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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Two teens dead after tragic party

Santa Monica High School student stabbed; suspect collapses during police questioning

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

A 17-year-old Los Angeles girl died after passing out while under interrogation by police Sunday about her role in the death of a Santa Monica High School sophomore.

The girl, identified by the Los Angeles Coroner's Department as Katrina Sarkissian, was rushed to UCLA Medical Center, where she was pronounced dead, possibly of a drug overdose, sources said.

Sarkissian's death capped a tragic sequence of events, which began Saturday night with the killing of Deanna Maran, 15, at a party in Westwood on the 900 block of Thayer Avenue.

The tragedy began after Maran found a 15-year-old girl destroying property at the house where the party was held and told her to stop, according to sources. Maran and the 15-year-old fought after the confrontation, though partygoers broke it up, police said.

However, the unidentified 15-year-old was not yet satisfied, sources suggested.

"The girl realized that she couldn't take Deanna on by herself," said a friend of Maran's who declined to

give her name.

The 15-year-old suspect then reportedly left the party.

"Deanna was trying to get out of there while they left but she couldn't find a ride," the student said, adding that Maran didn't start the fight and was only protecting herself.

The 15-year-old later returned with friends, according to sources. They allegedly pinned Maran down and stabbed her at about 10:30 p.m., according to police and sources. It is unclear why no one at the party broke up the deadly fight or what weapon was used.

Instead of calling for an ambulance, Maran's friends drove her to Santa Monica Hospital where she was pronounced dead at 12:15 a.m. Sunday.

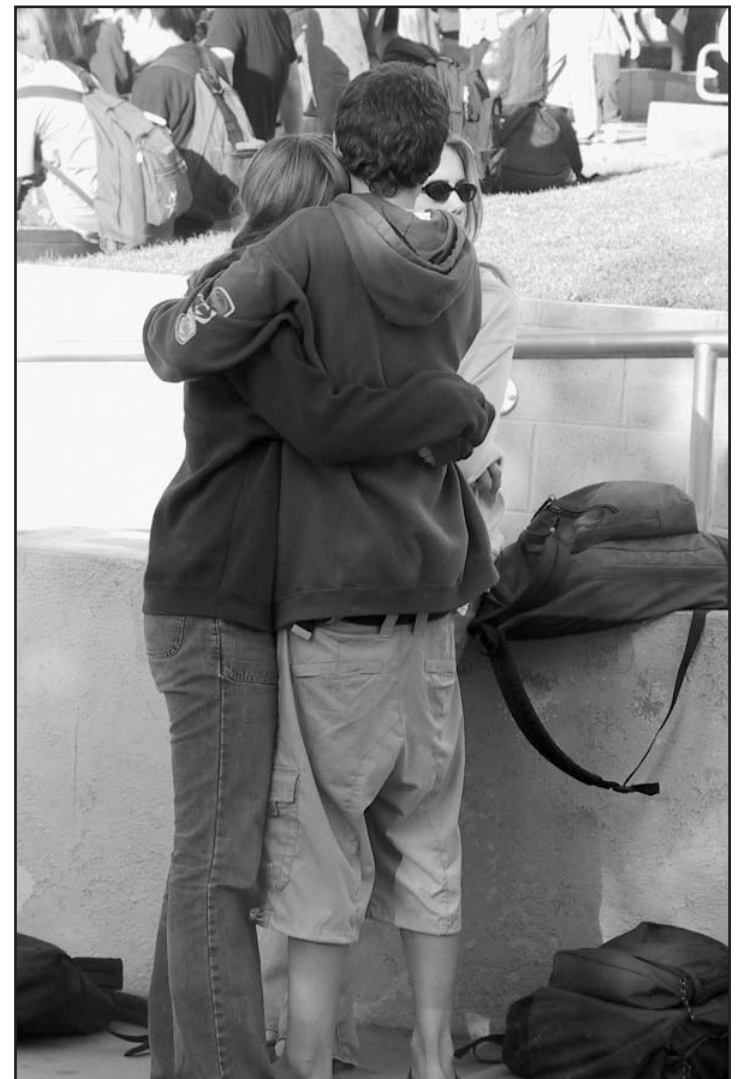
Sarkissian is reportedly the 15-year-old's sister and is suspected of stabbing Maran, sources said.

Sarkissian and the 15-year-old were arrested about 2 p.m. Sunday. During questioning, Sarkissian lost consciousness and was rushed to UCLA Medical Center, where she was pronounced dead at 5:26 p.m.,



Deanna Maran

See STABBING, page 3



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Santa Monica high school students hug after school Monday. Students are grieving over the loss of their classmate, Deanna Maran, who was killed at a party Saturday night.

Woman's identity remains unclear



Photo courtesy Santa Monica Police Dept. Police are trying to determine this woman's identity but have so far been unsuccessful. Contact detective W.S. Brown at (310) 458-8437 with any information about her.

After seven months, she is still unidentified

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Special to the Daily Press

There is a woman walking around town that has no clue who she is.

For the past seven months Santa Monica Police detectives, Los Angeles County doctors and psychologists have been trying to help a woman find her identity. Earlier this year, she walked into the Crocodile Cafe on Ocean Avenue and collapsed.

The woman, who is suffering from amnesia, cannot recall who she is or any events prior to waking into the hospital last March. Detectives say they have run her fingerprints and have checked the missing per-

sons lists, but they have turned up nothing so far.

"We're working closely with the California Department of Justice to sort through hundreds of possible leads," said Santa Monica Detective W.S. Brown. "We also sent numerous teletypes to numerous agencies with her description and checked her fingerprints through California (state police) and the FBI but nothing has worked out."

Police describe the woman as about 60 years old, with graying brown hair and hazel eyes. She is 5 feet 3 inches tall, and weighs 170 pounds. She is missing her upper and lower teeth, but does not appear to be homeless.

"Normal homeless are dirty and disheveled," said Brown. "But she was clean and well-kept and had

See AMNESIA, page 3

Cell phone allows express espresso

By The Associated Press

BELLEVUE, Wash. — Starbucks is moving espresso into the express lane.

The company is testing a system that allows coffee lovers to bypass long lines by accepting advance, prepaid orders by cell phone.

With Starbucks Express, customers set up an account online and create a menu of choices that can be keyed into a cell phone. A minimum of \$20 must be prepaid on a credit card.

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Starbucks suggests customers call in about three or four minutes ahead, so their drinks will still be hot.

The new system is being tested through January at 11 Starbucks stores in the affluent eastern Seattle suburbs of Bellevue, Redmond and Kirkland.

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HOROSCOPES

Share your good feelings with family, Scorpio

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

***** Discuss a long-term desire in order to find out the correct path to follow. Think in terms of realization. You could be surprised by how easily this dream could come true. Friends back you and join in with excitement. Unexpected news jolts you. Reflect. Don’t react. Tonight: Follow your pals.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

***** You feel good, and you display this energy through your willingness to pitch in and help others. Be careful with a boss or co-worker who wants more than camaraderie. Your friendly ways easily could be misunderstood. Proceed with caution. Tonight: Work late.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

***** Fortunately, you make money easily since you spend it even more easily! Stop and buy something special for the Thanksgiving feast. Your thoughtfulness always makes you a welcome guest. Unexpected news could change your plans. Remember to go with the flow. Tonight: Check out your favorite music store.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

***** Deal with another’s wild ideas directly. The two of you could be dangerous once you start brainstorming. You might be taken aback by another’s responsiveness. Think twice before accepting an offer. Make sure you’re both speaking the same language. Tonight: Let spontaneity guide you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

***** Your instincts prevail with a family member or someone close to you. Reveal your feelings, and someone will respond in kind. A partner or associate delights you with wonderful news. Verify what you “think” you hear, as this person might mean something else. Tonight: Go along with a request.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

***** Another lets you know how special you are, setting the mood for a close-to-perfect day. You might consider doing something special for those who work with you. Discuss ways of clearing out a project more effectively. Brainstorm. Tonight: Confirm plans before charging out the door.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

***** When someone balks, know that you’ve hit a trigger issue. Keep pushing, and before you know it, you will have pandemonium. Recognize your limits. Focus on work and on clearing out excessive correspondence. You beam as another praises your work or performance. Tonight: Use humor to ease another through a problem.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

***** News from a distance cheers you up, putting a new slant on up-and-coming events. Share your good feelings with a family member. Deal with a change in plans without reacting. Work with others. Your flexibility surprises even you. Tonight: Head on home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

***** Another pats you on your back. Though you might want to “crow” about the news, stay mum for now. You’re inspired by events. Return calls with an eye to completing your work. Structure your day knowing it is a short workweek. Tonight: Share your good mood.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

***** Another counts on you. The way to express your caring with this person is through actions rather than words. When at a meeting, express your concerns in a positive, upbeat manner. Confirm financial details. A costly misunderstanding could occur. Tonight: Treat yourself well.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

***** Beam sunshine into co-workers’ lives. Bring chocolate turkeys or cookies to work. Tell those special people how thankful you are to have them in your life. Infuse others’ lives with ideas and a more spiritual sense of direction. With all the good vibes, it might be difficult to keep your nose to the grindstone. Tonight: Laugh off confusion.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

*** A budding relationship draws your attention. You don’t need to share every detail, though you might share your good mood. Don’t be upset when someone reverses gears and does the unexpected. Say little, but listen big time! Your instincts lead you. Tonight: Play it low-key.



WEATHER

Today ... Partly cloudy with a high of 74°F — Winds from the North Northwest at 7mph

Tonight ... Low of 52°F — Winds from the Northeast at 3mph



QUOTE of the DAY

“I used to care but things have changed.” — Bob Dylan

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Sophomore was honor student, athlete at Samohi

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police said. The 15-year-old is being held in the West Los Angeles Jail.

Sarkissian may have overdosed on sleeping pills, school officials and students said. However, police would not confirm the cause of her death, pending an autopsy by the Los Angeles County Coroner's Department.

Maran was an honor student and a member of the school's volleyball, track and water polo teams.

"She had a smile that would light up the night," said Harriet Maran, her mother. "She got killed because she wanted a girl to behave ... It shouldn't have happened. They shouldn't raise monsters like this."

In an effort to help the grieving students understand how such a tragic loss could have happened, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District brought in 20 outside counselors to aid the district's own counseling staff. Santa Monica High School has 3,380 students.

A friend of Maran's who declined to give her name said three rooms were filled with students who sought counseling. She was one of them.

"Everyone is having a hard time," she said. "She was a really nice person ... I talked to a

counselor and it gave us a chance to express our feelings about it."

When school let out Monday shortly after 3 p.m. students consoled each other as they had all day, hugging, while some speculated on the events that led to the murder of their classmate.

"The general mood is students are sad," said Santa Monica High School Co-principal

Dr. Mark Kelly. "They are working to support each other. They are finding comfort in each other ... It hurts a lot and that's the hard part."

"The effects are longer than then

immediate."

School district superintendent John Deasy said he was notified of Maran's death on Sunday. He spent time with her parents that afternoon and quickly organized the school's staff to go into response mode.

A meeting for parents and faculty will be held today at 7:30 p.m. in the high school's cafeteria. Deasy said the family plans to have a private memorial for Maran but the school will hold a public service.

"Plans are underway for a memorial to be held at school next Monday after school," he said.

"She had a smile that would light up the night."

— HARRIET MARAN
Victim's mother



Courtesy photo

Deanna Maran, a sophomore at Santa Monica High School, was stabbed to death at a party Saturday night in Westwood. She was a member of the track, water polo and volleyball teams.

Al Gore named vice chairman of LA financial services firm

BY WILL LESTER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Al Gore has accepted the job of vice chairman of a Los Angeles-based financial services holding company. The former vice president will help the firm find investments overseas as well as private-equity investments in biotechnology and information technology.

Gore will add the new job at Metropolitan West Financial to his other duties as college professor, guest speaker and writing a book with his wife Tipper about the American family.

That crowded resume doesn't address the biggest pending question about the former vice president and 2000 Democratic presidential nominee — his political future.

"He hasn't made any decisions about campaigns in his future and that's still true today," Gore spokeswoman Kiki McLean said Monday. Gore has formed a political action committee and has made trips to Iowa and New Hampshire to talk with old friends and political allies this fall.

But associates say he hasn't made a decision about whether he will run for president even though he's taking steps to keep his options open.

Gore will not be moving to Los Angeles, but will travel between New York, Los Angeles, his teaching jobs in Tennessee and his home in the Virginia suburbs of Washington.

He will continue to serve as a research professor focusing on family-centered community building at the University of California-Los Angeles, and will continue to teach classes on the subject at Middle Tennessee State University and Fisk University, both in his home state of Tennessee.

Gore said in a statement that he has worked on business and economic issues "from the perspective of a public servant engaged in public policy and I am eager to learn more about business as an active executive."

"He's got to have a job."

— DWIGHT MORRIS
Campaign Study Group

the company.

Metwest is a fast-growing firm that is not widely known outside the financial community, though it manages just over \$51 billion in assets through several affiliates. It is one of the biggest securities lenders in the U.S.

The company was founded almost a decade ago when Richard Hollander, who once headed a Drexel Burnham Lambert investment-grade bond sales team on the West Coast, bought a securities lending branch of Security Pacific Bank soon after its merger with Bank of America.

Hollander said he met Gore last spring at a lunch with mutual friends and liked what he heard from him.

"We got to know him better and had a strong feeling about his intellect and integrity," Hollander said.

Metwest has clients such as the

California Public Employees Retirement System, Boeing Employees Federal Credit Union, Florida state board of administration and Microsoft. Several managers of the firm are former California state officials.

Metwest has rapidly grown as it acquired other firms that manage stocks and bonds and provide wealth management advice to retired airline pilots.

Dwight Morris of the nonpartisan Campaign Study Group said politicians who join private firms and later come back to politics can face difficult decisions.

"He's got to have a job," Morris said.

"I don't think people would assume he would leave government and never work again ... What the public would expect, should he decide to run for president, is that he divest himself of any interests in the company before running for office."

Morris noted the example of Vice President Cheney, an executive with Halliburton Co., a Dallas-based energy services company. When Cheney was picked as the vice presidential candidate, questions were raised about the company's financial dealings with government, company policies and Cheney's stock holdings. But Morris noted: "The fallout for Cheney lasted a short time."

Woman does not appear to be homeless

AMNESIA, from page 1

showered."

The woman also had the characteristics of being a smoker, detectives say, but she neither remembered smoking nor went through nicotine withdrawal. She also is diabetic and will have to undergo eye surgery from complications of the disease.

Currently, she is staying at the Pasadena Residential Care Facility, where doctors are trying to help her regain her memory.

"She's under therapy right now. They take her on walks and things to

help her remember," Brown said. "But we believe she either had a bad experience or incident downtown on Alvarado Street."

Steve Van Singel, administrator of the Pasadena Residential Care Facility, said the woman declined to be interviewed and did not want any publicity right now.

"The patient is concerned because she has some eye surgery coming up, and she would prefer for this (story) to take place after the first of the year," said Van Singel. "She is under a great deal of pressure and stress right now."

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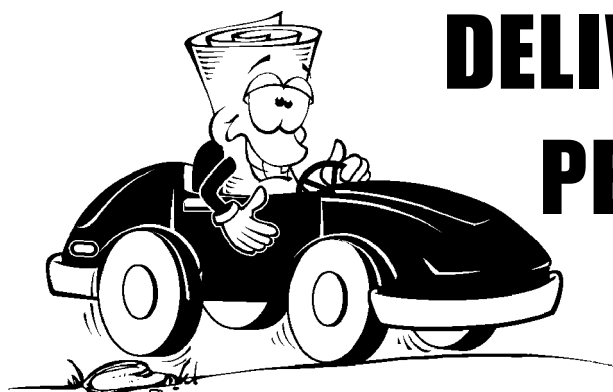
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STATE

'We've got to do things different'

By the Associated Press

PALO ALTO, Calif. — The contentious \$23.1 billion acquisition of Compaq Computer Corp. is the best way for Hewlett-Packard Co. to improve the economics of its computer and printer businesses and solve other lingering problems, an HP director said.

"I don't see us getting there any other way," director Richard Hackborn told HP's 86,000 employees in a videotaped address that was transcribed for an internal Web site and filed Monday with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"We've looked at it from a number of different angles. Could we do more inside? Could we do something with some other company? And nothing comes across as clearly as this merger with Compaq."

Hackborn, a longtime HP employee, preceded Carly Fiorina as chairman.

Without once mentioning Fiorina by name, Hackborn denied that her team has disregarded the worker-friendly "HP Way" of founders William Hewlett and David Packard.

Sons of both men — including HP board member Walter Hewlett — have said on behalf of family interests with more than 7 percent of HP stock that they oppose the Compaq merger. Packard's son was critical of HP's "reinvention" strategy and its need for layoffs.

"With or without the merger, we've got to do things different," Hackborn said. "There's no way in my view that the company can stay the same — let alone go back — and be the kind of company that I personally think Bill and Dave would be proud of."

HP shares rose 5 cents Monday to \$21.55 on the New York Stock Exchange, where Compaq also gained 5 cents to \$10.35.

Financier pleads guilty to fraud

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Italian financier Florio Fiorini pleaded guilty Monday in a \$1.5 billion fraud case involving the 1990 takeover of MGM studios.

Fiorini, 60, briefly appeared in federal court to enter pleas to a charge of conspiracy and two counts each of securities fraud and filing false reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Under a plea bargain, he will be sentenced to 41 months in prison, ordered to pay a \$100,000 fine and be barred from the United States for 10 years.

First, though, he will be sent back to Italy within 45 days to face criminal charges. He will serve his U.S. sentence after completing any sentence received there.

In 1998 a federal grand jury in Los Angeles charged Fiorini and financier Giancarlo Parretti with fraud in the purchase of MGM and the 1989 purchase of The Cannon Group Inc., an independent film studio.

Parretti, 59, remains in Italy fighting extradition.

Prosecutors contended that Parretti and

Fiorini relied on a complex web of falsified financial records and overseas shell companies to conceal that they actually were borrowing part of the purchase price from the French bank Credit Lyonnais. Once they got MGM and Cannon, they left creditors unpaid and transferred assets overseas.

MGM and Cannon were both taken over by Credit Lyonnais in 1992 and renamed Pathe Communications. Pathe, which exists as a legal entity but is no longer in the film business, pleaded guilty to filing false reports to federal regulators.

MGM, already struggling before Parretti took over, was nearly destroyed. Ultimately, Credit Lyonnais losses reached \$2 billion.

Former MGM owner Kirk Kerkorian later bought the studio back after Credit Lyonnais seized control from Parretti, who was then chairman.

In a separate case, state and federal authorities have accused the bank — one of France's largest — of illegally acquiring the assets of California's largest failed insurer, Executive Life Insurance Co.

His lawyer has said Fiorini will cooperate with the government in that case.

Edison provides fiscal guidance for 2001

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Edison International Inc., parent of troubled utility Southern California Edison, said Monday it expected to report 2001 earnings of between \$1.27 and \$1.30 per share before one-time charges.

The company also said an agreement it has reached to pay debts owed to banks precludes it from paying other creditors earlier. Last week, CalEnergy, a renewable energy generator, sued SoCal Edison, saying the utility should pay \$100 million it owes the company from current cash.

Including one-time write offs relating to its settlement of a federal lawsuit against the California Public Utilities Commission and the sale of assets in the United Kingdom, Edison said it would report a loss for the year.

In its latest earnings report, for the third quarter ended Sept. 30, Edison reported a loss of \$413 million, or \$3.47 per share, compared to net income of \$360 million, or \$1.81 per share, in the same quarter last year. For the nine months ending Sept. 30, Edison reported a loss of \$1.13 billion, or \$3.47 per share.

For the fiscal year 2002, Edison said

earnings should be between \$1.50 and \$1.60 per share before special charges.

In a conference call with investors, Edison chief financial officer Ted Craver said 2002 "is expected to be a rebuilding year and a year to create a solid foundation for growth going forward."

Craver said Edison International has net cash on hand of \$2.25 billion and debts of \$5.5 billion.

Edison has said it wants to pay all its debts in one "big bang" sometime before the end of next March. In Monday's call, Craver said the company committed to that timetable in a pact with a group of banks that have agreed to extend lines of credit and a forbearance agreement to March 29.

"We spent quite a bit of time reviewing big bang payments, understanding we would treat all creditors equally and would pay the banks at the same time we clear all other defaults and arrears," Craver said.

Craver said renewable energy providers are asking for partial payment sooner and also want to be paid a fixed rate sooner than the June date proposed by Edison.

NATIONAL



Hunt for Osama bin Laden intensifies

More troops hit the ground

BY ROBERT BURNS

AP Military Writer

WASHINGTON — More U.S. commandos have been put on the ground in Afghanistan to help in the hunt for Osama bin Laden, the Pentagon said Monday.

And American planes pounded Taliban front lines just outside the city of Kunduz, where Taliban and al-Qaida forces have been holding out for days as the rest of the north has fallen to opposition forces.

With U.S. bombs still falling, the Taliban regime cracking and Afghan opposition forces rising, Bush administration officials say chances of finding bin Laden are improving.

Pentagon spokeswoman Victoria Clarke said Monday that more American troops were sent Friday into the country's south, where special operations forces have been gathering intelligence and setting up roadblocks to try to catch bin Laden and fleeing Taliban. There are a few hundred Americans now on the ground throughout the country, she said.

"We're beginning to narrow his possibilities for hiding," Condoleezza Rice, President Bush's national security adviser, said Sunday.

In separate television interviews, Rice and other officials said bin Laden is on the run, with little chance of gaining safe

haven in neighboring countries if he were to escape Afghanistan.

"It's getting harder for him to hide as more and more territory is removed from Taliban control," Secretary of State Colin Powell said on ABC's "This Week." "I don't think there's any country in the region that would be anxious to give him guest privileges if he showed up."

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul

areas under Taliban control.

As U.S. bombing continued Sunday in the Kandahar area in southern Afghanistan and the Kunduz area in the north, the Pentagon said 75 strike aircraft had participated in Saturday's attacks in six target areas near Kabul. It said tunnels and caves used by Taliban and al-Qaida leaders were among Saturday's targets.

Powell said the CIA has been doing

"It's getting harder for him to hide as more and more territory is removed from Taliban control. I don't think there's any country in the region that would be anxious to give him guest privileges if he showed up."

— COLIN POWELL
Secretary of State

Wolfowitz said bin Laden was "in very great danger" of being killed or captured.

"This is a man on the run who's doing his best to hide," Wolfowitz told CBS' "Face the Nation."

All three administration officials said the United States has no reason to believe bin Laden has fled Afghanistan.

The Taliban's envoy to Pakistan said Saturday that bin Laden had left Afghanistan, but that has not been substantiated. Later, the diplomat said he meant only that bin Laden was outside

"some rather splendid work with respect to our activities in Afghanistan, working alongside our military forces that are inside in Afghanistan."

The Washington Post reported Sunday the CIA has paramilitary forces in Afghanistan; Powell would not confirm that.

"I think we've got a very fine linkup between our intelligence assets, our military assets, all within the framework of a good political and military strategy," Powell said. "And it's now starting to

show rather significant results."

If bin Laden were to flee Afghanistan, the United States would keep up the hunt, Wolfowitz said.

"We are going to continue pursuing him," he said. "Let's also remember, we're going to continue pursuing the entire al-Qaida network, which is in 60 countries, not just Afghanistan and, worst of all, here in the United States. ... This is a campaign against all the global terrorist networks and the states that support terrorism."

Powell said no country on the periphery of Afghanistan, including China, would give bin Laden a haven.

"I don't think this fellow is going to be welcome anywhere," the secretary said. "He is an outcast. He is a murderer, he's a terrorist. ... He is on the run, just as the president said he would be. And we will get him."

Rice cautioned against assuming that the military successes in Afghanistan over the past week mean the United States has met its main objective.

"This may take a while," she said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Rice also left open the possibility that Iraq could become a target in Bush's war on terrorism.

"We do not need the events of Sept. 11 to tell us that (Saddam Hussein) is a very dangerous man who is a threat to his own people, a threat to the region and a threat to us because he is determined to acquire weapons of mass destruction," she said.

Experts say homeless numbers burgeoning in U.S. cities

BY DONNA DE LA CRUZ

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — A lack of affordable housing and economic woes that have worsened since Sept. 11 have sent the homeless population in some of the nation's largest cities climbing, experts say.

There are now nearly 30,000 homeless adults and children in New York City shelters — an all-time high, the Coalition for the Homeless said Monday.

New York lost nearly 80,000 jobs following the World Trade Center attack, and many people have turned to soup kitchens and food pantries.

"The number of people coming here was rather dramatic after the 11th of September," said Clyde Kuemmerle, a programs coordinator for Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen in Manhattan who estimated the increase in the hundreds.

The nation's largest city isn't alone. San Francisco, Los Angeles and Boston are also seeing more homeless, said Steve Berg, spokesman for the National Alliance to End Homelessness. He warned that additional job losses may add to the problems.

Last week, the Labor Department said the number of laid-off workers drawing jobless benefits had reached an 18-year high. The nation's unemployment rate soared to 5.4 percent in October and companies eliminated 415,000 jobs, the biggest one-month drop in 21 years.

Nationwide, the homeless numbers are grim.

A March 2000 survey by the Census Bureau found 280,527 homeless people around the country. The bureau reported that on the first day of the three-day survey, 170,706 people were in homeless and emergency shelters

— including 59,000 combined in New York and California.

New York homeless shelter resident Christina Anderson, a mother of four children ages 5 months to 15 years, fell behind on her \$700 monthly rent. Then she started missing work because she lacked child care and because of frequent court appearances related to her evic-

"The number of people coming here was rather dramatic after the 11th of September."

— CLYDE KUEMMERLE
Programs coordinator
Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen in Manhattan

tion. She said she was fired from her \$21,000-a-year job at the state Department of Motor Vehicles.

"It's very hard on my children," Anderson said at a news conference held by the homeless coalition. "I feel like they've experienced separation anxiety because I have had to ask family members to help house them."

Like Anderson, shelter resident Joseph Franklin wants a job and a place to live. But it's proven to be a tough task.

"I'm running into all kinds of closed doors," Franklin said. "At times, when people look at us and sometimes think we could do a little bit better, it's not our fault. The help is not there."

Housing families like Anderson's costs the city \$3,000 a month; it's a little less to shelter single homeless adults, said Patrick Markee, the coalition's senior policy analyst.

Markee called on the city to expand programs that provide emergency grants to keep at-risk families in their homes. But he said the biggest problem is a lack of affordable housing.

The number of homeless people has steadily increased in New York since early 1998; last month, the shelter census reached 29,498 adults and children. Nearly 6,600 families live in shelters and hotels each night.

Markee estimated that thousands more are on the streets.

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said the homeless shelter population is higher than it has been in the past but said he didn't know if it was at record levels.

"It's not quite over capacity yet, so we're going to have to expand the emergency system to make sure we don't get there," he said. "The emphasis is going to have to be on making sure the system expands to fit the need, and maybe some of that need will subside as we move farther away from Sept. 11."

James Berger was one of hundreds of people who ate at Holy Apostles on Monday. He has been getting some of his meals from soup kitchens since he lost his janitorial job over the summer.

Berger has been able to share a two-bedroom apartment with six other people by doing odd jobs, but that leaves little money for food.

"A good job with a good salary is hard to come by these days," Berger said. "People who complain about their jobs and the long hours should realize how lucky they are."

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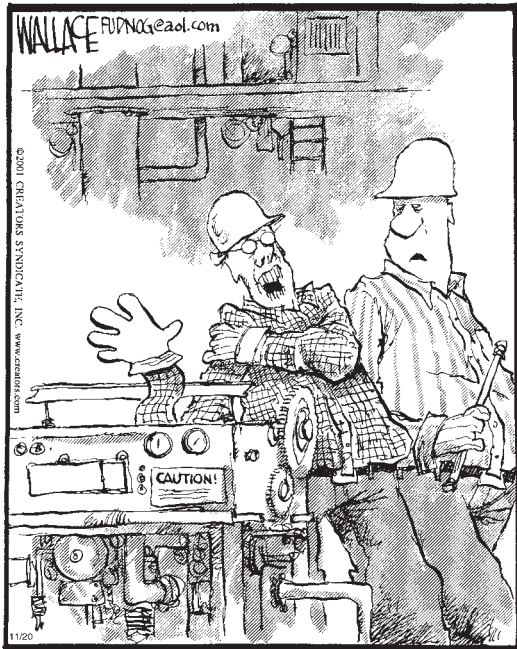


COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



"Ohhh ... I'd put some ice on that ... or heat ... I can never remember."



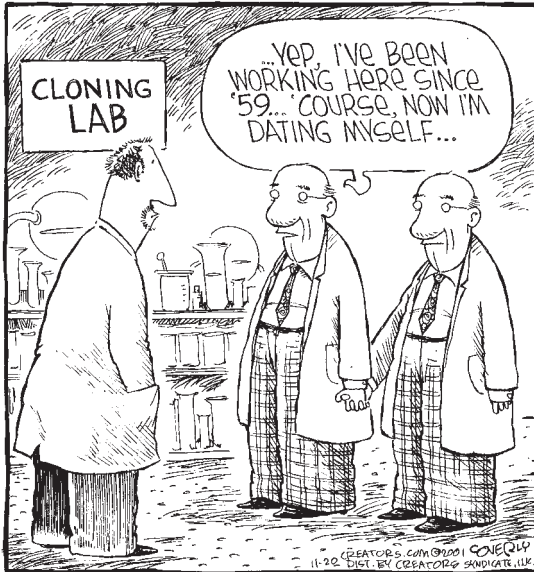
by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



Reality Check® By Dave Whammond



Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

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- 18 Ice units
- 20 Sports summary
- 23 To date
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- 28 Pleasant
- 29 Lone Star State resident
- 31 Full of caffeine, perhaps
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- 34 Bro's sibling
- 37 Cribbage need
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- 44 Be patient for
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- 3 Dark shade of 26-Down
- 4 Moose's cousin
- 5 Increase
- 6 Leg ends
- 7 Took the title
- 8 Tag sale proviso
- 9 Teeming
- 10 Comic Carey
- 14 Computer key
- 18 Barge site
- 19 Kind of boom
- 20 Scoundrel
- 21 Eden name
- 22 Crew member
- 24 Evergreen tree
- 25 Top card
- 26 Primary color
- 30 Apartment rule
- 31 Native hut
- 33 Obtain

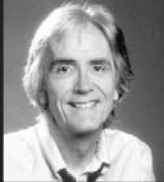
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Yesterday's answer

- 21 Eden name
- 22 Crew member
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11-20



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Transsexuals in the Mainstream

A judge rejected both the ex-wife's and the biological (from-the-womb) son's demands for the ashes of the late Patrick (formerly Pauline) Corn, and disposed of them according to the directions in Corn's will (Monticello, Ind., October). And former police captain Scott Cote said he would help prosecutors and testify about his estranged wife's worker-compensation fraud scheme but would only do so as Stacey Cote, his new identity (Miami, September). And Australia's Green party was represented in November elections in a Melbourne district by candidate Tony Briffa, 31, an open hermaphrodite who recently began living as a man.

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BACK PAGE

Parisians being told to shed their pride and scoop it up

BY KIM HOUSEGO

Associated Press Writer

PARIS — Parisians out for a walk with their dogs are stumbling across an unexpected sight these days: city workers handing out bright green canvas pouches with plastic bags stuffed inside.

"I love my neighborhood — I scoop it up," the bags say.

Pooper-scoopers have come to Paris.

As any tourist knows, the French capital is notorious for dog excrement littering its sidewalks and streets — and for letting an estimated 200,000 dog owners get away with it. Many Parisians see it as acceptable to let their pets do their business wherever they fancy, then just walk away.

"I have developed a sixth sense for navigating through a minefield" of droppings, says Karen Sharpe, a Californian who settled in Paris a year and half ago.

But with the election of a new mayor, the Socialist Bertrand Delanoë, a fresh new breeze is blowing through City Hall. Officials say they are less tolerant of the 16 tons of excrement dumped on the streets every day. The annual cleanup bill is \$10 million.

They recently launched an initiative to make dog owners aware of their responsibilities, setting up 100 free plastic bag dispensers around the city.

All this comes before a new law takes effect Jan. 1 expanding the current ban against fouling sidewalks to the streets, too. Officials say enforcement will be phased in.

On a recent weekday morning, municipal worker Didier Louvet handed out the little bags and accompanying leaflets on the avenue Bourdon, next to the trendy Bastille area. He knows the battle ahead is tough.

"Many dog owners argue, 'I pay enough taxes not to have to scoop it up,' while others say, 'That is humiliating; I won't do it,'" he said.

Currently, only 70 municipal workers are assigned to issue tickets to violators. Last year, 2,300 fines were handed out, little comfort for the 650 or so people — mainly children, the elderly and the handicapped — who are hospitalized every year after slipping on droppings.

Louvet says there has already been an improvement in areas where the pilot project was launched in late October. He says the 100 free pooper-scooper dispensers are being widely used.

But there is much skepticism.

"I don't think it will change anything," says Jacques Beaugéan, a dog owner. "Tougher fines are what is really needed."

The city agrees. When next year's law takes effect, Paris' 2,000 parking wardens will be authorized to hand out tickets to violators.

"Everybody must participate — pressure must be brought down on dog owners," says deputy mayor Yves Contassot. "We all want to see it work. The whole political class supports it."

Some fear the new law will fail. Professional dog trainer Alain Colonna warns of a backlash from people "who have spent the last 30 years teaching their pets to do their business in the gutter and are suddenly told that it is not allowed. They will find that abhorrent."

Some also object to the city's phasing out its famous "motocrottes," the bright green motorcycles with a built-in suction pumps that weave through the streets hunting for droppings.

Contassot says they are expensive — accounting for roughly half of the cleanup budget — and remove only 20 percent of the droppings.

Also, taking the "motocrottes" off the streets could help change dog owners' mindsets, Louvet says. "They can no longer justify not scooping up by saying it will be done by municipal workers," he says.

Contassot thinks it will work, because it has worked elsewhere.

"In cities like London and New York the streets are clean, because people are made to clean up and get fined if they do not," he says.

If he's right, Parisians too can hope that one day they can stroll mindlessly along gazing at the shops — rather than their feet.

Burning the deep fried oil

By The Associated Press

MINOT, N.D. — All those drums of vegetable oil have people wondering what Chuck Ranum is cooking up in his garage.

Ranum has been experimenting since last fall with a homemade recipe for biodiesel. He expects to heat his home with it this winter, and he already has been running his 1983 diesel van on the processed oil.

"I don't ever expect to be diesel-powered again," he said.

Last fall, he started collecting grease from the kitchen of St. Aloisius Medical Center in Harvey, where he heads the respiratory care department.

Following instructions in a book, he set up a processing lab in his garage and began making test batches. Last spring, he tried some in his house furnace.

Heating his home with biodiesel won't be a big money-saver over fuel oil, but it's more environmentally friendly, Ranum said.

Plus, biodiesel doesn't have a strong odor as fuel oil does.

"My van, when it's running, smells like french fries or doughnuts," Ranum said.



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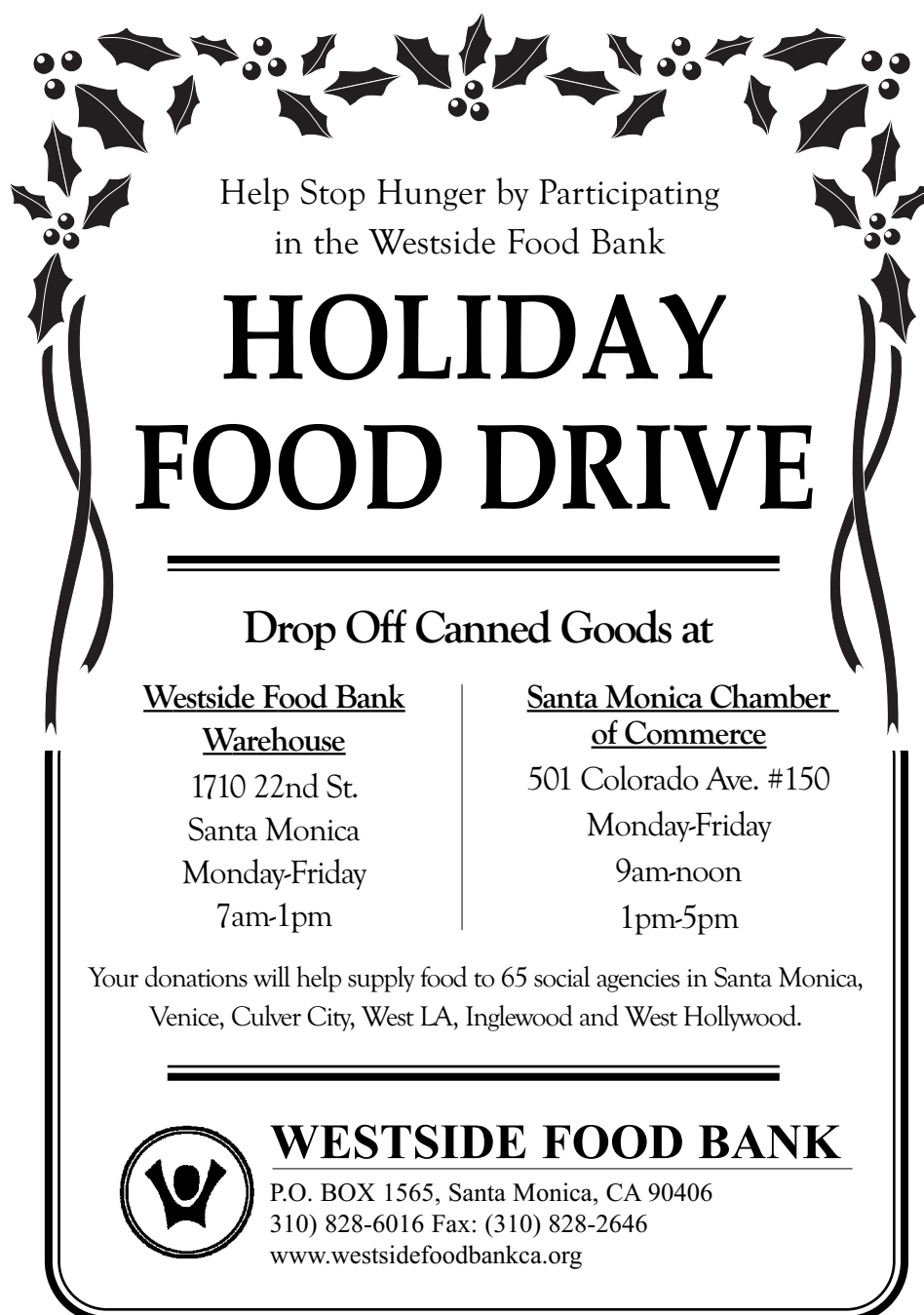
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