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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Two dead after plane crashes at Santa Monica Airport

FAA and NTSB investigating crash scene

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
DAILY PRESS STAFF WRITER

A twin-engine plane crashed and burned shortly after take-off 6:30 Tuesday night at the Santa Monica Airport, killing both people on board.

The pilot apparently tried to abort the take-off of the Cessna 340A. The plane crash-landed, skidded 2,000 feet over an embankment and a service road before slamming into a guard rail just east of 23rd Street, said Jill Barnes, a spokeswoman for the Santa Monica Fire Department.

One man and one woman were declared dead at the scene, Barnes said. Their identities were not known at presstime. The charred plane remained on the service road on the west end of the airport, near a residential neighborhood three hours after the crash. It will likely remain there until authorities complete the on-site investigation.

"There was extensive damage to the plane," Barnes said. "It will be a fairly lengthy investigation."

It was unclear to authorities whether the plane ever made it off the ground. Barnes said she was unaware of any communication between the pilot and the control tower.

"There is evidence of heavy braking, so we do know that the pilot did realize something was wrong and was trying to come to a stop," Barnes said.

The plane burst into a fireball that could be seen from the popular Typhoon restaurant, which sits near the beginning of the runway and where 30 to 40 people were having dinner at the time, said manager Jack Griffith.

"We could just see flames," Griffith said.

The fire was quickly extinguished but the airport remained closed Tuesday night as investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration headed to the scene to investigate, said Jim Meloon, an FAA operations officer.

"There is evidence of heavy braking, so we do know that the pilot did realize something was wrong and was trying to come to a stop."

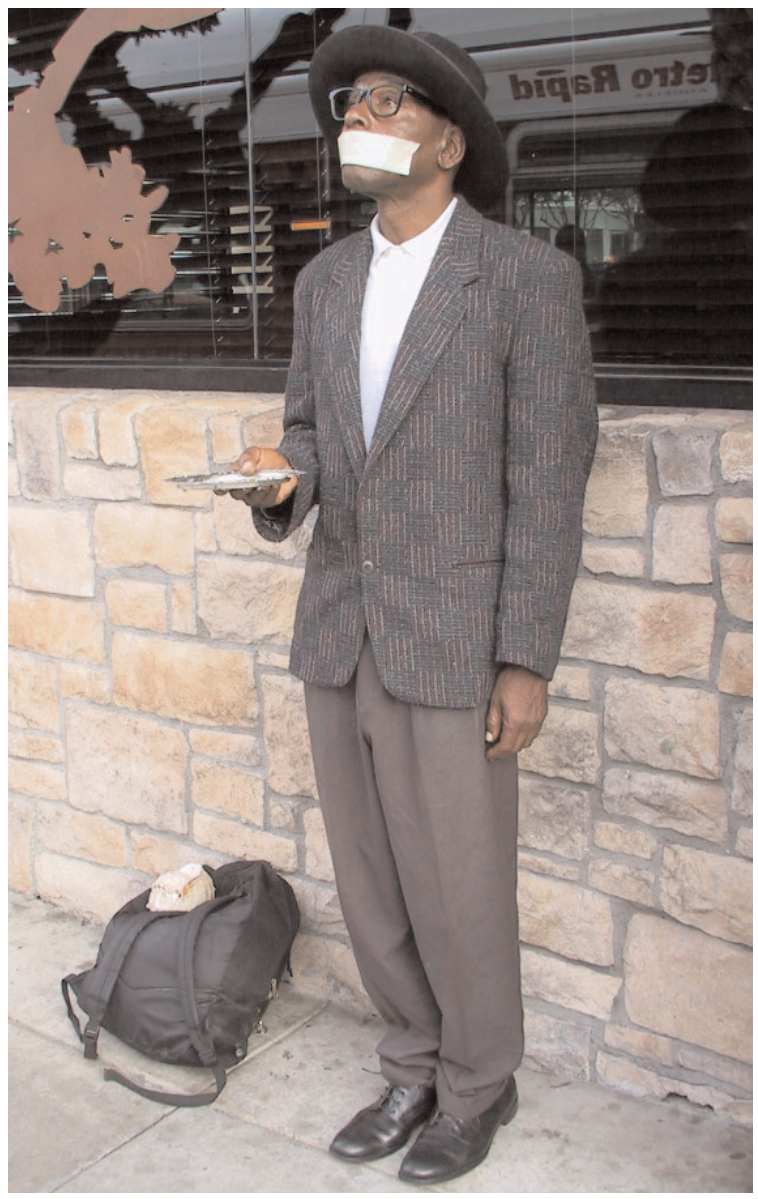
JILL BARNES
Santa Monica Fire Dept. Spokeswoman

The airport sits two miles from Santa Monica State Beach, which is about 12 miles west of downtown Los Angeles.

Two Santa Monica Fire Department engines, five Santa Monica Police cars and the fire department's aircraft and rescue and crash rigs responded to the scene.

— The Associated Press contributed to this report.

No lip service here...



Del Pastrana/Daily Press
One sidewalk solicitor tries a different approach to get cash.

Comedian Paula Poundstone briefly jailed for rehab violation

BY LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent

Paula Poundstone was briefly jailed Tuesday in Santa Monica by a judge because of a relapse during her treatment at a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center where she was sent after pleading no-contest to child endangerment.

The downcast comedian was taken out of the courtroom in handcuffs after she admitted violating probation, then was brought back to court later and released.

"You've been in for half a day and I always let people have a break on the first violation," Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Bernard Kamins told her. But, he added, "To me, this is a relapse rather than just a slip."

Prosecutor Gina Satriano said outside court that Kamins' actions were a common tactic in such cases. Defense attorney Steven Cron said his client was doing well before the violation and he was confident she will successfully complete rehabilitation.

Poundstone spokesman Alan Mayer said later that Poundstone used a medication that had been prescribed to her previously, but was not part of her rehabilitation. Mayer, however, said he did not know the type of drug.

The Malibu-based residential treatment program Promises had sent a report alerting Kamins that Poundstone had a relapse involving unprescribed drugs or medications, according to the prosecutor. The specific substance was not identified in court.

The judge said that even if the medication Poundstone took was a prescription medication she should have notified the program.

He noted that within recent weeks her psychiatrist decided to remove her from all medications including antidepressants, and that there were subsequent reports that she appeared more depressed and had expressed sadness.

Kamins said he wanted to know why the psychiatrist decided to remove Poundstone from the medications if they were helping. The judge said she had made great progress until Monday, when the violation occurred.

"When I first saw you, you had anger," Kamins said. "Your attitude seemed to have gotten a lot better. You were doing great and you're going to do great again."

He said he gave her a taste of jail because "I know you wouldn't want to spend a couple of months back there in a custody environment."

During the earlier court session Kamins would not specify how long he intended to keep the comic in jail, saying it could be two days to a month.

"You are going to admit you are in violation?" he asked her.

"Yes," she said softly.

A sheriff's deputy then placed her in handcuffs as many of her supporters cried.

Poundstone, who has three adopted children and had two foster children until her June 27 arrest in Malibu,

See POUNDSTONE, page 4

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LOCAL

LETTERS

Daily paper? Tears of joy!

Editor:

When I picked up a copy (your first edition!) of the Santa Monica Daily Press, I almost broke out in tears. Tears of joy! Santa Monica has needed a daily paper for years, ever since the Outlook folded.

I want to wish all of you who are undertaking this noble and conscientious endeavor the very, very best. Everyone who lives in, works in or visits in Santa Monica should offer their help and support to make the Santa Monica Daily Press a success.

Jerry Rubin
Venice

(Editor's note: Thanks for the wishes. We are confident we can make it a success, but we need the community to help us. Let us know what we are doing right ... and what we are doing wrong. Any feedback is not only appreciated, but necessary.)

Disabled feel betrayed

Editor:

Santa Monica residents with disabilities have been traveling down a heavily mined and barricaded road for a very long time now. We weren't reaching for the stars. We never had a political agenda. We always brought the city council honey. We only asked the city council to allow us the dignity and respect to speak for ourselves at our own venue of an ongoing commission just like the empowerment of seniors and women commissions. We only wanted to best meet our own needs for our own sakes and for the sakes of our families.

The city council has always delayed us justice and therefore has always denied us justice. While we waited for the city council to act with honor, some of us have died and some of us were injured. As proud Americans, we fought and we died for the freedoms of all Americans and this is how our city council has repaid us. There has been no greater dishonor, no greater shame than when six able members of city councils betrayed us by their disdainful deeds.

On June 12, Santa Monica residents with disabilities and the Disability Task Force, the city council and staff were all aboard the U.S.S. Santa Monica. While on board the U.S.S. Santa Monica we were told by city council that they would act on the recommendations made by the Disabilities Task Force.

Under darkness of night the city council and staff jump ship to a yellow submarine named Abandon All Hope. Without any warning or provocation the six able members of city council launch a cowardly attack by firing underwater six yellow torpedoes that carried explosive warheads filled with their disdain, ignorance and intolerance.

Pro Se
Santa Monica

Please send letters to:
Santa Monica Daily Press: Att. Editor
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csackariason@yahoo.com

WEATHER

Today ... Pretty much the same as yesterday. Possibly drier. Chance of showers, coastal fog and sunshine in late afternoon may occur. Temperatures vary, depending on your location.

Wednesday ... Temperatures remain variable. Chance of intermittent fog, sunshine and showers likely.

Extended ... Variable throughout the week.

QUOTE of the DAY

"Luck favors those who are prepared."
— Life's Little Instruction Book vol.II

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STATE

Shoreline protection a priority in Malibu

Regardless of status, Malibu residents get 'caught in the middle'

BY LEON DROUIN KEITH
Associated Press Writer

MALIBU — When Stacy Keach wants to fix his driveway, he needs the blessing of the state.

That's because the actor lives in Malibu, a 27-mile stretch of shoreline that remains without a coastal development plan a quarter-century after enactment of a California law requiring local governments to have one.

Issues as minor as grading a driveway or adding a room must go through the powerful Coastal Commission, whose members are weary of "Malibu days" filled with big shots carrying small-potatoes requests.

Headaches for the commission — which cut its eyeteeth on Supreme Court-worthy conflicts over protecting, using and developing the coast — have spread to legislators and Gov. Gray Davis, who have ordered the panel to write Malibu's land-use rules for it.

Proposed developments in the city — whose 12,575 residents have a median household income of $107,518 — usually take up close to a day during the commission's monthly meetings. Most are single-home projects.

Celebrity requests frequently appear before commissioners. At a meeting in Los Angeles on Thursday they're scheduled to consider Keach's request to improve his secondary driveway, and a plan by DreamWorks co-founder David Geffen to remodel his house.

If Malibu had a local plan there would be fewer agenda items and less frustration among those seeking project approvals, commission chairwoman Sara Wan said.

The city's building rules are at odds with the Coastal Act at many points, particularly on maximizing public access to beaches, said Wan, a Malibu resident. For instance, the City Council has repeatedly approved developments that are too close to the ocean or block views from Pacific Coast Highway, she said.

When those projects come before the commission, "the poor applicants are sort of caught in the middle" of two unrelated sets of regulations, Wan said.

Because the Legislature and Davis share the job of appointing commissioners, Malibu-development lobbying has hit the top levels of both government branches.

Last year Assembly Speaker Robert Hertzberg, D-Van Nuys, and Senate President Pro Tem John

Burton, D-San Francisco, co-wrote a bill signed by Davis giving the commission until September 2002 to write up and approve a local coastal plan for Malibu. The commission and the city are supposed to work together on the plan after the commission approves a draft version of the land-use portion of it in January.

But cooperation has been absent so far. Malibu officials say commission staff members are making a power grab by producing their own land-use document while ignoring the city's version.

"It was pretty much a lockout of the city ... It's as if there's a blank spot on a map where they started to develop their ideal city."

CHRISTI HOGIN
Malibu City Attorney

"It was pretty much a lockout of the city," City Attorney Christi Hogin said. "It's as if there's a blank spot on a map where they started to develop their ideal city."

The problem is indirectly of Malibu's own making, Hogin said. "We're here because the city has been slow; it has taken upwards of 4 1/2 years to put up (a plan)," she said.

The Coastal Act of 1976 requires oceanside cities and counties to enact tough development laws protecting the coast for wildlife and recreation.

Malibu incorporated in 1991, in part because residents opposed the development plans contained in Los Angeles County's coastal plan. The city has submitted draft land-use plans to the Coastal Commission in the decade since, but failed to submit a document approved by the City Council until after the Legislature ordered the commission to do the job itself.

Representatives of the commission and the city tried to collaborate on a plan at first, but that process broke down over the amount of control the commission assumed.

The commission's draft calls for increased access in some areas and more hotels and other tourist-centered businesses. City officials and some residents say they're worried the changes will overly commercialize the city with visitor services.

"The definition of what visitor-serving very broad, and we're fearful," said Arnold York, publisher of the weekly Malibu Times.



Nick Ut/Associated Press

Singer Jewel, right, and Sean 'P. Diddy' Combs announce the nominations for the 29th annual American Music Awards Tuesday in Beverly Hills. The three-hour American Music Awards will be broadcast by ABC-TV on Jan. 9 from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

Stanford doctor to sell Vegas strip clubs to fund research

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Bad publicity has persuaded a respected cardiovascular surgeon to sell three Las Vegas strip clubs he purchased to finance his medical research.

In an e-mail to the Los Angeles Times, Stanford University researcher Simon Stertzer said the deal's "adverse characterization" in news reports compelled him to sell the all-nude Palomino Club and two neighboring topless clubs.

Stertzer, who performed the first coronary angioplasty in the country at New York's Lenox Hill Hospital in 1978, could not be reached for comment Monday, but his attorney confirmed his decision to sell.

"He went in with really great intentions and everyone made a really big deal out of nothing," attorney Mark C. Nicoletti said. "His reaction has been, 'Why am I getting such a hassle out of it?' I think he'd just had enough."

Stertzer's application to buy the clubs was approved in September. He told the City Council it would not be the first time he used revenue from business investments to pay for research.

In the early 1990s, he co-founded a company that produces medical instruments, then sold it. From the sale, Stertzer donated $2 million to endow a chair at Stanford Medical Center's cardiology division.

The Palomino Club is reportedly the last establishment in the Las Vegas area that is allowed, under a grandfather clause, to offer both totally nude entertainment and alcohol. Stertzer hopes to retain ownership of the five-acre plot on Las Vegas Boulevard that the three clubs occupy, Nicoletti said.

Oracle warns it will miss quarterly expectations

By the Associated Press

Oracle Corp.'s chief executive said the database software giant likely will fall short of Wall Street's earnings estimates for its fiscal second quarter.

Larry Ellison told reporters late Monday at the Comdex trade show that the tough economic environment following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks probably will mean Oracle will miss analysts' earnings expectations of 11 cents per share for the three months ended in November, as compiled

Ellison said he now expects earnings of 9 cents or 10 cents per share.

Shares of Oracle fell 88 cents, or nearly 6 percent, to close at $14.52 in trading Tuesday on the Nasdaq Stock Market.

LOCAL

New businesses may get closer review

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Any business owner in Santa Monica knows that if they violate the conditions of their approval, chances are they aren't going to get too much flak from City Hall.

That's because conditional use permits are rarely enforced and if the business changes hands over the years, the conditions of approval carry over to the next owner. The Santa Monica Planning Commissioners think they can prevent it from happening in the future by putting a "sunset clause" on the approvals, forcing business owners to have their operation reviewed every few years.

"Everyone knows that if they get a conditional use permit they are gold," said Planning Commission Chairman Kelly Olsen. "People can act up and it wouldn't matter."

The issue was raised last week when the commission reviewed an application for a new Japanese restaurant at 424 Wilshire Boulevard. Commissioners recognized that the approval they granted to restaurant owner Nori Kunitomo will carry over to anyone in the future regardless if the nature of the business changes. They considered having Kunitomo come back in three years for review, but decided to let this one go and come up with guidelines that will affect all new businesses across the board.

As part of Kunitomo's approval, he won't be able to dish out Asian cuisine until he finds a place to park. He will have to find 10 parking spaces within 1,000 feet of the restaurant to accommodate his employees and customers.

The lack of downtown parking is not a new issue in Santa Monica which is why the commission spent more than two hours scrutinizing Kunitomo's restaurant, Musha. Because parking has become such a nightmare for both residents and visitors, the city requires on-site parking as a condition of approval for new businesses in the downtown area.

However, the restaurant location doesn't have room for on-site parking, which is why Kunitomo was granted a variance from the city code that mandates all new businesses have on-site parking. Instead, Kunitomo will use leased spaces somewhere near his restaurant.

Howard Robinson, an independent land use consultant hired by Kunitomo, told the commission that if the business has to provide parking on site it could be detrimental to the small operation. Robinson asked the commission to consider going against city code and allow the restaurant to have parking somewhere else — like it has been historically at that location when the Jamaican Cafe occupied the space.

"This is the only alternative that will ensure the opening of Musha," he said. He also laid out a second alternative as a compromise, which would only accommodate the restaurant's six employees.

"This is what is achievable in the real world."

The restaurant's location, a 1,580-square-foot space between Fifth and Fourth Court alley on the south side of Wilshire, has been vacant since the Jamaican Cafe closed up shop in 1998. The city didn't require on-site parking then because at the time there was a surplus of parking in the downtown structures.

Musha, which means "dream house" in Japanese, will serve up Asian cuisine, family style, Kunitomo said. Kunitomo, who owns another Musha restaurant in Torrance, said it is not a typical Japanese restaurant. There will be no tempura teriyaki, no sushi and it will be "reasonably priced."

Several people spoke in favor of the application, saying independently owned restaurants are being replaced with chains, which takes the flavor away in Santa Monica. The building's owner, Bruce Wagner, said the restaurant pays half the rent of similar spaces one block away on the 3rd Street Promenade.

"Many people have told me that it's a problem that there are not enough small, individually owned restaurants here," he said.

Poundstone in trouble

POUNDSTONE, from page 1

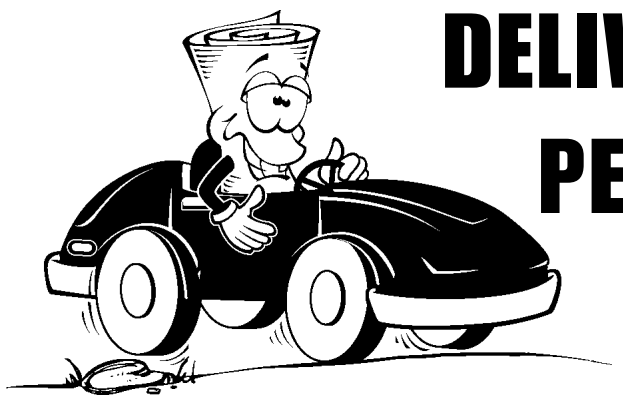
was originally charged with three counts of committing a lewd act on a girl under age 14 and endangering two other girls and two boys.

She pleaded no-contest on Sept. 12 to felony child endangerment and misdemeanor inflicting injury on a child, and the lewd conduct charges were dropped. Poundstone blamed drinking for some of her problems but insisted there was no lewd conduct.

She was sentenced last month to 180 days at Promises, including the 125 days she had already voluntarily spent there.

Poundstone's relationship to the children in the case and the alleged actions that led to the charges were not released by prosecutors. Her attorney has said that in one instance witnesses believed she appeared intoxicated while driving with children.

Cron told Kamins that Poundstone has a performing engagement on Dec. 6, the day after she was to be released from rehabilitation. The judge said she may not be able to do that because he was considering extending her time at Promises.



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INTERNATIONAL

Afghans jump for joy; Taliban rule falters

BY KATHY GANNON
Associated Press Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghans brought their radios out of hiding and played music in the streets, savoring the end of five years of harsh Taliban rule as the northern alliance marched triumphantly into Afghanistan's capital Tuesday. Diplomats sought U.N. help in fashioning a government for the shattered country.

American jets still prowled the skies in the south, seeking out convoys of Taliban fighters retreating toward Kandahar, the Islamic militants' last major stronghold. Strikes also targeted caves where members of terror suspect Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network were thought to be hiding

Alliance troops celebrated the capture of the prize they had been fighting for since they were driven out by the Taliban in 1996. A small number of U.S. troops were on hand to advise them.

The dizzying cascade of events in Afghanistan turned the opposition into the country's chief power overnight — and brought to the forefront the issue of ensuring that it shares power.

The United States and its allies want a government that includes groups the ethnic minorities that make up the alliance and the Pashtuns, the country's largest ethnic group.

The alliance leaders said they had deployed 3,000 security troops across Kabul to bring order — not to occupy it — and insisted they were committed to a broad-based government.

The alliance foreign minister, Abdullah, invited all Afghan factions — except the Taliban — to come to Kabul to negotiate on the country's future. The top U.N. envoy for Afghanistan outlined a plan for a two-year transitional government with a multinational security force.

In Washington, President Bush said the United States was working with the alliance to ensure they "respect the human rights of the people they are liberating" and recognize "that a future government must include a representative from all of Afghanistan."

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said a "small number" of U.S. troops were in Kabul, advising the alliance. He told journalists at the Pentagon that the troops were not enough to police the city or prevent retaliation by the opposition.



Marco Di Lauro/Associated Press

Afghan northern alliance fighters cheer as they ride a tank through Afghanistan's capital Kabul, Tuesday. Afghan opposition fighters rolled into Kabul on Tuesday after Taliban troops slipped away under cover of darkness, leaving the capital without a fight.

Bush said there was "great progress" in the campaign launched Oct. 7 to uproot al-Qaida and punish the Taliban for harboring bin Laden, the chief suspect in the September terror attacks on the United States.

The dizzying cascade of events in Afghanistan turned the opposition into the country's chief power overnight — and brought to the forefront the issue of ensuring that it shares power.

In the streets of Kabul, thousands of people celebrated, honking car horns and ringing bicycle bells. They flouted the strict version of Islamic law imposed by the Taliban that regulated almost every aspect of life, down to banning shaving and music.

"I used to play this at home, but very quietly and then I would check to see if anyone was outside," Abdul Rehman said as he turned up the volume on his cassette tape recorder blaring out the music of his favorite Afghan folk singer.

Zul Gai, the owner of a barber shop lined up with men looking to lose their beards, smiled broadly. "This has been my best business day in many long years," he said.

Most women, however, were too cautious to shed their all-encompassing burqas, unsure what the new rules would be.

Hundreds of northern alliance troops hunted down lingering Taliban and foreigners who came to Afghanistan to join al-Qaida. At least 11 Arabs and Pakistanis were slain and their bodies mutilated.

Alliance fighters roamed the streets in taxis, pickup trucks and cars, brandishing Kalashnikov rifles and grenade launchers. Troops set up roadblocks in neighborhoods where Arabs and Pakistanis lived.

President Bush looks to fill emergency oil reserve

BY H. JOSEF HEBERT
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Amid a world oil glut and declining prices, the United States is moving for the first time to fill its emergency petroleum reserve to its full 700 million-barrel capacity over the next few years.

President Bush on Tuesday directed that the reserve be filled "in a deliberate and cost-effective manner," beginning as soon as possible, to protect against oil supply disruptions.

The shipments to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, a series of Gulf Coast salt domes in Louisiana and Texas, are expected to begin next April and continue into 2003 at up to 130,000 barrels a day, according to the Interior Department.

Administration officials stressed there was no imminent threat of an oil supply interruption and denied the announcement was related to the war on terrorism or growing Middle East tensions.

"There's not any linkage to any kind of specific disruption threat, but we think it's a wise policy,'" Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham told reporters after meeting with the president at the White House.

"Our current oil inventories, and those of our allies who hold strategic stocks, are sufficient to meet any potential near-term disruption in supplies," Bush said in his statement. He said the additional reserves "will strengthen (our) long-term energy security."

"Our current oil inventories, and those of our allies who hold strategic stocks, are sufficient to meet any potential near-term disruption in supplies."

PRESIDENT BUSH

While the amount of diverted oil will be small compared to the total oil market, it sends a signal that the United States wants to stabilize prices by taking some crude out of the market.

Oil prices for future delivery jumped on the news, with December crude rising 44 cents to $21.67 in trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Light crude was $21.82 on the New York spot market Tuesday.

The announcement came a day before oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries were to meet in Vienna, Austria, to decide on production cuts in an attempt to stem the recent slide of world crude prices. The worldwide economic slowdown, exacerbated by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, has resulted in an oil glut, forcing down prices.

The reserve currently has 544 million barrels of oil, which is enough to replace 54 days of oil imports. Created in 1975 after the 1973 Arab oil embargo, the reserve is to be used to counter supply disruptions.

The United States uses about 19 million barrels of oil a day, with a little over half of that coming from imports.

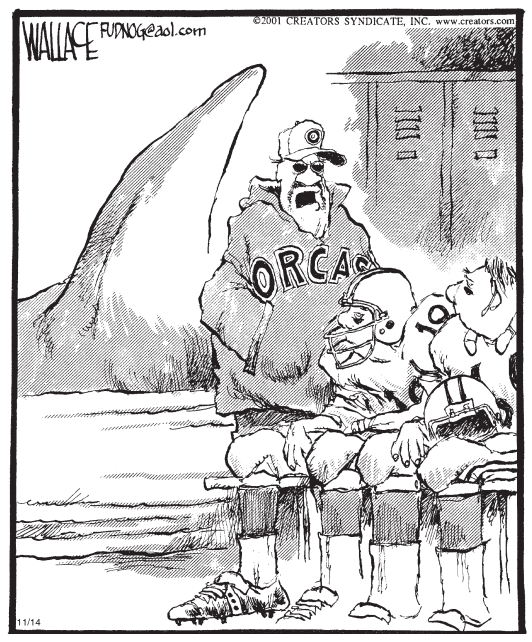
COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



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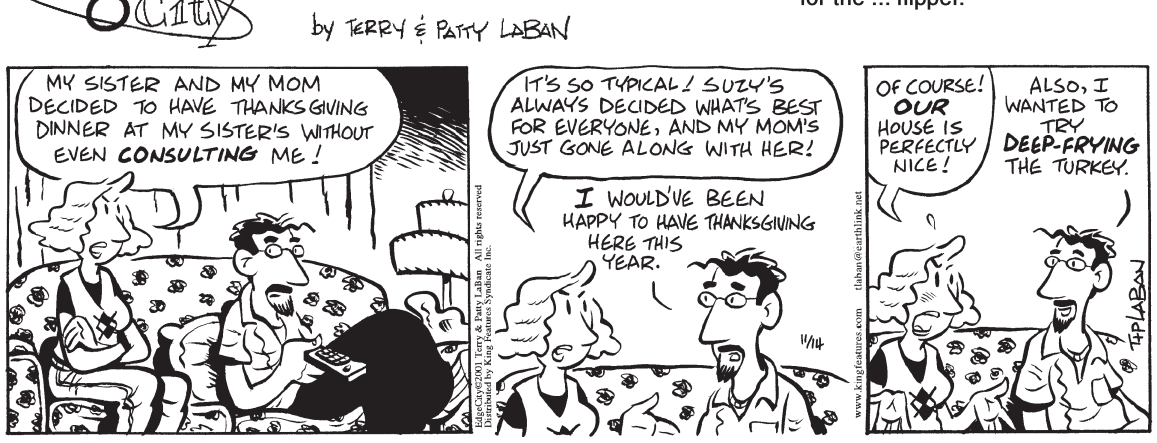
By Russ Wallace



"OK, men, let's get out there and win one for the ... flipper."

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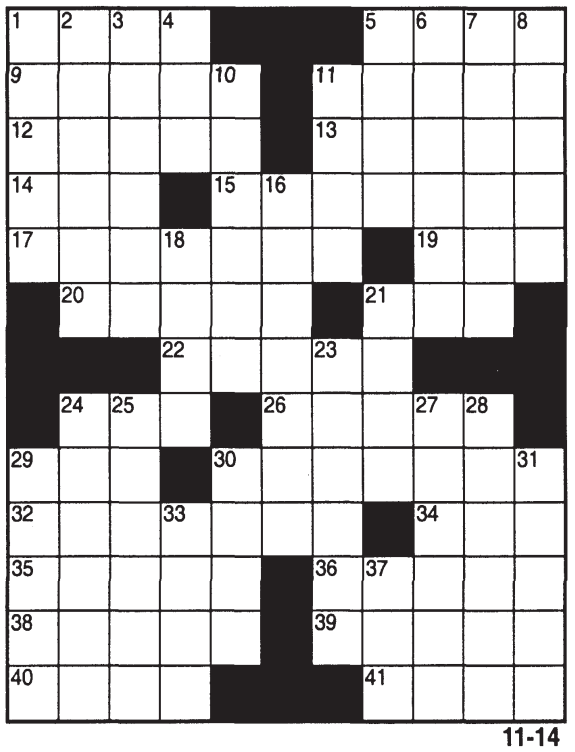
By THOMAS JOSEPH

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30 Simpleton
32 "The Phantom Menace," for one
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37 Soaking spot

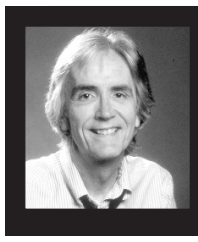
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C	H	E	S	S	B	O	A	R	D	S
A	O	N	E	■	C	O	M	E	U	P
L	E	D	A	■	S	T	E	A	D	Y

Yesterday's answer



11-14

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-454-7377**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Urban Legends Come to Life

An April story from the official newspaper of the People's Republic of China reported that convicted killer Fu Xinrong had indeed had his kidneys illegally harvested after execution, by a company in Nanchang. And in October, a man walked into a Porsche dealership in Palo Alto, Calif., and through smooth-talking and luck, convinced an employee that he was the owner of the $125,000 Turbo 996 that the real owner was scheduled to pick up 20 minutes later. And in an incident reminiscent of a partially made-up June Slate magazine story, two men pleaded guilty in Corpus Christi, Texas, in July to having illegally "fished" for coyotes on federal land by reeling them in with fishing poles baited with deer meat.

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CLASSIFIEDS

Employment

DO YOU care about your community? The Santa Monica Daily Press is looking for local journalists to cover local issues. Please contact Carolyn Sackariason at (310)458-7737 x 102.

GENERAL OFFICE help wanted immediately at the Santa Monica Daily Press. Duties include classified ad taking and data entry, telephone call routing and general office tasks. Apply in person at our offices at 530 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 200 in Santa Monica or call (310)458-7737 x 104.

THE SANTA Monica Daily Press is looking for Graphic Designers. Experience in QuarkXpress, Photoshop required. Part time or full time. Come join a great team in a fun, working environment. Send resumes to the Daily Press, Production Manager, PO Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406-1380.

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SM 1BR, Large, North of Wilshire. Fireplace, patio, appls, prkg. Lndry 1045. 3rd St. (310)390-2765

SM 3 BR, 3BA, two patios. $1,995. Parking available. 10th and Idaho. Available Mid December (310)451-2178

SM: 2 + 2 Remodeled near MGM & Water Gardens. Patio, 1527 Princeton St. #2. $1,550/mo. (310)569-4200.

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VENICE: 2+1 Hardwood floors, 4-unit bldg. Street parking, 52 Paloma. $1,250/mo. (310)390-2765.

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IF YOU can't find the Santa Monica Daily Press, request it! If you would like the Daily Press delivered to your place of business in any of the six major commerical zones, call us at (310)458-7737.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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010	Meetings	250	Wanted	600	Services
020	Legal Notices	300	For Rent	650	Health/Beauty
100	Employment	400	Real Estate		

BACK PAGE

Man steals art exhibit, calling it pornographic and male-bashing; replaces it with U.S. flag

BY JENNIFER HAMILTON
Associated Press Writer

BOULDER, Colo. — A man stole an art display he considered anti-male and pornographic from a public library and left an American flag in its place.

Robert Rowan, 49, said Monday he stole the display that featured 21 brightly colored penises hanging from a clothesline after hearing a report that the library rejected a request by Sen. Ben Nighthorse-Campbell, R-Colo., to remove the display and replace it with a flag.

"We've got guys overseas right now fighting for our freedom and these women are bashing our men."

ROBERT ROWAN
Male Rights Activist

"We've got guys overseas right now fighting for our freedom and these women are bashing our men," Rowan said. "The whole display is a male-bashing deal.

"There's an uproar in my heart. This just doesn't belong here. I have never pulled off a crime before in my entire life and I have a lot of pride for what I did."

Library officials did not return a telephone message seeking comment Monday about the display, which was part of an exhibit recognizing domestic violence awareness month.

Campbell also did not return a message seeking comment.

Representatives of the Boulder County Safehouse, a battered women's shelter that sponsored the exhibit, said it will remain on display without the stolen artwork until Nov. 26.

Police plan to consult with the artist before deciding whether to file charges against Rowan, who gave the stolen artwork to officers on Sunday.

In a statement, artist Susanne Walker said she wants to talk with Rowan before she decides whether to press charges. Rowan said he will not speak with her.

"It makes a joke of the pain and suffering involved in this exhibit," Walker said in a written statement. "If you want to attack me or my artwork, then confront me with discussion — that is the purpose of this type of art."

Even before Rowan's actions, the exhibit was debated in the liberal university town in the foothills 32 miles northwest of Denver.

"Some felt this was really pushing the envelope, but there is also a big concern about censorship, so the piece was allowed to go up," police spokeswoman Jennifer Bray said.

Library officials also were criticized when officials declined to hang a 10-by-15-foot American flag in the lobby, saying it was too big. A smaller flag was displayed instead.

Barry Satlow of the American Civil Liberties Union of Boulder County said the theft violated the artist's free speech as well as the public's right to view her expressions.

"Since when are human body parts obscene? Are arms and legs obscene?" he asked. "It certainly has redeeming social value and that's the standard."

Rowan, a subcontractor, said he supports the shelter's work, but should have been more sensitive to families and children who could see the display.

"Everybody's afraid of taking away the freedom of speech, but there's two sides of the coin when it comes to pornography," Rowan said. "Rape is horrific, but so is exposing children to pornography."

'Bin Laden Bomb Song'

Gaining popularity on airwaves

By the Associated Press

A patriotism-fueled parody song written by a Las Vegas radio team is getting air time on more than 100 U.S. radio stations and mass circulation on the Internet.

"The Bin Laden Bomb Song," sung to the tune of Harry Belafonte's calypso-pop classic "The Banana Boat Song," was written by KOMP-FM's morning show crew about a week after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Two months later, cartoon versions of a gun-toting Bin Laden are running and ducking for cover as an animated version of Secretary of State Colin Powell sings: "Come Mr. Taliban, hand over Bin Laden. ... Colin Powell going to bomb his home." President Bush accompanies him on a large drum.

One member of the team said the video has been downloaded more than 10 million times.

"I never thought it would be this big," longtime KOMP-FM morning show disc jockey Craig Williams told The Associated Press Monday. "It's been e-mailed all over the world. We're getting played in Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, France and Germany."



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