walk the Line" and "Folsom Prison Blues" became country and rock standards. This year, he received a Grammy and three CMAs.

Cash died Sept. 12 at age 71 of complications from diabetes.

The free concert will be held Monday at the Ryman Auditorium, former home of the Grand Ole Opry radio show, and broadcast Saturday on Country Music Television. Actor Tim Robbins will emcee.

LOS ANGELES — Pink's favorite song on her new album salutes a rebellious rocker of years past: Janis Joplin.

Lyrics on the track "Unwind" are a nod to the late 1960's singer, for whom Pink says she has a great affection.

"The song's about being tough on the outside and vulnerable on the inside, and I see now that I am also talking about myself," says Pink, a Philadelphia-area native. "I was a very defensive kid 'cause I was really sensitive underneath and didn't want people to know."

The album, set for release Tuesday, is expected to be another top seller from a singer who isn't afraid to buck music industry trends.

"Everything in this business is designed to encourage you to play along," Pink says. "They know people are so hungry for stardom that they'll just follow the record industry game."

"But I found that selling records wasn't enough," she adds. "I told myself after the first record that I'd rather go back home and start over again than be trapped in a one-dimensional world any longer."

EASTON, Pa. — "American Idol" runner-up Justin Guarini is being sued for more than \$100,000 in damages from a car accident in Pennsylvania.

Guarini, 25, collided with another car last March and received a ticket for following the car too closely. He paid a \$25 fine and \$75 in court costs, said his attorney, Douglas C. Roger Jr.

In a lawsuit filed Friday, Bethlehem residents Louis and Adrienne Maiatico contend Guarini was driving too fast while looking at papers. The suit says Louis Maiatico suffered injuries to his back, neck and side.

Guarini, of Doylestown, lost the final round of the first season of the Fox talent show to Kelly Clarkson. Since then, he has released a self-titled album, gone on a seven-week tour and starred opposite Clarkson in the film "From Justin: To Kelly."

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Ted Danson helped raise about \$100,000 for the troubled Museum of Northern Arizona.

The sold-out, \$75-per-person event was personal for the "Cheers" and "Becker" star, whose father, Edward B. "Ned" Danson, became the director of the museum in 1959 when Ted was 12. The family lived across the street from the museum.

"This is a real 'heart' moment for me," Danson told the Arizona Republic.

Saturday's event was to celebrate the museum's 75th anniversary following months of turmoil. The museum's director and all 16 trustees resigned under pressure in July after selling 21 museum artifacts for \$1 million. "Clearly that was not a wise idea," Danson said.

The museum still has an estimated \$1 million deficit.

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