

**FREE**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2003

Volume 3, Issue 1

# Santa Monica Daily Press

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## LOTTO

### SUPER LOTTO PLUS

25-35-21-11-7

Megamember: 1

Jackpot: \$30 million

### FANTASY 5

2, 25, 16, 31, 7

### DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 0, 7, 5

Evening picks: 5, 4, 3

### DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 10, Solid Gold

2nd Place: 5, California Classic

3rd Place: 9, Winning Spirit

Race Time: 1:46.89



## NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

In April, community activists and other volunteers established a "safe injection site" in Vancouver, British Columbia, so that addicts can bring their heroin, crystal meth or cocaine, and prepare and inject it with clean equipment and in an environment free of hassling by police, who have been reluctant to close the site down. Often, there is a volunteer registered nurse on duty to provide advice on injection technique.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Things have never been made more like the way they are today in history."

— Dwight D. Eisenhower

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## Santa Monica from outerspace



This photo taken 423 miles from space is the first high resolution satellite image of Santa Monica. Denver-based Space Imaging used its IKONOS satellite, which can capture areas as small as three square feet, according to company officials. The 1,600-pound satellite traveled four miles per second along the California coastline from the north to south. The satellite, which is the first ever high resolution commercial remote-sensing unit, was launched from the Vandenberg Airforce Base, north of Santa Barbara. The satellite has photographed 158 million square kilometers of the earth's surface and 43 percent of the United States. Satellite imagery can be used for coastal zone mapping, city planning, zoning, real estate development and a host of other uses.

Photo courtesy of Space Imaging

## Santa Monica's 'newspaper with issues' turns 2 today

*Santa Monica's only daily paper digs its heels in*

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON  
Daily Press Staff Writer

The Santa Monica Daily Press turns 2 years old today.

The paper hit the streets in hopes of becoming the city's daily source of local news. Our mission was to not only inform you of what's going on in your town every day, but to provide you with a forum to debate issues crucial to life here.

We hope we've done that and more. The SMDP has gone from

being a scrappy start-up that wasn't taken seriously to what we believe is the paper of record for Santa Monica. That's because we publish every day — except Sunday — and focus on issues that are pertinent to people who live, work and play here.

There were plenty of skeptics who said the SMDP couldn't survive. They pointed to the saturated marketplace, the weak economy and the cost of doing business here. But because of community support, we're still here and have no plans of leaving.

See ANNIVERSARY, page 5

## Chain stores given a break

*Council puts off decision on whether to limit them downtown*

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Responding to the concerns of more than a dozen property and business owners, the City Council on Tuesday didn't pass a proposed ordinance that would make it more difficult for chain stores to open outlets on the Third Street Promenade.

Rather than adopting the law, council members agreed to give business officials nine months to study the proposal and come back with their own recommendation.

Modeled after a similar law in Coronado, Calif., the proposal would require chain stores to seek and obtain a special permit before they open on the Promenade.

In order to get the permit, the stores would have to go through a public hearing and prove they would contribute to the mix of small and large, and local and national stores already in business here, according to the proposal, which was crafted in response to the influx of corporate chains that have taken over the Promenade in recent years.

Council members voted 4-1, with two absent, to send the issue back to the Bayside District Corp., the nonprofit that manages downtown Santa Monica, for more analysis.

City Councilman Bob Holbrook cast the sole vote against sending it back, saying he felt the market should determine what stores are allowed downtown and it's a waste of time and energy to study the matter further.

"It is so much nicer now than it was 25 or 30 years ago," Holbrook said, adding, "It's not broken, so I'd be careful of the fix."

Kathleen Rawson, executive director for Bayside,

See STORES, page 4

## SM resident to head Schwarzenegger's environmental team

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Gov.-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed a Santa Monica man Wednesday to head the state's most powerful and influential environmental agency.

If confirmed by the Senate, Terry Tamminen, 51, an Independent, will become the Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Tamminen helped draft Schwarzenegger's environmental platform, which includes ambitious measures to protect California's national forests, cut air pollution by 50 percent, reduce dependence on foreign oil and

See EPA, page 4

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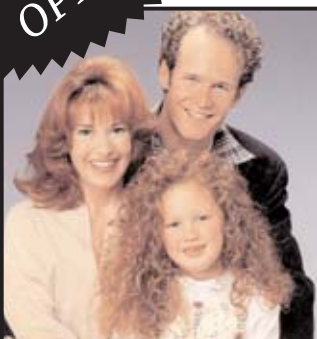
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## HOROSCOPE

### Start your weekend, Capricorn



#### JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

#### ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Your drive to increase your security pays off. Sometimes you feel as if you are in a logjam, with many depending on you. Consider a home office; your work flourishes at work, but even more so at home. Tonight: Be realistic about a family member.

#### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You speak your mind, and others hear. Make calls and put together a meeting. Be careful about just how serious your tone becomes. Opportunity strikes through your creativity and your ability to find solutions. Tonight: Go out and enjoy.

#### GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ What you might have thought of as a big problem loosens up because of your willingness to work with a boss or someone in charge. You are heading in a new direction, as you take your finances far more seriously. Tonight: Buy something special on your way home. It doesn't have to cost a lot.

#### CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Your smiling ways draw friends and permit different types of interactions. Others hear you but choose to head in a new direction. Remember, the only person you have control over is yourself. Friends and associates seek you out. Tonight: Go for what you want.

#### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Lie back and follow through on what you absolutely must. You find that a partner pushes you to get more of what he or she wants. Work through a low-level depression by letting more light in and giving up negativity. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

#### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Keep aiming for more of what you want. Friends and associates back you in what might seem like an enormous effort. You succeed because of your follow-through and a lucky streak. Don't think so much; just enjoy. Tonight: Where your friends are.

#### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Stay on top of work, which keeps flooding in. You might need to close your door if you want to accomplish anything. Your popularity mounts. Listen to a friend's sharing. Your instincts guide you with a boss and/or work. Tonight: A late dinner.

#### SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Reach out to others, making sure you can see all perspectives. You might be quite pleased by another's viewpoint. In fact, the more people you ask, the more solid a project becomes. A meeting stars in your day. Tonight: Consider a minivacation, or a long weekend.

#### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Though a partner could be most difficult and could close down, you'll get past it. Your strong drive, plus your obvious willingness, separates you from others. Listen to an associate's or partner's advice on a key matter. Tonight: Take a loved one out for dinner.

#### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Others seek you out. You see many moods as the merry-go-round of people pass through your door. Some might be unusually brisk; others, a bit down. Focus on someone who sees past the obvious. You admire this person's integrity. Tonight: If you can, start the weekend early.

#### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Pace yourself, and you'll accomplish a lot quite quickly. You might need to close the door as well as consider updating your computer or some necessary item in your life. A partner, friend or associate proves to be unusually giving. Tonight: Try a stress-buster.

#### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Let your imagination and creativity speak. Not everything is as you would wish. A somber child or loved one might be a little off. A partner helps you move this person out of the doldrums into greater happiness. Tonight: Play the night away.

**CLARIFICATION** — In the Nov. 12 edition, a front page headline regarding school supporters' presentation to the city council, suggested that it was to fund-raise. The presentation was to thank elected officials for giving extra money to the school district this past year.

**CORRECTION** — In the Nov. 11 edition, there was an error in a story about the renaming of state Highway 187. The City Council didn't rename Ocean Avenue last year as the article suggested.

## Santa Monica Daily Press

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## LOCAL



## Giving thanks



David Hume Kennerly/Special to the Daily Press  
As part of Santa Monica Malibu School District's 'Month of Thanksgiving,' elementary school students on Tuesday present Santa Monica City Council members with a gift to thank them for increasing funding to schools this year. The gift includes a image inscribed, "Thank you for making this school year possible. Strong Schools = A Strong Community."

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## Pacific park honored for leadership

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica Pier's Pacific Park was recently named the small business of the year for its contribution to people with disabilities.

In an emotionally-charged evening hosted by Richard E. Marriott, chairman of the Marriott Foundation for People with Disabilities and chairman of Host Marriott Corp.'s the "Bridges from school to work" program, presented its leadership, small business of the year, employer of the year and the youth achievement awards last month.

Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier was presented with the award in support of the foundation's employees with disabilities program. In its first year of participation, Pacific Park provided employment opportunities for two program members, Samantha Manday, ride operations, and Justin Grant, food and beverage. The full-time employees have been with Pacific Park since April and June respectively.

"I looked for a job for more than a year, but no one would hire me," Grant said. "Through the 'Bridges from school to work' program I obtained employment at Pacific Park. I love my job, working with the other employees and helping the guests have a great time at the Park."

Pacific Park and the program joined efforts through a job fair held in April 2003. Since 1992, over 300 Los Angeles employers have provided employment opportunities for more than 1,000 youth with disabilities.

Pacific Park is the first West Los Angeles award winner and business to assist the program. The Small Business of the Year award is based on a company's support of the Bridges program, has less than 100 employees at some point throughout the year, and hires at least one Bridges' student.

The Marriott Foundation for People with Disabilities honor is the second employee-related award Pacific Park has received in 2003. In August, Chrysalis recognized Pacific Park for its ongoing commitment to its labor connection program, which offers individuals who need work experience the opportunity to re-enter the job market through temp and temp-to-hire work assignments.

Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier, L.A.'s only admission free amusement park, offers 12 rides, 21 midway games and an over-the-ocean food plaza.

See BRIEFS, page 5

# surf report

A fading mix of S swell and some background WNW energy bring most spots knee- to waist-high surf. We can expect smaller leftovers of this swell mix to continue through early Friday.

OUTLOOK: Saturday and Sunday are looking a little more active with some new energy from the N and some new S swell start to move into the area.

Write us at [wood@smdp.com](mailto:wood@smdp.com) and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

Today the water is:

63°

Sunrise: 6:21 a.m.  
Sunset: 5:05 p.m.

|           | 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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## LOCAL

# Law against chains in limbo

STORES, from page 1

spent part of Wednesday making preliminary telephone calls, determining how the group will handle the task.

"We have a huge project in front of us that we're just starting to talk about," she said. "There are several ways we could approach it, but one of the first things we need to do is really clarify what we hope to accomplish."

Rawson said Bayside members will discuss the issue early next month and begin to formulate a plan. She said the group will take a comprehensive look at every aspect of the perceived problem.

"What we need to do is fully explore all the options," she said, adding nine months may not be enough time. "We're going to need some help though, there's no doubt about it."

Rawson pointed to an earlier finding by a group of local business and community leaders that already addressed the influx of chain stores downtown.

"The Promenade Uses Task Force said we don't think we should regulate it. Period," she said. "And because the council didn't accept that recommendation this is where we are now."

At Tuesday's meeting, nearly 20 people spoke in front of the council. An overwhelming majority of them were property and business owners who told council members limiting chains on the Promenade will hurt the overall vitality of the district. They said the proposed law also threatens to drive out small chains that can't afford to go through an extended hearing at City Hall.

"I'm kind of at a loss," property owner Wally Marks said. "I'm at a loss because of the inconsistency this body has taken in relationship to our past ... this is an inconsistent action and it isn't in the spirit of what I think the Promenade has developed and evolved since the 1980s."

But not everyone who spoke to the council was against the proposed ordinance. Rob Rader, a Bayside Board member and local attorney, asked the council to pass the law. Rader criticized property owners for not interpreting the implications of the ordinance correctly and said plans to control corporate growth on the Promenade have been in the works long enough.

"They've thrown out a parade of horrors against certain types of straw men or straw persons," he said.

City Councilman Kevin McKeown supported the study but he said he would rather have voted for the proposed law, if support had existed from other council members. McKeown said it's no surprise the property and business owners turned out en masse for the meeting because the corporate chains are paying rents approaching \$10 per square foot, plus utilities.

"We hear from residents all the time with quite a different view of what is happening on the Promenade," McKeown said. "They're not just looking at whether the Promenade is awash with cash ... what I hear from the residents, and I'll speak for myself, is a sense of loss of our downtown."

# Independent to take top job

EPA, from page 1

invest in hydrogen vehicles.

His appointment was hailed by environmental groups who worried that Schwarzenegger's green campaign stances would disintegrate after he was elected. So far, Schwarzenegger's mix of appointees include people from a wide range of ideologies and he appears to be remaining true to many of his campaign promises.

Nancy Pearlman, co-coordinator for the Green Party of Los Angeles County, and the producer of ecological radio and television programs, applauded Wednesday's appointment.

"I think it's just wonderful that true environmentalists are getting appointed to statewide office and not just people who are speaking about the environment but not really trying to do anything about it," said Pearlman, also a trustee for the community college district of L.A. "The appointment is certainly one step to fulfilling campaign promises and let's hope that the actions and suggestions that Terry will be proposing will be supported by the (elected) governor."

"That, only time will tell."

Tamminen founded Santa Monica BayKeeper, a local environmental watchdog group, and was its executive director for six years. He currently serves as the executive director of the Santa Monica-based Environment Now Foundation, a private organization dedicated to protecting, preserv-

ing and restoring California's environment.

"I am honored to be asked to serve on Governor Schwarzenegger's new administration," Tamminen said in a prepared statement. "I look forward to helping the governor implement the bold environmental plan that he set forth during the campaign."

A former student of CSU Northridge and the University of Queensland, Australia, Tamminen also co-founded water protection groups in San Diego, Orange County, Ventura and Santa Barbara. He will replace Winston Hickox, appointed by Gov. Gray Davis in 1999.

The EPA oversees state environmental resources and is the voice of environmental issues in Sacramento. It was founded in 1991.

"Our mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality," the EPA Web site reads.

Along with Tamminen's appointment, Schwarzenegger's press office announced that James Branham, 48, a lumber company spokesman, will be undersecretary and Maureen Gersen, 39, an environmental lawyer, will be deputy secretary, law enforcement and counsel.

"Terry, Jim and Maureen have spent their lives working as advocates to protect the environment, and will be assets to my administration," Schwarzenegger said in a prepared statement.

**Schwarzenegger on the environment:**

"California's economic future depends significantly on the quality of our environment. We face serious environmental challenges, which have profound impact on public health and the economy. 'Jobs vs. the environment' is a false choice. Overwhelming evidence demonstrates that clean air and water result in a more productive workforce, and a healthier economy, which will contribute to a balanced state budget. Moreover, it is children who suffer disproportionate impacts of environmental toxins. Studies show that children who live near freeways, for example, suffer significantly higher asthma rates and learning disabilities. This administration will protect and restore California's air, water and landscapes so that all the people of California can enjoy the natural beauty that is California."

Source: Joinarnold.com

## LOCAL

## SMDP looks to future in SM

ANNIVERSARY, from page 1

The Daily Press debuted Nov. 13, 2001 with eight pages and a distribution of 4,000 copies. It was the only daily paper that was launched anywhere in the country that year.

Today, we fluctuate between 16 and 20 pages, and have a circulation of more than 15,000.

The SMDP was always envisioned to be a grassroots, local paper that remains unbiased and unchained from the political vortex this town, or any town, can sometimes suck people into.

We call it a "micro daily," meaning it's tabloid-sized, local and free. It's this last thing — the "free" bit — that sets us apart from most dailies in the country. We are one of a small number of micro dailies that have begun publishing in the U.S. during the last 20 years.

We are available to the masses, which appeals to local businesses who need to get their message out consistently, as well as to locals and tourists who want to find out the news, where the lunch special is that day, or read their daily horoscope.

It takes a reader only a few minutes of reading the letters to the editor to understand Santa Monica's belief that it is unique — as a debating community, as a vital place to live, vacation, work and — yes, eat and go out. It is also a business center, with all the business issues and controversies that surround it.

When the Santa Monica Outlook published its final edition March 14, 1998, citizens and policy makers publicly lamented the loss of a daily newspaper. The failure of the Outlook seemed an embarrassment to Santa Monica, but in reality it was more of an embarrassment for Copley, the corporation that bought it and folded much of its operations into the Daily Breeze in Torrance. We judged as untrue the resulting conclusion that Santa Monica couldn't support its own daily.

And that's why you're reading this newspaper today.

The SMDP is distinct because we're able to provide you with what the news is today, not a week ago. When the Farmers' Market tragedy occurred downtown in July, the SMDP was on scene within seconds and was able to give readers the next day first-hand accounts through stories, photos and Associated Press coverage. AP photographers used our offices on the Promenade to distribute photos through-

out the world.

As a daily, the SMDP follows issues from the beginning to the end. Our journalists give readers every possible angle on a story and we don't stop reporting on the news just because we wrote about it once.

With the community's support, we hope one day that the SMDP will grow to 60 pages, provide comprehensive news coverage and have a circulation of 50,000. Our online version, which is e-mailed to 5,000 subscribers every day, continues to grow. The idea of sending a laid-out version of the paper to residents was born at 1 a.m. at a back table at Renee's bar on Wilshire Boulevard.

But to expand and be more things to more people, we need the support of advertisers — use the SMDP to find that new car you're looking for, or to find an apartment in the classified section, or to find a restaurant to visit. If you'll do that, we'll keep giving you the news.

The founders of this paper, Dave Danforth, Ross Furukawa, and Carolyn Sackariason, know micro dailies work. The three have worked together before at the Aspen Daily News, a paper Danforth founded as a college dropout in 1978. In the ensuing years, Danforth, wondering whether the "micro daily" model was just an accident in a resort town or something worth pursuing, helped found other daily papers in Conway, New Hampshire and Berlin, New Hampshire (Daily Sun), and in the Bay Area communities of Palo Alto (Daily News) and San Mateo (Daily Journal). They are still there.

We couldn't have made it the last two years without the support of our advertisers who believe the Daily Press provides an effective medium for marketing business to locals in Santa Monica, as well as visitors. And to our readers, without your interest in local issues we wouldn't have an audience to write for.

It may take a while for the Santa Monica Daily Press to be everything you want us to be, but it will not be for lack of your help, encouragement, derision and goading. Please feel free to do any of these.

We've come a long way in two years. We'll continue to build upon our credibility, commitment to the community and to the news that affects us everyday.

We thank everyone who has supported the Daily Press the past 730 days and we look forward to serving Santa Monica as its daily newspaper for years to come.



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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

**Pavley a public official of the year**

By Daily Press staff

State Assemblymember Fran Pavley has been named one of the most influential California public officials.

Pavley was named by Governing magazine as one of its 11 public officials of the year. The magazine is an independent national publication devoted to coverage of state and local government.

"Each of these 11 people," said Alan Ehrenhalt, the magazine's executive editor, "has demonstrated creativity, persistence and courage at a time all these qualities are desperately needed in American public life. They have shown a willingness to struggle against the odds, sometimes winning and sometimes losing, but setting a powerful example for future leaders to follow."

Assemblymember Pavley was honored for taking on the issue of greenhouse gas pollution in her freshman term, despite skeptics who declared it a lost cause. Her bill, AB 1493, signed into law in 2002, sets in place a process to reduce greenhouse gas pollution from transportation that generates the largest amount of greenhouse gases in California. Specifically, it requires the State Air Resources Board to adopt regulations by January of 2005 that achieve the maximum feasible reduction of greenhouse gases emitted by passenger vehicles and light-duty trucks. The regulations would apply only to vehicles manufactured in the 2009 model year and thereafter.



## OPINION

# LETTERS

### The presidential flip flop

Editor:

George W. Bush announced early in his stewardship that he is "inclusive" not "divisive." Yet the moment he has a majority in Congress, he resubmitted the extreme right jurists, like Charles Pickering — already rejected by the previous committee, for the highest judicial benches in our country. There is no mandate for this divisive behavior. Remember, if the butterfly ballot in Florida had matched the sample ballot, Bush wouldn't even be president. He usurped the position.

Flo Ginsburg  
Santa Monica

### 'S' saved teacher's job

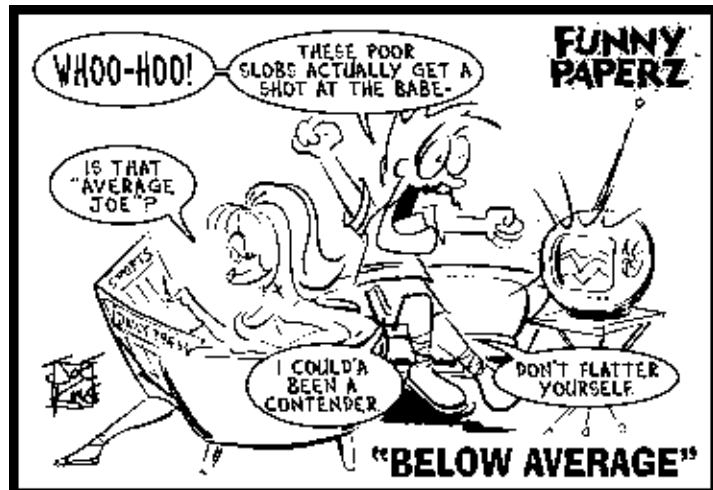
Editor:

As parents of two children who are in the Santa Monica-Malibu school district, my husband and I would like to lend our voices to those giving thanks to the members of the community and the City Council who rallied to support public education this past spring. With the passage of Measure S and the city's increased contribution to the schools, both of our children, who have been in the Santa Monica-Malibu district since kindergarten, are continuing to reap the benefits bestowed by an exceptionally fine school district.

In particular, we are thankful that teachers who had been pink-slipped were retained. One case in point at Lincoln Middle School, where our daughter is a Seventh grader, is that of Ron Vieira, a humanities and French teacher, who relocated here from Canada. On the day escrow closed on Ron's new house, he received his pink slip. Fortunately for all concerned, Ron has been retained. He has been instrumental in bringing a new pilot program of student-led conferences to Lincoln, where students

invite their parents to school and lead a conference in which the students evaluate their progress, set goals and develop strategies for themselves. Ron initiated this program at Lincoln based upon its success at his former school district in Canada where he had seven year's experience with the program and found that it fostered increased

See LETTERS, page 7



Member: AREG 1, NCS 002, SCS 111

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## 'One size fits all' education doesn't work at Samohi

Santa Monica High School began a dramatic redesign process this fall. Instead of operating as one large high school, it has started to become six small schools on the same campus.

It has been a wild and wonderful couple of months with even skeptics admitting that there are many advantages to each 550 students having their own principal, advisers and teacher leader. For one thing, each school "owns" two bathrooms and can keep closer tabs on stocking, vandalism and students hanging out there during class.

Samohi has arrived at this year's cutting edge of the educational world, and other schools are asking to visit and observe.

Exciting as this change has been, however, one thing has not changed: The one-size-fits-all policy on assigning students to teachers. On this score, Samohi remains in the 1940s.

Courses may be regular, honors/AP, or special ed, but within one type, no requests for changes to a different teacher are allowed, no matter how ineffective the teacher is or how mismatched the particular student and teacher are. Eventually the really bad teachers are processed out of the system, but meanwhile the students to whom they are assigned must sit in their classrooms.

Each year's computer assignment of students to classes is a lottery. In some classes, you win. In others, you lose. And the results will govern the student's life for a year.

Educational theory has changed a lot in the past 60 years. Learning styles are known to vary widely. There are auditory, visual and kinetic learners. Some students love to listen to a lecture and take notes. Others need to see things on a page and learn best by reading, while others appreciate dramatic reenactments, films and videos, or power point presentations. Kinetic learners need to participate in a hands-on manner or in some interactive type of classroom.

Teaching styles also vary. Some teach-

ers prepare and deliver careful lectures. Others rely on a textbook while providing learning activities in the classroom. Others use neither textbook nor lecture, but present material through handouts that they ask students to work on in small groups.

Others simply hang out in the classroom and try to be the students' best friend. For some subjects, such as the freshman humanities course at Samohi, this last method may actually reach a lot of students and engage them in ideas that they might reject in a more formal classroom.

But one size doesn't fit all students.

However progressive Samohi may be about the structure of the school, it's not thinking

out of the box when it comes to assigning students to teachers. According to the administration, the main reason for absolute inflexibility is the large size of the school.

Samohi Principal and CEO Dr. Ilene Straus has said that the district cannot run a school of 3,500 students and allow students to select their teachers and change when things are not as they wish.

So the problem is fear — a fear that granting students' requests to change classrooms would result in a deluge of requests that the advisers would not have time to process — and a fear that some teachers would have too many students, while others would have none.

To prevent this from happening, Samohi forces some students to stay in classrooms that just don't fit. The result is misbehavior, failure to learn, and administrative hours wasted in holding the line against student/parent requests to change teachers.

The school actually has an add/drop deadline, but parents don't get any letters or computerized phone calls letting them know about this. Advisers don't tell students requesting a change of teacher that they need to file a blue petition by a cer-

tain date. The only clue is one line buried in other announcements: "Sept. 26 — Last day to drop classes with review." Students who want to change a class, rather than drop the subject altogether, are going to miss this clue. And the school is going to turn down the petition anyway.

But let's face it. Samohi is the size of a small college. It needs to operate more like a college, letting students know about the add/drop date and allowing students who feel mismatched to move to a different classroom.

Would such a policy really be that difficult to implement? Would it be the end of the world if students in a U.S. history class were allowed to move to an instructor whose teaching style matched their own learning style? Some students might prefer an "easy" teacher. Others might want to take lots of lecture notes and read the whole textbook. Why shouldn't they be permitted to switch to a teacher matching their needs?

It's quite possible that most students wouldn't bother to change teachers — inertia is a powerful factor. It's also possible that with the students in six small schools, advisers could handle the volume of requests without that much trouble. Maybe 10 percent to 20 percent of the 550 students in a school would come in and request a teacher change. Those could be processed in the first four weeks of class, and all students and teachers would be happier for the whole school year. Even if all the students came in, benefits in learning could create such a sense of satisfaction that no more fires would be set in the bathrooms — taking a huge load off the administration. There would also be gains in student retention.

Finally, let's consider that other administrative nightmare: What if all students want one teacher?

Samohi currently has one star history

teacher: Mr. Michael Felix. He's young, dedicated and passionate about U.S. history. He begins class with words like, "Today I'm going to tell you the story of ..." followed by a dramatization of something like Andrew Jackson versus the Cherokees and the Supreme Court. He uses lighting and music to add to the effect.

So why not let more students into his class, rather than requiring them to sit a few doors away in a less than exciting classroom? Break down a wall, put him in a classroom that holds 60 students. Bring in the other teacher to maintain order and do his or her specialty once in a while, whether it be interactive learning groups or whatever, and to help grade papers and exams. It's called "team teaching." If a teacher attracts more than 60 students in one hour, put him or her in Barnum Hall with three or four other teachers to maintain discipline.

This would essentially be a market-based teaching economy. Teachers who are attracting students would be recognized and accommodated. Others whose teaching styles are less popular would continue to do a great job with those students whose learning styles match their own teaching style. Still others would be exposed as not attracting any students.

Yes, it could be a bit rocky transitioning to a high school run like a college, where student demand is allowed to affect enrollment. But, like this year's redesign, it would have many benefits in the long run. And it's possible that only a few students would actually want to change classes. Many of them are more focused on their social lives, athletics, or the working world they are about to enter.

Let's move beyond one-size-fits-all education. Come on, Samohi, let's go!

(Anne Eggebroten is a parent and writer in Santa Monica. She is the editor of "Abortion: My Choice, God's Grace" and is working on a book about raising three daughters).

### Guest Commentary

By Anne Eggebroten

## OPINION



## LETTERS

## LETTERS, from page 6

student accountability and parental connection with the school. And Ron is just one of many other fine teachers who were pink-slipped but ultimately retained, such as Nathaniel Stauffer and Darin Goulet, both of whom taught my daughter last year.

We also are thankful that the morning period has been retained, giving our children a better chance of fitting into their schedules — not only required courses, but those of particular interest to them.

If we continue to pull together as a community to support our schools, hopefully we will spare our teachers and administrators, who give so much to our kids, the demoralization which most certainly comes with the pink-slip.

**Libby Pachares**  
Santa Monica

## Resident tells city, 'keep it down'

## Editor:

I live one quarter of a block from Lincoln Boulevard in the southern section of Santa Monica. There has been construction work on Lincoln Boulevard for the past six weeks between the hours of 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. I do not know which idiot approved of the construction during the night hours, but they should be fired immediately. The

heavy equipment and street cutting machinery are extremely loud and make a peaceful night's sleep impossible. The lack of City Council representation in the southern slums of Santa Monica is glaringly apparent, as we are subjected to the high levels of noise involved in this project. It's time for a change, City Council. We need balanced representation throughout this city — not just for those north of Wilshire Boulevard.

**Candy Arnold**  
Santa Monica

## No breaks for free lunch

## Editor:

You have got to be kidding me, (guest commentary by Ann Petersen, SMDP, Nov. 10, page 4). It's not enough that we try to find shelter and feed the homeless, allow them to sleep in our doorways and parks and panhandle on the Promenade, now we have to worry when we buy them lunch whether or not they are gluten intolerant? Give me a break.

**Jayne Gordon**  
Santa Monica

## Who is the 'great silent majority' now in this wartime era?

NEWS  
on the  
EDGE

By Ron Scott Smith



We walked away from Yasger's farm, me and Ted, to the howling guitar licks of Jimi Hendrix' wicked take on The Star Spangled Banner. It was a hot, mercifully dry, early Sunday morning in August of '69, but our feet were still wet and cold, so we stumbled out of that muddy pasture, stuck our thumbs out, and said good-bye to Woodstock. But it was far from over. This socio-politico-spiritual revolution had legs. We might get our butts kicked because the hair was too long, but the legs would keep walking.

In October of that year there would be another peace rally in Washington, as the effort to bring an end to a senseless, bloody war in Vietnam was in high gear. A huge collective voice was speaking out, clearly and loudly, to those in power. And power listened. Soon, President Richard Nixon, in one of his now infamous speeches, called upon "you ... the great silent majority of my

fellow Americans to stand strong against the protesters on the streets," and to support him in his ongoing "Vietnamization," i.e. escalation, of the war.

In a press release the day after the speech, Nixon defined the great silent majority, as a "large and normally undemonstrative cross section of the country that refrains from articulating its opinions." Less than two weeks later, mid-November, came the response from the great vocal minority on the streets. A few of us hopped into Ted's old gray open-air Jeep and joined 500,000 other citizens gathered at the Washington Monument to again offer up resistance to the far away war that had now claimed tens of thousands of young American lives. The Jeep broke down on the way back home to Pennsylvania, but the thumbs still worked. The war would soon be over, the peace victorious.

Fast forward to tonight, autumn, 2003, and notice there's still a great silent majority lurking about. And you know who it is, this time? It's me and Ted, and the millions of others who eventually walked away from Woodstock and the Washington Monument, and kept right on walking away. Who would've thought? We put on some years, cut off some hair

and zipped it.

And now, a loud new minority, given voice through a nasty and pervasive right-wing talk radio echo chamber, claims to be in the driver's seat of this work in progress called America. They have the president to steer it because he had the Supreme Court to hand him the keys, and does anybody know where it's headed? Most of us, the majority of Americans as a matter of fact, thought we had some semblance of where it was headed when we elected Clinton to the presidency in 1992, then again in 1996. He was the first national leader who may have come from similar pastures as Yasger's farm, whether anybody admitted it or not. That loud new right-wing minority knew it, and it mortified them. Which is why they hounded him for all his eight years in office, threw everything they had at him, and continue to hound him even now in his retirement.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, the condo, the suburbs and the downtowns, we sit idly by, and watch on a television as another round of very ill-advised foreign adventurism goes down in all of our names. We watch in silence as the caskets come home daily, carrying the bodies of young American sacrificial warriors — most of whom just needed a decent job

when they enlisted. The tables appear to have turned, and the new "great silent majority" ... is that what we are now?

What we were then was young idealists breaking down walls — sometimes with our heads it seemed — taking aim at institutionalized racism, sexism, war mongering, greed and pollution. You name it — its time had come. Not. We survived that writhing of the human spirit, even as we lurched through it. You may say we were dreamers, as Lennon would put it, and there were many missteps. Hey, we figured peace and love were pretty good ideas to build a civilization around. So sue us. That is, if you can find us.

Where'd we go? Well, I heard from Ted. He's got the Jeep still up and running back there in central Pennsylvania. I'll go for a visit soon and maybe we'll drive it up to Yasger's farm in memory of the good old days, in search of the good new ones. Like the elusive ideals it drove us around to work for, that old gray Jeep might have broken down, but it never did die.

*(Ron Scott Smith is balancing on the edge. To reach him, e-mail to Edgeof-theWest@aol.com).*

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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## FACE-to-FACE with the Women & Children of Iraq

Local resident Kelly Hayes-Raitt visited Iraq twice this year — once in February, just 5 weeks before the U.S. bombings and invasion, and in July, where she found some of the children and women who touched her so deeply during her first visit. She saw firsthand the impact of the bombings and invasion on innocent people's lives, homes and hearts.

She will be speaking about the people she met — and remet — in Baghdad, Hillah, Babylon, Fallouja, Basra and Umm Qasr.

**Thursday, November 13th**

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A political consultant and dynamic speaker, Kelly Hayes-Raitt has addressed over 100 audiences, including religious congregations, state conferences, school classes, community clubs, large peace rallies and small neighborhood meetings. To address your group, call (310) 581-4421 or e-mail C2CCampaigns@aol.com. Photos may be viewed at [www.CommunityCampaigns.com/Iraq](http://www.CommunityCampaigns.com/Iraq).

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## STATE

# Experts say wildfires could worsen with global warming

BY DON THOMPSON  
Associated Press Writer

**LAKE ARROWHEAD** — Drought- and beetle-ravaged trees in this mountain community stick up like matchsticks in the San Bernardino National Forest, bypassed by the fires still smoldering, but left like kindling for the next big blaze.

Welcome to the future.

Fires that charred nearly three-quarters of a million acres could presage increasingly severe fire danger as global warming weakens more forests through disease and drought, experts warn.

"You're really going to increase the chances of and prevalence of fire," said Susan Ustin, a professor of environmental and resource science at the University of California, Davis.

Warmer, windier weather and longer, drier summers would mean higher fire-fighting costs and greater loss of lives and property, according to researchers at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the U.S. Forest Service.

Both the number of out-of-control fires and the acreage burned are likely to increase — more than doubling losses in some regions, they say in a study set for publication in the scientific journal *Climatic Change*.

While the study examined Northern California, "the concern for Southern California would be much higher," because that region is drier for longer periods, said researcher Evan Mills of the Lawrence Berkeley lab.

Windier weather could bring to Northern California a variation of the desert Santa Ana winds that whipped the Southern California blazes into firestorms, said co-author Margaret Torn, also a Lawrence Berkeley researcher.

The researchers project at least a 50 percent increase in out-of-control fires in the south San Francisco Bay area and a 125 percent increase in the Sierra Nevada foothills, with a more than 40 percent increase in the area burned. The state's northern coast saw no significant change under the computer model and conditions used in the study.

The researchers say the projections use conservative forecasts that don't take into account expected factors like increased lightning strikes and the spread of volatile grasslands into areas now dominated by less flammable fuel. Even potentially wet-

ter winters simply mean more growth, providing additional fuel for summer fires.

"Fires may be hotter, move faster, and be more difficult to contain under future climate conditions," summarized Robert Wilkinson of the University of California, Santa Barbara, School of Environmental Science and Management, in a federal report on the impact of climate change on California. "Extreme temperatures compound the fire risk when other conditions, such as dry fuel and wind, are present."

Where fires once burned without doing much damage to property, Californians have now built homes and entire subdivisions — a problem starkly illustrated by the Southern California blazes.

There are plenty of lessons to be learned, said California Resources Secretary Mary Nichols, who will leave office after this week as Gov. Gray Davis' administration gives way to that of Gov.-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"Certainly in the future we cannot allow construction quite so close to the (fire) zone, and we should create larger buffers" such as the irrigated greenbelt that helped keep fire from Los Angeles County's Stevenson Ranch while other communities were in flames, Nichols said.

Forests need to be cleared of the undergrowth that fed the flames, and the remaining dead, standing trees that still dot the San Bernardino Mountains must be removed, she said in an interview.

But that debate has pitted Democrat Davis against the Republican Bush administration, which has sought to allow logging of larger trees to pay for the removal of smaller unmarketable brush and chaparral. The result has been regulatory and legislative impasse.

State lawmakers are requiring the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to begin charging rural homeowners for the cost of fire protection, as the state battles its massive budget deficit.

Nichols suggested the state should consider additional "user fees" on development in fire-prone areas. As it is, taxpayers across the nation pay to fight California's wildfires and to reimburse homeowners for their losses.

"If the true cost of fire protection were built into the cost of construction, it would not be as easy or as cheap as it has been to build in the foothills," Nichols said. "I think that would be a good thing."

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## INTERNATIONAL



# Bomb in southern Iraq kills Italians, Iraqis at base

BY ANJA NIEDRINGHAUS  
Associated Press Writer

**NASIRIYAH, Iraq** — A suicide truck bomber attacked the headquarters of Italy's paramilitary police in this southern city on Wednesday, killing 26 people and possibly trapping others in the debris.

Hours later, 1st Armored Division forces launched a military operation in Baghdad, targeting a facility used by insurgents and setting off explosions that reverberated through the Iraqi capital.

"The facility is a known meeting, planning, storage and rendezvous point for belligerent elements currently conducting attacks on coalition forces and infrastructure," the Pentagon said in a statement from Washington.

"The destruction of this structure will deny enemy forces any use of it in the future."

The attack in Nasiriyah was the deadliest toll suffered by non-American coalition forces since the occupation began in April, and the first such attack in this relatively quiet Shiite Muslim city. The bombing appeared aimed at sending a message that international organizations are not safe anywhere in Iraq.

Col. Gianfranco Scalas said 18 Italians were killed: 12 Carabinieri paramilitary police, four army soldiers, an Italian civilian working at the base and an Italian documentary filmmaker. A spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition said at least eight Iraqis were also killed. About 15 people were wounded, although their nationalities were not known, Italian officials said.

"Unfortunately, it's not possible to exclude the presence of other fatalities," Defense Minister Antonio Martino told parliament.

There were fears of others trapped beneath the debris, and bulldozers worked to clear rubble. As night fell, however, soldiers said rescue efforts had ended.

Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi called the bombing a "terrorist act," while Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi pledged that it wouldn't derail his country's commitment to helping Iraq.

Witnesses said the truck driver got past guards after a car ran a roadblock, distracting the sentries.

The truck rammed the gate of the Italian compound and exploded in front of the Carabinieri building, which was the former chamber of commerce building, a coalition spokesman, Andrea Angeli, said.

He said the force of the explosion blew out windows in another building across the Euphrates River. All the vehicles parked outside the stricken building exploded in flames.

Angeli said secondary explosions from ammunition stored in the compound rocked the area moments after the main blast.

Also Wednesday, U.S. troops in Baghdad accidentally fired on a car carrying a member of the Iraqi Governing Council. The council member, Mohammed Bahr al-Ulou, escaped injury but the driver was wounded.

And a roadblock in Fallujah, a restive city west of the capital, U.S. troops fired on a truck carrying live chickens Tuesday night, killing five civilians.

"They went to bring chickens ... and they came back at 9 or 10 at night and we were waiting for them," said Khalid Khalifa al-Jumaili, whose two nephews were killed on the truck. "The Americans

fired on them."

The U.S. military said it no immediate information on the shootings.

In separate attacks, an American soldier was killed when a roadside bomb exploded near a U.S. patrol by the town of Taji northwest of Baghdad, the U.S. military said. A 1st Armored Division soldier died of wounds suffered in a roadside bombing in Baghdad on Tuesday.

Their deaths bring to 153 the number of soldiers killed by hostile fire since President Bush declared an end to active combat May 1.

The truck bomb in Nasiriyah, about 180 miles southeast of Baghdad, went off at about 10:40 a.m. in front of base of the Carabinieri's multinational specialist unit, the Italian paramilitary police said.

Italy has sent about 2,300 troops to help rebuild Iraq. About 340 Carabinieri are based in Nasiriyah, along with 110 Romanians.

Alice Moldovan, a spokeswoman for Romania's Defense Ministry, said there were no reports of Romanian victims.

Carabinieri are paramilitary police under the Defense Ministry, and frequently serve in international missions such as in Afghanistan and the Balkans.

Since August, car and truck bombs have targeted several international buildings in Baghdad, including the United Nations headquarters, the offices of the international Red Cross, the Al-Rasheed Hotel and the Turkish and Jordanian embassies.

Although Nasiriyah has been quiet in recent months, it was the scene of heavy fighting during the war. It was where the 507th Maintenance Company was ambushed in March and where a number of Americans were captured, including Jessica Lynch.

Italy had suffered no combat deaths during the occupation. The Italian official heading U.S. efforts to recover Iraq's looted antiquities, Pietro Cordone, was in a car that came under mistaken U.S. fire in September in northern Iraq. His Iraqi interpreter was killed.

Earlier Wednesday, a member of the Iraqi Governing Council said the body was not to blame for the lack of progress in drafting a constitution that would enable democratic elections and a return to Iraqi independence.

The comments by Mahmoud Othman, a Sunni Kurd member of the U.S.-appointed body, follow reports that Bush's national security advisers are frustrated by the council's performance and are consulting with Iraq's top American administrator, L. Paul Bremer, over how to break the deadlock.

"Such accusations are unreasonable and do no good for the country," Othman said. "The Governing Council should not alone bear the responsibility of any inefficiency."

Othman acknowledged the constitutional process was moving too slowly but said Iraq's U.S.-led administration bore much of the blame.

"This is supposed to be a partnership based on equality," Othman said in an interview. "But when Americans want to find solution for their problems, they do it in any way that suits them."

Bremer said Wednesday after meeting with administration officials in Washington that he believed the Iraqis were becoming "more and more effective in their assumption of authority."

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## NATIONAL

# Legal gamble paid off as Robert Durst is found innocent

BY JUAN A. LOZANO

Associated Press Writer

**GALVESTON, Texas** — Both the defense and prosecution adopted a risky, all-or-nothing strategy in asking jurors not to consider any lesser charge than murder in the trial of eccentric millionaire Robert Durst.

It was the real estate heir's team that won the gamble.

Even Durst looked stunned when a jury Tuesday acquitted him in the grisly case, which began to unfold when trash bags containing pieces of 71-year-old Morris Black washed up along Galveston Bay in 2001.

"All of us believed it was either murder or it was nothing," said Durst attorney Michael Ramsey.

Durst had admitted accidentally killing his neighbor, then cutting up the body and throwing away the pieces in the bay in a panic. The verdict was delivered after more than 26 hours of deliberations spread over five days.

The jury was allowed to consider only

murder, not lesser charges such as manslaughter. For now Durst, 60, will remain in jail facing a bail-jumping count, which could bring up to 10 years in prison.

Durst, who has been estranged from his family since the early 1990s, remains under suspicion in the 1982 disappearance of his first wife in New York state and the 2000 shooting death of her friend Susan Berman, a Los Angeles writer who was set to be questioned about the missing woman. He has not been charged in either case.

The office of Westchester County, N.Y., District Attorney Jeanine Pirro noted the acquittal and added: "This does not affect the investigation into the disappearance of Kathleen Durst."

Although Pirro has not officially labeled Durst a suspect in the 1982 disappearance, she has refused to rule him out, and the case was reopened in 2000 when new, undisclosed evidence was found. Durst has denied involvement.

The acquittal stunned a friend of Kathleen Durst, Gilberta Najamy. "It took

me a while to stop shaking," she said Wednesday on ABC's "Good Morning America." Of Durst's defense claim that he panicked after the death of Black because he was suspected in his wife's disappearance, Najamy said: "Well, he knows we all think he killed Kathleen and he is acting like a guilty person."

Durst's younger brother was more blunt. "He'll kill again," Thomas Durst, 53, told the New York Post. "Bob is a madman."

Durst met Black after moving from New York, initially posing as a mute woman to escape attention in the two other deaths. He later dropped the masquerade and became friends with Black, who lived across the hall from him in a low-rent apartment building.

Durst's attorneys said the friendship soured because of the elderly man's belligerent behavior.

During nearly four days on the stand, Durst testified that he found Black in his apartment on Sept. 28, 2001, and that Black had Durst's gun. During a struggle, the gun went off, hitting Black in the face, he said.

Durst testified that he panicked, fearing police would not believe his story, so he used two saws and an ax to cut up the body and threw away the pieces. The victim's head has never been found.

He said he could not recall details about dismembering the body, but when pressed by a prosecutor, he said it was "a nightmare with blood everywhere."

Prosecutors called Durst a cold-blooded killer who shot Black to steal his identity. They said the proof was the way he meticulously covered up the crime by cut-

ting up the body, cleaning the crime scene, fleeing Galveston and then returning to retrieve the head.

"Is it well-planned and calculated? You bet it is," prosecutor Kurt Sistrunk said.

Defense attorney Dick DeGuerin praised the jurors for "their ability to look at this case for what the charge was." Sistrunk said he was dismayed and disappointed by the verdict.

When he heard the verdict, Durst's eyes filled with tears. He hugged his attorneys, saying: "Thank you so much."

Prosecutor Joel Bennett said many jurors told him after the verdict that one of the problems in the case was that Black's head was never recovered. Prosecutors alleged that Durst made sure the head was never found because it could have proved Black's death was intentional.

Juror Chris Lovell said he was influenced by a lack of consistency in the prosecution's case: "From the very beginning of this trial the defense told us a story and they stuck to their guns all the way through. I did not believe everything they said, but every time they told us a story they were consistent in what was said."

Juror Deborah Warren said the panel made a great effort to figure out what happened. "There were people that cried, there were people that fussed and argued. ... My stomach is still knotted up," she said.

Durst is the son of the late Seymour Durst, patriarch of the Durst Organization, a billion-dollar real estate company that owns several New York skyscrapers. The company declined to comment on the verdict.



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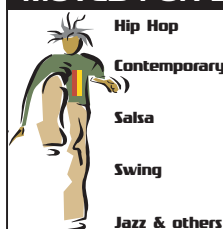
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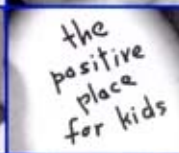
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## NATIONAL □ INTERNATIONAL

## WORLD BRIEFLY

## Mideast leaders call for cease fire

By The Associated Press

**RAMALLAH, West Bank** — Yasser Arafat on Wednesday called for an end to three years of violence, saying that Israel has a right to live in peace as his legislature prepared to approve the new Palestinian Cabinet.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia also called for an immediate and comprehensive cease-fire with Israel and a return to peace talks based on President Bush's vision for two states.

Qureia issued the call at a parliament session at which he was expected to win approval for his new Cabinet, despite complaints about the government's makeup and Arafat's continued grip on power.

"Our fate is to live together on this land for us and our dreams, for our sons and grandsons ... instead of violence and terrorism," Qureia said.

If the vote passes, the Cabinet was to be sworn in immediately afterward, ending a two-month Palestinian political stalemate that has stymied talks on stopping three years of conflict and implementing the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan.

## Judge to decide fate of sniper suspect

By The Associated Press

**VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.** — The judge in the trial of sniper suspect John Allen Muhammad must decide on a defense motion asking to eliminate the death penalty from jurors' consideration.

Circuit Judge LeRoy F. Millette Jr. said Monday that he would rule on the motions Wednesday morning. If the defense is successful in its arguments, it is likely that Muhammad would face a maximum punishment of life in prison.

Muhammad, 42, is on trial for the Oct. 9, 2002, slay-

ing of Dean Harold Meyers outside a Manassas-area gas station. Meyers' death is one of 16 shootings prosecutors say were committed by Muhammad and his alleged accomplice, 18-year-old Lee Boyd Malvo, whose trial is under way about 20 miles east in Chesapeake.

## Actor Art Carney dies

By The Associated Press

**HARTFORD, Conn.** — Art Carney, who played Jackie Gleason's sewer worker pal Ed Norton in the TV classic "The Honeymooners" and went on to win the 1974 Oscar for best actor in "Harry and Tonto," has died at 85.

Carney died in Chester, Conn., on Sunday and was buried on Tuesday after a small, private funeral. He had been ill for some time.

The comic actor would be forever identified as Norton, Ralph Kramden's bowling buddy and not-too-bright upstairs neighbor on "The Honeymooners." The characters appeared in various forms from 1951 to 1956, and the show was revived briefly in 1971. The shows can still be seen on cable.

Carney was born into an Irish-Catholic family in Mount Vernon, N.Y., on Nov. 4, 1918, and baptized Arthur William Matthew Carney. His father was a newspaperman and publicist.

## Bush's appointments to be debated

By The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — The Senate readied cots and coffee for a talkathon set to last all Wednesday night on who's to blame for some of President Bush's nominees not making it to the federal appeals bench.

For 30 straight hours — from Wednesday evening through midnight Thursday — Republicans and Democrats will condemn each other in 30-minute face-

offs over four filibustered U.S. Appeals Court nominees: Alabama Attorney General William Pryor, Texas judge Priscilla Owen, Mississippi judge Charles Pickering and Hispanic lawyer Miguel Estrada.

Democrats have refused to allow confirmation votes, and Republicans have not been able to get the 60 votes to force them in a Senate split with 51 GOP senators, 48 Democrats and one independent. Frustrated at the delays, Estrada withdrew his nomination in September.

Republicans hope the all-night Senate session — the first to go past 4 a.m. since 1992 — will help publicize the blocked nominees. Conservatives have complained the GOP hasn't done enough to highlight the Democrats' blockades.

Democrats say they're looking forward to 15 free hours to criticize the president and the GOP on the economy, problems in Iraq and Bush's choices for key judgeships.

## Advisors want decision on Iraq's future

By The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — President Bush's top foreign advisers summoned Iraq's American administrator for hurried White House talks focused on their growing frustrations with the Iraqi Governing Council and a logjam in transferring political power to Iraqis.

One option under consideration: naming a new interim Iraqi leader with authority to govern the country until a constitution can be written and elections held, a Bush administration official said. That would be patterned after the model of Afghanistan.

The urgency of the visit Tuesday by American administrator L. Paul Bremer was underscored when Bremer abruptly canceled a planned meeting in Baghdad with the visiting Polish prime minister before heading to Washington. At the White House, he met with Secretary of State Colin Powell, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and other top officials.

The talks came at a time when Iraqi insurgents have stepped up attacks — resulting in the bloodiest week for American soldiers since the end of major combat operations — and as U.S. and Iraqi leaders struggle over how to draft a new constitution, a key step in handing over power to the Iraqis.



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## ACROSS

- 1 Prepares for battle  
5 Rival of Harry Potter  
10 Yard divisions  
11 Cleared  
12 Last of the Stuarts  
13 Snacked  
14 Mast platform  
16 Shirley Temple movie  
20 Frivolous quality  
23 White House nickname  
24 Without warmth  
25 Scout's work  
27 Rap's — Def  
28 Trip doubled  
29 Paving material  
32 Santa's landing place  
36 Overseas  
39 Vase item  
40 Rather  
41 Floor piece  
42 Highly competitive

## 43 Feed the swine

## DOWN

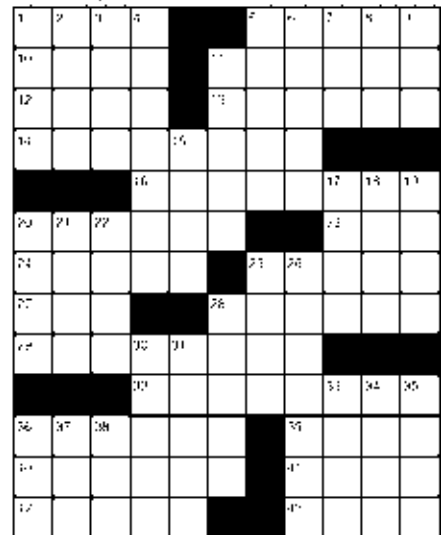
- 1 From a distance  
2 Nevada city  
3 List of choices  
4 Lettering aid  
5 Salivate  
6 Harsh  
7 Fire remnant  
8 Horseshoe shape  
9 Unusual  
11 Diary bit  
15 Obligation  
17 Diptomat's need  
18 Woodwind instrument  
19 Confined  
20 Arm or leg  
21 Earth sci.  
22 Traveler's need  
25 Antique autos  
26 Pros

|         |         |
|---------|---------|
| STIR    | DROP    |
| PECOS   | MOORE   |
| OXEYE   | ENTER   |
| TAC     | AGESAGO |
| SNAPSAT | TON     |
| SPOON   | BEN     |
| UNDUE   |         |
| COT     | ASTER   |
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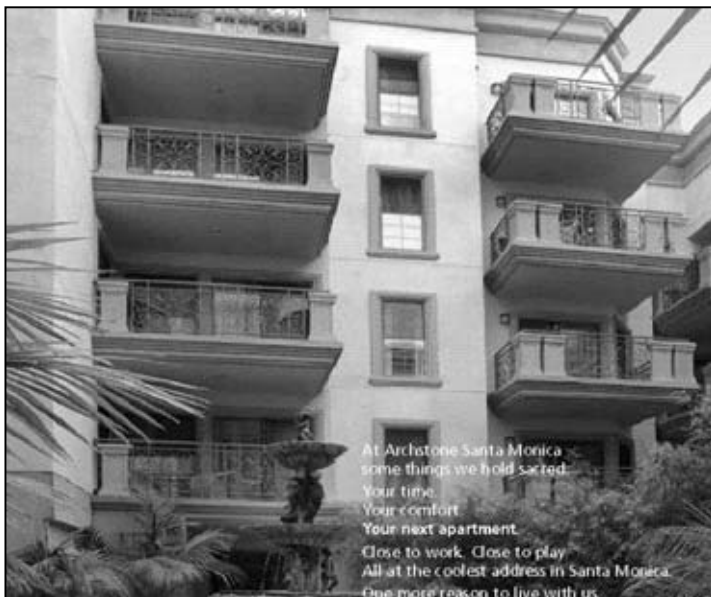
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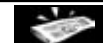
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## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

# It's Dim sum for Justin Timberlake on Sunset Strip

By The Associated Press

■ **WEST HOLLYWOOD** — Justin Timberlake has joined the list of celebrities dabbling in the restaurant business, but don't look for Timberlake Tater Tots.

Dim sum is the specialty at Chi, the new Sunset Boulevard nightspot in the Hyatt Hotel.

Timberlake teamed up with Art and Allan Davis as part owner of Chi, described by the Los Angeles Times as "1930s Shanghai-meets-'Blade Runner'" with indoor and outdoor waterfalls.

He joined the Davis brothers in the venture after visiting their other area clubs. The 22-year-old pop singer is focusing on his musical career, including a solo tour and new 'N Sync album coming out next year, so he'll be a silent partner.

The brothers own three other clubs in the Los Angeles area — A.D., The Lounge and The Gate.

"Justin's been frequenting our clubs for a few years now and we got to meet him and talk to him, and he loved the dim sum idea. He loved the look of the place and wanted to be involved. So we got him involved," Allan Davis said.

■ **NEW YORK** — From "The Monkees" to Broadway's "Aida."

Micky Dolenz, who played drums in the 1960s television pop group, joins the long-running Disney musical Jan. 6 as Zoser, the villainous father of the show's young hero. The 58-year-old Dolenz has played the role in the musical's national tour.

"Aida" undergoes a major cast change next Tuesday when Michelle Williams of Destiny's Child takes over the title role from Toni Braxton. Williams will star in the musical through Jan. 25. Will Chase plays Egyptian captain Radames and Lisa Brescia is Amneris, an Egyptian princess and Aida's rival.

"Aida," which has a score by Elton John and Tim Rice, opened at the Palace Theatre in March 2000.

■ **NEW YORK** — Madonna's second book for children, "Mr. Peabody's Apples" — a story about the power of words and the importance of teachers — is now in bookstores.

"This book was inspired by a nearly 300-year-old story that was told to me by my Kabbalah teacher," Madonna said in a statement. "When I began to write books for children, I decided to share the essence of this story in one of them. ... I hope I have done his story justice."

She gave her first reading of "Mr. Peabody's Apples" Tuesday morning before fourth- through eighth-graders at the Montclair Kimberley Academy, a private day school in Montclair, N.J.

With about 40 students seated at her feet on the stage and more than 300 in the auditorium, she told her listeners — and a throng of cameramen and reporters from the entertainment press — that it was her first reading before a live audience.

"I think it's easier singing for a stadium full of people than this," she said.

Madonna's first book, "The English Roses," published simultaneously around the world on Sept. 15, is a best seller. "Mr. Peabody's Apples," which takes place in 1949 in Happville, USA, is being released in more than 110 countries.

"Yakov and the Seven Thieves," the third of five children's books planned by the 45-year-old pop singer, will be released in April 2004.

New York-based Callaway Arts & Entertainment is the originating publisher. Madonna's books are being distributed in the United States by Penguin Group U.S.

■ **STOCKHOLM, Sweden** — Two months after Foreign Minister Anna Lindh was stabbed to death, a series of postage stamps bearing her likeness were released in her memory.

The stamps were unveiled in a brief ceremony

Tuesday at the Postal Museum in Gamla Stan — Stockholm's Old Town — that was attended by Prime Minister Goeran Persson. Four stamps of different denominations are engraved with Lindh's portrait.

"To release a stamp is a fine way to honor Anna Lindh's memory. She represented peace, environmental commitment and solidarity," said Persson. "These thoughts can now be developed in many letters carrying her stamp."

The total value of the four-stamp series is \$4, but the Postal service added a 51 cent charge that will go to a memorial fund set up in Lindh's name by her Social Democrat political party.

The fund, which works "against all forms of violence, toward democracy and human rights and a sustainable development for a good life," has already received \$640,850 in donations since it was set up in September.

Lindh, 46, was stabbed Sept. 10 while shopping in a department store. Police have arrested a suspect in her killing, 24-year-old Mijailo Mijailovic, but no charges have been filed.

■ **NEW YORK** — Gift baskets for American Music Awards participants will contain almost 150 items, including first-class round-trip airfare, vacation getaways to Jamaica, karaoke machines and gift certificates for laser eye surgery.

The value of the gift baskets is estimated at \$31,000, in honor of the show's 31st anniversary. They were assembled by Steve Stein of Hollywood Connection.

"I understand it's going to take at least two oversized bags for each of them to carry away the 'loot,'" executive producer Dick Clark said in a statement Monday. "Heh, if it's \$31,000 now, I can't wait to see what he comes up with when the show turns 50."

The American Music Awards show will air Sunday on ABC-TV, with comedian Jimmy Kimmel as host. Sheryl Crow, Hilary Duff, Pink, Britney Spears, Kid Rock, Ashanti and Toby Keith are among those scheduled to perform.

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