

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

26, 16, 4, 11, 13

Megamatch: 20

Jackpot: \$44 million

FANTASY 5

24, 25, 18, 28, 37

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 0, 2, 7

Evening picks: 5, 8, 7

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 11, Money Bags

2nd Place: 3, Hot Shots

3rd Place: 4, Big Ben

Race Time: 1:43.69



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

NYPD officers Paul Damore and Farrell Conroy were briefly suspended without pay in July for their conduct in the 45th Precinct station house in the Bronx, when they got into a fistfight over which one would get to be the driver of their patrol car.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's better to be quotable than to be honest."

— Tom Stoppard



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No place like home



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Jose Machado hangs 'Shop Santa Monica' signs along Ocean Avenue Wednesday. Hundreds of signs, which will be hung throughout Santa Monica, are part of a city-wide campaign to encourage people to keep their holiday shopping local.

Coroner orders tests on homeless man's body

By Daily Press staff

INTERSTATE 10 — It will be two months before it's known how a homeless man died on a freeway embankment here this past Sunday.

Los Angeles Coroner's Office spokesman David Campbell said the autopsy of Bobby Ray Capps, 62, was conducted on Wednesday, but the medical examiner deferred the cause of death so toxicology reports could be performed. Results from those reports could take up to two months to return.

However, Campbell said it appears Capps suffered some trauma to the head, which is consistent with what the Santa Monica Police Department has revealed in its investigation.

SMPD officers arrested David Brevig, 41, a transient, on Sunday in connection with Capps' death. The Los Angeles District Attorney's Office charged Brevig on Tuesday with manslaughter. Brevig allegedly assaulted Capps on Thursday night, which led to his death more than two days later.

See DEATH, page 5

Riordan taps SMC president for help

Piedad Robertson plays ongoing role in new administration

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC — After advising Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger during his transition into office, Santa Monica College president Dr. Piedad Robertson was recently named a special advisor to Richard Riordan, the former mayor of Los Angeles and Schwarzenegger's new secretary of education.

As part of the honorary volunteer position, Robertson, a Democrat, will answer education questions posed by Riordan, and help hire staff for his 14-person department in Sacramento.

"This is a group of his friends," she said. "Part of what I can do for Dick Riordan is to help him better understand community colleges and help him see in community

colleges the great force they are. And I think he does ... he sees the value of the community colleges and wants to tap into them."

As education secretary, Riordan oversees a staff of 14. Robertson said some of those people have resigned, others will move into different positions in Sacramento and Riordan will likely bring in many of his own people. In the meantime, the workers have agreed to stay as long as they're needed.

"These are not just political appointees, these are hard working folks in government," the 65-year-old Robertson said.

Robertson was one of 65 leaders throughout California that acted as advisors during Schwarzenegger's transition into office. As an advisor, she took part in weekly meetings over the telephone, answered questions and gathered information for the governor-elect.

The night before the swearing-

See ADVISOR, page 6

With MTA strike resolved, officials move down the road

'Culture of striking' must end, SM official says

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

ON THE STRIKE — Los Angeles buses and trains are picking up riders again, but everything is far from settled in the ongoing controversy surrounding drivers, mechanics and their employers.

Santa Monica City Councilwoman Pam O'Connor, who serves on the 13-member board of the Metropolitan Transit Authority, said Wednesday that something needs to be done to keep workers from striking again when contracts next are on the negotiating table.

"Clearly there's a culture of striking and I think that needs to be

changed," she said, adding that the MTA will set up a sub-committee to analyze the issue. "Whether it's through laws or what — I don't think people who provide public services ... should go on strike every three years."

The five-week strike over wages and benefits for MTA workers ended Monday, when labor and management groups agreed to send the matter to arbitrators. Mechanics voted 1,159 to 191 Wednesday morning to accept the compromise drafted by arbitrators. The new contract will last three years and nine months.

MTA spokesman Dave Sotero said the bus lines were back to 100 percent Wednesday evening and train service will be fully restored

See STRIKE, page 5

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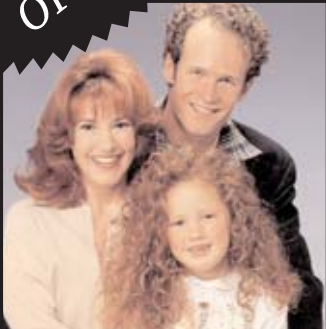
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 **HOROSCOPE**

Hang with friends, Virgo

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, November 20, 2003:

Often you could find others to be difficult, especially children and loved ones. As a result, you happily distance yourself, going into your cocoon. Relax and push away stress through yoga, exercise and any other means you have. Sometimes it might be difficult to see the other side of an issue, but you will. You instinctively make the right decisions about funds. Don't stay up at night worrying about money. If you are single, a friend could become more if you are attached, discuss your concerns. Structure financial goals together. Make a point of participating in a key sport or making a commitment together. LIBRA can be very healing.

 **ARIES (March 21-April 19)**
★★★★ Take a clue when you find others to be touchy and difficult. You might need or want to pull out of a situation. By the afternoon, discussions become possible. Others smile from ear to ear and make the first move. Now, isn't this better? Tonight: Play follow the leader.

 **TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
★★★★ Obstacles appear from out of nowhere. Part of the problem could be that you are too accessible. Let others know you are busy, and by the afternoon, you'll easily accomplish what you want to do. Have a chat with a special friend or partner. Tonight: Opt for a stress-buster.

 **GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
★★★★ It might be necessary to let others know where you stand this morning. Do not expect a strong, positive reaction. By the afternoon, when others sort through what you have said, conversations will break down barriers. Tonight: Treat a partner.

 **CANCER (June 21-July 22)**
★★★★ Though you might be enthusiastic, someone at a distance could put the kibosh on your mood. You could feel challenged by news from a distance. Ask questions in the p.m. Give others the benefit of the doubt. All's well that ends well. Tonight: Burn the candle at both ends.

 **LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
★★ You might not like the way your day starts. If you can, go back to bed until noon. At this point, a creative or emotional discussion lights up your life. You might be evaluating a love situation as well. Trust that you will make the right decision. Tonight: Out and about.

 **VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**
★★★★ You have certain goals, though you might need to hop over an obstacle or two this morning. Resulting from your endurance and refusal to accept a "no," you head to the winner's circle, be it in your personal or professional life. Tonight: Hang with friends.

 **LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
★★★★ You might be dismayed by others this morning. A boss or superior could be unusually demanding. Be more forthright in the afternoon and ask questions. Attempt to walk in another's shoes. Your charisma peaks in the p.m. Tonight: You are the cat's meow.

 **SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
★★★★ Know when to say little and when to take action. You turn bad news into good news because of your ingenuity. Open up to questions, talks and brainstorming sessions in the late day. You like what you hear. Tonight: Rest up for the weekend.

 **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
★★★★ Aim for what you want. Friends, meetings and groups prove to be far more beneficial than individual discussions. Talk about what is on your mind in the late afternoon. What you hear could be music to your ears. Tonight: Do only what you want.

 **CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
★★★★ Others freely give you flak. Choose not to respond, or some harsh words could be exchanged. You find others to be difficult. Open up conversations in the late day. You get the air cleared. You also might need to reveal more of what is on your mind. Tonight: Others take their lead from you.

 **AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
★★★★ Though you might be tired and stressed by an expenditure, you discover that you have many ways to clear up the problem. Friends and associates talk and share in the afternoon. Solutions come forward as a result. Tonight: Try something offbeat.

 **PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
★★★★ You might be more belligerent than you are aware of, drawing some harsh reactions. If possible, muzzle thyself. Some words, once said, cannot be forgotten or taken back. Follow a superior's instructions to the T. Tonight: Be with your favorite person.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Neighborhood gets rid of the trash

By Daily Press staff

Homeowners and renters in the Ninth Street and Michigan Avenue area, with significant support from the CLARE Foundation, took to the streets Saturday to clean up their neighborhood.

More than 60 volunteers filled dozens of garbage bags with trash and debris scraped up from gutters, parkways and sidewalks. Brooms, rakes and shovels were provided by the city's Solid Waste Management Division. Refreshments were provided by the residents, and plastic bags and additional manpower were provided by the CLARE Foundation. The efforts paid off, according to clean-up organizers.

"The street looks great, but what I really liked was all of those people working together to make things better for everyone," said Christian Boyce, Ninth Street resident and the event's organizer. "I wish we'd done this years ago."

The neighborhood won't have to wait years for the next event. Plans are in place for "clean-up day, the sequel."



Christian Boyce/Special to the Daily Press
Truckloads of trash are hauled out of a Santa Monica neighborhood this past weekend as part of a "clean-up day"

Elks National Foundation receives more than \$13K

By Daily Press staff

State Vice President Ken Lady presented a voucher to California Hawaii Elks president Doug Larsen for \$13,441, contributing to the Elks National Foundation.

George Vernon Sr., Elks National Foundation district chairman, said that the contribution represented the combined donation of the Elk Lodges in the South Central Coast district, which is comprised of Culver City, Gardena, Redondo Beach, Santa Monica, Torrance and Westchester.

Seventy five years ago, a \$100,000 grant created the Elks National Foundation. Since then, the grant has grown into a \$320 million fund. Using interest from the fund, \$217 million has been allocated toward scholarships, youth programs, veteran services, veteran memorials, drug awareness, Boy and Girl Scouts, Hoop Shoot and a Major Project, which includes physical therapy, special scholarships and eye examinations for handicapped children. This year the Foundation will distribute \$13.3 million throughout the nation to support these programs.

Teenagers create their own world at local library

BY CATHERINE RONAN

Special to the Daily Press

An event planned by teenagers and designed for teenagers will bring a Japanese film to the screen at the local library.

On Friday, December 5, at 7 p.m., teens are invited to a free screening of the film "Love Hina," a romantic comedy rated PG-13. Love Hina is the story of Urashima Keitaro, who has failed his

entrance exams to Tokyo University twice but whose luck is about to change as his grandmother has just made him manager of Hinata Sou, an all-girl dormitory. The film will be shown at the Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. Refreshments will be served.

The showing is one of occasional Friday evening screenings of anime films planned by the Santa Monica Public Library Teen

See TEENS, page 6

surf report

Look for both the S swell and NW swell to be on the way out. Most spots will have knee-high surf while the standout combo spots see some inconsistent chest-high sets.

OUTLOOK: There will be some minor energy from both the southern hemisphere and some background NW windswell wrap that will keep similar sized wave heights on Friday and Saturday.

Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

Today the water is:

61°

**Sunrise: 6:39 a.m.
Sunset: 4:53 p.m.**

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	N/A	N/A	8:36	0.6	11:53	4.6	N/A	N/A
SUNDAY	8:18	3.6	9:36	0.6	5:04	3.8	1:29	4.3
MONDAY	10:11	3.1	10:24	0.5	5:11	4.1	3:12	4.2
TUESDAY	11:10	2.4	11:06	0.6	5:27	4.6	4:33	4.3
WEDNESDAY	11:57	1.5	11:43	0.7	5:48	5.1	5:38	4.4
THURSDAY	N/A	N/A	12:40	0.6	6:14	5.6	6:35	4.5
FRIDAY	12:20	0.8	1:24	-0.2	6:43	6.2	7:30	4.6

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The Q-Line

In an effort to limit the number of corporate chain stores downtown, the Santa Monica City Council last week considered a new law that would require the companies to go through a public hearing and obtain a special permit before they set up shop here. The goal would be to make corporations prove that their presence would be a positive contribution to the downtown core.

Many residents and elected officials lament the loss of locally owned businesses and complain that the Third Street Promenade has become like any other sub-

urban shopping mall.

But local landlords, who can get as much as \$10 a square foot on the Promenade, say it's not the job of politicians to regulate the marketplace.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Should the local government regulate which businesses can set up shop here?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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LETTERS

Math is not governor's strong point

Editor:

It is extraordinary that with all the governor's horses and all the governor's men — not to mention the governor himself — who must have vetted out the minutest details of the Schwarzenegger inauguration speech, the following inaccurate sentence was included: "I will sign Executive Order No. 1, which will repeal the 300 percent increase in the car tax."

The tripling of the car tax to which Schwarzenegger was referring (or the tripling of anything, for that matter) constitutes a 200 percent increase.

Let's hope that in the future the "education" governor sets a better example for the young people of California by demonstrating a firmer grip on elementary arithmetic principles, and that the man responsible for righting the terrible financial numbers that currently besiege California applies the correct mathematical analysis. Or we could REALLY be in trouble.

David Stoughton
Santa Monica

Statements in story an outright lie

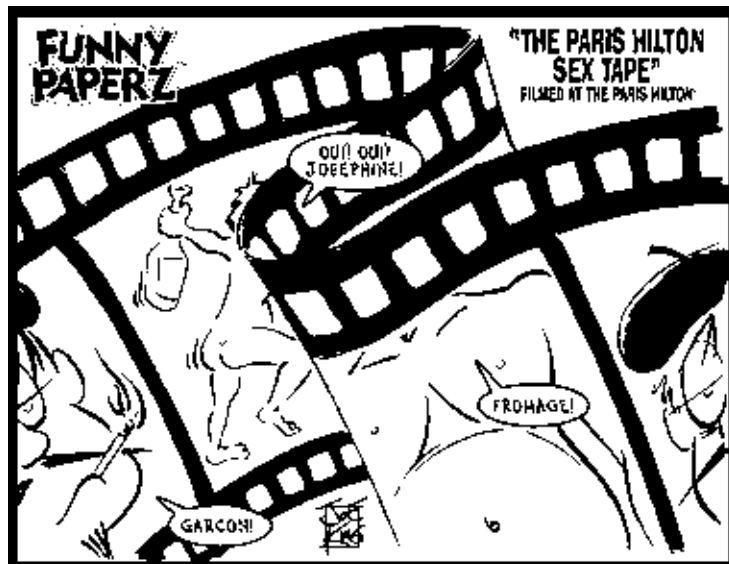
Editor:

In your Nov. 17 story (SMDP, page 1) about the funding of neighborhood groups, Doris Sosin is quoted as telling the City Council that North of Montana Association was not campaigning against Proposition A. This assertion can only be charitably described as disingenuous — to put it more bluntly, it is simply a lie. Anyone who saw the two-page mailer distributed north of Montana by the NOMA Board during the Prop. A campaign would be astounded to hear it called anything other than campaigning against the measure — the clear intent was to discourage voters from voting in favor. The fact that north of Montana homeowners voted almost 80 percent in favor of Prop. A doesn't change the fact that NOMA tried its best to defeat it. It only shows how out of touch NOMA is with its supposed constituency.

Solidifying the falsity of Ms. Sosin's statement are the facts that NOMA was forced to register with the City Clerk as a political committee because of the funds spent on

this flyer (which, of course, they failed to do until after the election was over) and that the State Fair Political Practices Commission has sent, or soon will send, a warning letter to NOMA concerning its political expenditures and reporting obligations.

Tom Larmore
Santa Monica



Member: AAEC # , NCS #22, SGCS #2

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Truth in America is sometimes stranger than fiction

NEWS
on the
EDGE

By Ron Scott Smith



■ With Saturday marking the 40th anniversary of America's loss of innocence — the brutal assassination of President John F. Kennedy — bad memories are being dredged up, and I think of Pat Griffin's words back in the '70s. My good friend, dripping with apolitical cynicism, would tell anyone within earshot to disdain politics. "Leave it alone," he would rant. "Don't even think about it, you can't change anything. They're all the same, they're all corrupt. Forget about it, f**k 'em all," went his eloquent mantra.

Documentary after documentary has appeared on TV this week, proving again, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that Kennedy was the victim of a conspiracy and that we are all victims of a cover-up that led to the highest levels of our own government. One can watch the young president's brains get blown through the back of his head only so many times I guess, before giving up and saying, "OK, Warren Commission, you got it, that bullet came from behind and what we saw with our own eyes was simply a remarkable display of equal and opposite reaction," or however they described the shot

and the magic bullet fired by a lone gunman that defied all laws of physics. If those guys could get away with that one — and they did — well then, they can get away with anything, and perhaps it is futile to fight it or to even give so much as a damn, as my friend would say. But, with apologies to Pat, some must keep pounding away.

■ He's back. The "Ugly American" is alive and well and the object of animosity around the globe once again. The phrase was coined as the title of a runaway best-seller published in 1958 that exposed American arrogance, incompetence, and corruption in Southeast Asia. Today, trying his best to present America's comelier side, President Bush is over in England, good-will-hunting and shoring up support from our best friends and top allies. But he's being greeted by hundreds of thousands of protesters on the streets, and by a Parliament so antagonistic that his scheduled speech before them had to be canceled, and with friends like these ... well, you finish the thought. It was the British conservative philosopher, Edmund Burke, who seems to speak for the crowds on the London streets today when he said long ago, warning against the overreaching arms of British imperialism, "I dread our being too much dreaded."

■ In the two years since the devastating 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, it appears this administration has squandered away every ounce of good will and sympathy that had been coming

our way in droves from every corner of the planet. On Bush's trip to Australia last month, where he was roundly mocked and criticized for publicly appointing that country as our "deputy sheriff in this corner of the world," a welcome similar to the one he's getting in England greeted him, as hordes of Aussies took to the streets to personally hand their own message to the visitor who they see as the self-anointed Sheriff of Planet Earth. In fact, they hung him in effigy. Today in England, the protesters are re-enacting the toppling of the statue of Saddam, which hailed the so-called "end of the war" months ago, but this time it will be a likeness of Bush that gets pulled down to the ground. And the war that "ended" continues to claim new victims of every nationality on a daily basis. A recent poll showed that a full 60 percent of Brits consider the American President to be the No. 1 threat to world peace.

■ The escalating guerrilla warfare in Iraq has pressured Bush into creating a revved up timetable for the transfer of control back to the Iraqis, but how much control will they really have? The American in charge in Iraq, Paul Bremer, let the cat out of the bag when he said — and you could almost see the wink in his eye between the lines — "We intend to have an agreement with the new Iraqi government in which it will ask for our continued assistance on the security of Iraq." Couldn't he have put that a little more subtly? We, in effect, will demand

that you ask us to keep our forces here in perpetuity. Well, let us think about it for a second. OK, we accept. Wink.

■ In an ingenious typecasting coup that took the entertainment world by surprise, CBS announced that they will reshoot their ill-fated TV movie, "The Reagans," with Arnold Schwarzenegger now taking over the title role, thus calming down the true believers who threw a fit and had the thing shut down because James Brolin, the husband of a famous liberal, was originally hired to play the 40th president. So in one fell swoop, they get everything they dreamed of in the new leading man — a Republican, a California Governor, a handsome actor-turned politician, a real life action-hero who's come to save the day. Britney Spears, incidentally, will play Mrs. Reagan, as the producers, in another last minute change, decided to sex up the production a little in order to lure the teenage crowd and pump up the ratings. Those ever-vigilant right wing watchdog groups appear to be agreeable to the move. Just ask Bob Dole, he of the famous "down, boy" Pepsi commercial.

■ And rumor has it that the king of pop himself, Michael Jackson, trying to expand his career onto the big screen, will briefly leave his Neverland Ranch to take a small role in the revamped production. He'll play the nanny.

(Ron Scott Smith is on the edge of something. E-mail him at EdgeoftheWest@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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1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202 Santa Monica • 90401 • sack@smdp.com

LOCAL



Last strike for SM's Big Blue Bus was in 1968

STRIKE, from page 1

sometime next week. All told, the MTA serves 400,000-plus riders each day.

The MTA has had 10 strikes since 1960. The latest strike lasted 35 days, which was the second longest ever, Sotero said. The strikes have been as short as eight days and as long as 68 days.

"It would be politically impalpable to have another strike at the end of this," Sotero added, saying that he expects MTA buses and trains to run on schedule for the foreseeable future.

Having served on the MTA board only a little more than two years, O'Connor wasn't at the helm during any of the previous MTA strikes.

But that didn't dampen her resolve to settle the dispute. O'Connor said she participated in each of the board's emergency meetings, which were held two to three times every week.

While squabbles over pay and benefits may be unavoidable, O'Connor said a better way of dealing with the disputes needs to be established.

"We've got to find a process and a way that doesn't disrupt service," O'Connor said. "When service is disrupted ... you get drop-offs of ridership because people find other ways of getting around. That doesn't help anybody because it adds congestion on the road."

She added that a strike should be used only as a last-ditch effort, when every other avenue for resolution has failed.

"I don't think it was a final last step this time. It happened too soon."

But where O'Connor sees a problem in workers being too quick to strike, others see a problem in communication.

Kent Wong, director of the UCLA center for labor research and education, said the strike was prolonged because both

parties dug in their heels at the beginning and refused to budge.

"I don't necessarily see this as a culture of striking," Wong said. "I see this as a breakdown in the trust and communication between management and the union. There was just so much hostile exchange of positions that were very publicly disseminated that made both sides less flexible."

In order to circumvent the problem in the future, Wong said the MTA could implement a number of changes. It could start the negotiating process earlier, it could develop an approach to identify common interests — instead of positions — and it could find ways to strengthen communication, trust and understanding between the two sides, he said.

"Unfortunately what had happened is you have both sides being highly critical, very publicly," Wong said. "And feeling very strong about the convictions of their side and airing that very publicly —

which makes (them) feel good but doesn't really move the process forward," he said. "(It is) completely appropriate to begin a conversation about, 'How might we work together to improve the collective bargaining process for the future?'"

Dan Dawson, spokesman for Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus line, which serves 80,000 people each day and hasn't had a strike since 1968, said his company could serve as a role model.

"We make a really conscious and great effort to make sure that we have lots of internal communication with our employees," he said.

"It's a family atmosphere," he added. "We really do take care of each other. The communication between the unions and the management has been very strong, and, again, I think open communication really keeps these kind of impasses from happening."

Vigil planned for Friday

DEATH, from page 1

Apparently during the assault, Capps hit his head on a pole.

Albert Williams, Capps' brother, found him dead on Sunday morning after taking care of him for more than two days. Capps was assaulted at the camp where the brothers have been living for the past seven years. The camp is located under the Lincoln Boulevard off-ramp on the Santa Monica Freeway.

Williams, who witnessed the assault on Thursday night, took his brother to the emergency room at Saint John's Hospital when he realized Capps' head was gushing blood. After he received about 14 stitches, Capps was released from the hospital and walked back to the camp with Williams.

Williams tended to his severely injured brother until Sunday morning when he found him dead after going into town to get cigarettes.

Saint John's Hospital spokeswoman Barbara Bishop said it's the hospital's policy to administer care to anyone. If Capps' condition warranted him being admitted, the hospital would have, she added.

"We treat the indigent the same way as any other patient," she said. "It has nothing to do with whether they have money or not."

A candlelight vigil will be held in Capps' memory in front of the kiosk at the Third Street Promenade and Santa Monica Boulevard on Friday, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

— Carolyn Sackariason



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LOCAL □ STATE



Self-proclaimed preacher accused of biting family

By The Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — A California man made an initial appearance in federal court here after a Friday incident at Grand Canyon National Park in which he is accused of punching, biting and screaming at visitors as he preached a religious message.

According to court documents, David B. Chimel, 41, of Oceano, Calif., is accused of fighting with tourists Friday near the El Tovar Hotel in Grand Canyon Village on the South Rim.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Aspey said Chimel told a judge here Monday that it was the first time he physically confronted people to get them to listen to his message.

On Friday, park authorities went to the hotel on a report of a fight and found a group of people holding a man, later identified as Chimel, on the ground in the middle of a road.

Members of one family told authorities that they watched as Chimel chased a car and yelled that those inside it would be "destroyed."

The family told authorities that Chimel then approached their group. They warned him to stay away but he continued to approach and then displayed two

knives, before dropping them.

According to a police report, Chimel then punched one family member and was subdued by three others until police arrived.

While three family members held Chimel down, two said they were bitten by him.

The pair received first aid for the bites, which had broken the skin.

Visitors also had previously complained to hotel employees because Chimel was sitting outside singing "Just a Gigolo" and reading aloud from a small Bible, before approaching them.

Aspey said that a preliminary hearing has been set for Thursday to determine if there is probable cause for Chimel's case to continue to trial.

"Based on the government's concern for the public's and the defendant's well-being, he has been ordered held until Thursday's hearing," Aspey said.

Aspey said the crime with which Chimel is being charged, disorderly conduct, is a petty offense that carries a maximum penalty of six months in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

People accused of the crime are usually ticketed and released, but they may be arrested, depending on the circumstances, Aspey added.

Piedad Robertson to advise Riordan, help staff his office

ADVISOR, from page 1

in ceremony, Schwarzenegger thanked his advisors. A spokesman said the advisors' official roles are completed but said Schwarzenegger will continue to lean on them for advice and to help find the most talented people for his administration.

Though Robertson declined to comment on the exact nature of the advisors' discussions, she said she is encouraged by the new group in Sacramento and hopes funding for SMC will improve.

But Robertson, who has been at SMC for nine years and drawn sharp criticism from campus groups for overseeing \$10 million in cuts last year, cautioned against hoping for an immediate change. SMC's \$200-plus million budget was eventually

balanced this year, but not without severe cuts in programs and jobs.

"If there are not further cuts in January, we know what our budget is for the rest of the year," she said, adding nothing concrete will be known until the budget is adopted next summer.

In the meantime, Robertson said she will only be involved as a part-time advisor to Riordan and will continue concentrating her energies on improving SMC.

Riordan said he appreciates the help.

"As I embark on this new position of secretary of education, I feel fortunate to have Dr. Piedad Robertson on my team," he said. "She shares my priority in putting California first. I am very lucky to have Dr. Robertson's expertise on educational matters."

Romantic comedy 'Love Hina' to be aired at library

TEENS, from page 3

Advisory Council. Since it's difficult for adults to know what activities will draw teens to the library, every two weeks a group of high school students gets together to develop and plan programs for teenagers at the library. The Council, now in its fourth year, has concocted and run a number of successful events.

"Anime" is the name for Japanese animated films and, along with its print counterpart "manga," has an avid following among teens. The Council developed the idea of anime screenings, chooses the titles, creates the publicity and runs the events.

Whether it's pulling together a dis-

play of books they especially recommend, visiting a bookstore to select books for purchase, or providing input on the design of the space for teenagers in the new library under construction downtown, local students are helping make the library a place that meets their needs. The Teen Advisory Council is open to high school students who live and/or attend school in Santa Monica.

In addition to the Teen Council programs, teenagers can find book clubs, craft programs, author visits and more at the library. For details, check out the calendar on the library's teen Web site at www.SMPLteens.org or call (310) 458-8976.



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STATE



Burned-out residents of fires struggle in aftermath

(Editor's note: This is the second in an occasional series looking at the aftermath of the Southern California wildfires in two disparate communities.)

BY ANDREW BRIDGES
Associated Press Writer

CEDAR GLEN — When wildfire refugee Terry Barback finally returned to his mountain community, his home was gone, reduced to ashes. But his friends were still there.

As Barback picked his way through the sodden debris of what had been his 800-square-foot home, a half-dozen Steller's jays called out from the blackened branches of the towering trees that had shaded his property, one of the estimated 350 burned in the Old fire that swept the San Bernardino National Forest.

The 55-year-old design engineer paused now and then to offer the birds a peanut from the palm of his outstretched hand. Each time, a jay, its distinctively crested head floppy with rain, would swoop down and snag the peanut.

"These are my babies. I worry about them," said Barback, who has fed the birds since moving to this alpine community 16 years ago. "Where are they going to go?"

That's a question also facing the hundreds of residents of Cedar Glen who were made homeless by one of the most destructive wildfires in California history.

"It's all gone, except the stone steps leading up to the property," Lauren Leon, 39, said of the rented home she had shared with seven members of her extended family.

Cedar Glen boasted pockets of prosperity and poverty alike; the fire hit both and, by most accounts, hit them hard.

"It's affected all income brackets. Disaster discriminates against nobody," said Patti Nippe, 44, an American Red Cross volunteer from St. Louis who's been working in the community.

The median household income for the 92321 ZIP Code was \$70,455, according to the 2000 census. But 22 percent of Cedar Glen's residents lived below the federal poverty line, census data show.

In interviews, many people said they believed Cedar Glen suffered more than other, wealthier Southern California communities destroyed in the recent fires, including Scripps Ranch.

"It hit here harder because everyone works for a living," said Criss Silvas, 39, operations manager for the Cedar Glen Fire Rescue Fund, set up within a week of the firestorm.

Many of Cedar Glen's residents were service employees, drawn by cheap rents and jobs at the resorts that dot the area. The loss, even temporary, of those jobs as well as their homes has compounded the misery.

"Financially, it's hurting us real hard," said Glendora Johnson, a pregnant, 43-year-old housekeeper who has been living in the motorhome she and her fiancé saved from the flames that claimed their rented home.

Rich or poor, every resident interviewed on a recent day in the community vowed to return to the enclave, 72 miles east of Los Angeles.

Barback said he was underinsured, but that he'll rebuild, probably after the retreat of the winter snows that can blanket the area 5,150 feet above sea level.

Leon said the fire left her family "des-

titute" and crammed into a summer cabin secured through the help of their church. But she too wants to return.

"We're not going anywhere," Leon said as she and her daughter-in-law, Jessica Champion, 21, stopped by a local charity to rummage for baby clothes in the piles of apparel donated since the fire.

The Old fire, pushed by fierce winds, raced into Cedar Glen on Oct. 29 and quickly burned through the hundreds of homes packed along skinny roads, many of them dirt, leading off Hook Creek.

"We thought we were perfectly OK. And our town was the only one hit," said Kyle Thomson, 20, who like many residents displaced by the fire has found occasional work felling the dead trees that still clog a forest hit by drought, insects and, now, fire.

Eighteen of Allstate insurance agent Allison Banner's clients lost their homes in Cedar Glen. She estimated each would receive about \$130,000.

"There aren't going to be any million-dollar claims," Banner said.

The median home value in Cedar Glen was \$164,500, according to the 2000 census. Most of the community's 590 single-family homes were built before 1960, many as early as the 1920s. About two-thirds of them were second homes.

Some residents believe firefighters sacrificed the neighborhood to save pricier real estate around Lake Arrowhead to the northwest.

"Certain poverty areas were used as pawns and backfired to save other areas — and it worked," said Robert Blakeman, 56, who in the days after the fire lived with his wife, Lori, in their 1988 Toyota 4Runner before moving in with his daughter. "But you can't backfire people's homes."

But firefighters said it was simply too dangerous to attack the wind-driven fire as it raged through the neighborhood, where curvy, narrow streets wound through dense stands of dead and dying trees.

"It just wasn't an area where firefighters could defend the structures," said Los Angeles County fire Capt. Greg Cleveland, whose department aided neighboring San Bernardino County.

County officials have put together a task force to recommend how Cedar Glen be rebuilt, San Bernardino County Supervisor Dennis Hansberger said.

Banner, the Allstate agent, said it was unclear how many residents would be able to rebuild.

"We have to wait for the decision out of the county on what they can and can't do, so everyone is kind of holding their breath on that one," Banner said. "I hate to be so vague, but no one knows."

Replacement homes will have to be more in line with current building codes, Hansberger said. But little if anything can be done about the tiny clearances between houses, now burned to their foundations, that don't meet modern setback requirements, he added.

"It's still a risky canyon. I am not one to say you can't build in risky places, but I am one to say we need to do it with the maximum protective standards that are available — and then recognize that it is still risky," Hansberger said.

For many residents, what made Cedar Glen so risky — the narrow roads, the dense forest — is what drew them to the neighborhood.



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INTERNATIONAL

President Bush defends war in Iraq in state visit

BY SCOTT LINDLAW

Associated Press Writer

LONDON — Welcomed to Britain with royal pageantry and a smattering of anti-war protesters, President Bush on Wednesday defended the war in Iraq, saying military might must at times be used to confront the continuing, global danger of terrorism.

"In some cases, the measured use of force is all that protects us from a chaotic world ruled by force," Bush told academics gathered at Banqueting House.

During a 3 1/2-day state visit here, Bush was seeking to puncture what he views as misconceptions on this side of the Atlantic about the American-led Iraq invasion.

"There are principled objections to the use of force in every generation and I credit the motives behind these views," Bush said, mindful of the bitter opposition among many in Britain and across Europe to the U.S.- and British-led war in Iraq. Demonstrators had lined his motorcade route and protesters chanted outside as he spoke.

The president added: "Those in authority, however, are not judged only by good motivations. The people have given us the duty to defend them and that duty sometimes requires the violent restraint of violent men."

Prime Minister Tony Blair, who has faced strong criticism from the British public for remaining America's staunchest ally in the Iraq war, also defended Britain's close relationship with the United States and the coalition's handling of the situation in Iraq.

"It really is about time we started to realize who our allies are, who our enemies are, stick with the one and fight the other," Blair said earlier before the House of Commons, to loud cheers.

In the morning, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip gave a royal salute to the American leader, greeting Bush at Buckingham Palace.

As ceremonial cannon blasts from a 41-gun salute shook the palace, Bush and his wife, Laura, moved down a receiving line with the queen and prince. Bush and the prince then inspected a column of Coldstream Guards, with their trademark gray coats and tall, furry black hats.

Buckingham Palace, the queen's London residence, also was a focal point for demonstrators opposed to the Iraq war. They gathered behind metal barriers Wednesday, watched by large numbers of yellow-jacketed police officers.

Though the light crowd of several hundred protesters was kept several dozen yards from the gates, their chants could be heard inside the grounds as the president greeted dignitaries.

Bush invoked the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in America to warn against inaction.

"The hope that danger has passed is comforting, is understanding, and it is false," he said. "These terrorists target the innocent and they kill by the thousands. And they would, if they gain the weapons they seek, kill by the millions and not be finished. ... The evil is in plain sight. The danger only increases with denial."

He compared the threat posed by Saddam Hussein's former regime in Iraq to the Nazi aggression, communism and ethnic cleansing that once menaced the

European continent. He reminded his audience of the critical work the Allies did to set postwar Germany on the path to democracy.

"Let us never forget how Europe's unity was achieved: by allied armies of liberation and NATO's armies of defense," he said. "Together our nations are standing and sacrificing ... in a distant land at this very hour."

"Bush stole the presidency, Blair lied to the people, Bush led us down the path of war."

— NINA BAKER

Scottish Green Party activist

With as many as 100,000 people preparing to march through London Thursday to protest the Iraq war and occupation, Bush acknowledged "good-faith disagreements in your country and mine over the course and timing of military action in Iraq."

He warned against breaking the coalition's commitment to see Iraq through to a stable democracy, even in the face of a still-rising death toll to coalition soldiers from attacks there.

"The failure of democracy in Iraq would throw its people back into misery and turn that country over to terrorists who wish to destroy us," he said. "We did not charge hundreds of miles into the heart of Iraq and pay a bitter cost of casualties and liberate 25 million people, only to retreat before a band of thugs and assassins."

Turning to the long-running Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Bush called on Israel to freeze settlement construction and dismantle outposts. He said the Palestinians should end any incitement to terrorists in their media, cut off funding to terror groups and establish normal relations with Israel.

He asked European nations to do their part, as well, by refusing to support Palestinian leaders who maintain ties with terrorist groups and profit from corruption.

"These are the methods of the old elites, who time and again have put their own self-interest above the interests of the people they claim to serve," Bush said in a transparent reference to longtime Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who Bush has called a member of the "old guard."

On the first full day of his visit in England, Bush was hoping to sway people here like Nina Baker, a Scottish Green Party activist from Glasgow.

"Everything about (Bush) is just deeply depressing," she said Wednesday outside Buckingham Palace. "Bush stole the presidency, Blair lied to the people, Bush led us down the path of war. They are not listening to the public."

Bush was reaching out to a second audience as well, by granting an interview to the London-based Al-Sharq Al-Awsat newspaper, which has an Arab readership. Also Wednesday, he was meeting with relatives of Britons lost in the Sept. 11 attacks.

Thursday, Bush was to sit down with family members of British soldiers killed in Iraq.

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INTERNATIONAL



Echoes of post-war Germany can be heard in Iraq

BY GEORGE GEDDA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — It was late 1945, seven months after the Nazi surrender, and Allen Dulles, a top official in the CIA's predecessor, was gloomy about reconstruction efforts in Germany.

"I am inclined to think the problems inherent there are almost too much for us," said Dulles of the Office of Strategic Services, alluding to wartime decisions by the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union to divide Germany into occupation zones after the war. (A French sector was established later.)

Dulles spoke Dec. 3, 1945, at a closed meeting of the Council on Foreign Relations, which printed a transcript of his remarks in the current edition of Foreign Affairs magazine, a council publication.

Much like present day Iraq, the economic situation in Germany was grim as the U.S. government tried to help the country rebuild after World War II ended.

"Economically and industrially, Germany has scraped the bottom of the barrel, and there are few shops with anything to sell," Dulles said.

U.S. officials working on reconstruc-

"Economically and industrially, Germany has scraped the bottom of the barrel, and there are few shops with anything to sell."

— ALLEN DULLES
CIA official

tion of Iraq are facing challenges similar to those that Dulles, who later served as CIA director, mentioned when America was helping rebuild Germany. He described then the difficulty of finding qualified people for the new Germany who had no political taint.

"When we discover someone whose ability and politics are alike are acceptable, we usually find as we did in one case that the man has been living abroad for the past 10 years and is hopelessly out of touch," he said. American administrators in Iraq can identify with that problem.

Dulles was especially critical with the way the Soviets behaved in their zone in Germany. "Russian troops are living off the land, and have looted far more than anyone else..."

"In general, the Russians are acting as thugs. They have wiped out all the liquid assets. No food cards are issued to Germans, who are forced to travel on foot into the Russian zone, often more dead than alive. ... Probably 8 to 10 million people are being enslaved."

Clearly Dulles was worried about a German backlash if the reconstruction was mishandled.

"If we do not find some work for the Germans ... (they) will have their revenge in one form or another though it takes 100 years."

Obviously, there are major differences between German reconstruction and the one in Iraq. The most significant is the guerrilla warfare Americans and other foreigners — both civilian and military —

face in Iraq. Dulles said there was no "dangerous underground" in Germany in 1945. With the defeat of the Nazis in May, the European war effectively ended. In contrast, the fall of Baghdad did not end the Iraq war.

There are some problems that have surfaced in Iraq that U.S. officials did not encounter when rebuilding Germany 58 years ago. For one, Germany did not suffer from the ethnic factionalism and religious extremism that now exists in Iraq.

Happily, Dulles' glum foreboding about Germany's future was not borne out. Germany has emerged as an economic powerhouse, albeit with an unemployment problem, and as a bulwark for peace in the heart of Europe. No country in Europe fears Germany these days.

A combination of patience, generous assistance and German resiliency put the country back on its feet. But the process took seven years and, in the interim, the country was split as part of the postwar sorting out process.

The vibrant, reunited Germany of 2003 is a far cry from the country that Dulles found to be hanging in the balance in 1945, much as Iraq is today.

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NATIONAL

BLM delays draft plan detailing Colorado drilling options

By The Associated Press

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. — An eagerly awaited government draft detailing how much oil and gas drilling is envisioned on Colorado's Roan Plateau has been delayed until December at the earliest.

"We don't have a release date," said Steve Bennett, an assistant field manager for the Bureau of Land Management. "But it definitely won't be November."

The plateau is a key site in the Bush administration's effort to open more of the Rocky Mountains to energy development. It sits on an estimated 7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in one section alone, making it one of the most sought-after reserves in the West.

About 5.5 trillion cubic feet of that gas is considered recoverable and has an estimated worth of \$22 billion.

Bennett said an air-quality study is delaying the draft plan, which will cover a 73,000-acre area that includes the 43,000-acre plateau itself 150 miles west of Denver.

The area has cultural, historical and paleontological significance, as well as wildlife habitat and 162 miles of roads and trails. Numerous gas wells have been drilled at its base and some wells atop the 3,000-foot-high plateau are already producing gas.

The question of wilderness is likely to be thorny as the plan is debated. Citizen groups say 38,000 acres of the plateau should be protected as wilderness, which would prohibit development and mechanized recreation. A BLM study identified 22,000 acres with wilderness potential.

"We are a little concerned that they would be doing this before they have considered what lands are available for (energy) leasing."

— PETE KOLBENSCHLAG
Colorado Environmental Coalition

Interior Secretary Gale Norton said in April the department will not consider potential wilderness identified after 1996 — making it possible there will be no wilderness in the area at all.

Environmentalists urged the government to take more time on putting the draft together.

"The anxiety was the BLM would fast-track the plan and cut corners," said Steve Smith, a field representative for Western Colorado Congress. "If they want to take more time, that's fine."

Garfield County municipalities from Carbondale to Rifle have passed resolutions opposing drilling on the plateau. The BLM will take public comment on the draft plan for 90 days.

BLM officials are also considering approving seismic testing for gas reserves at the base of the plateau, worrying environmental groups. The vibrations are made by explosives set off in 40-foot holes and by use of a so-called "thumper truck" that pounds the ground.

"We are a little concerned that they would be doing this before they have considered what lands are available for (energy) leasing," said Pete Kolbenschlach of the Colorado Environmental Coalition. "Exploration is basically a precursor to drilling."

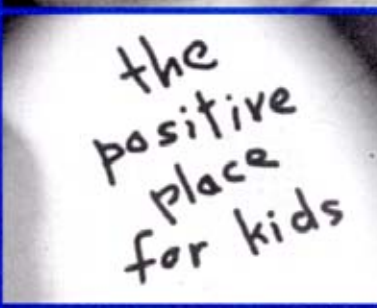
Bennett said the seismic information goes directly to companies and is not shared with the BLM.

"It's not something that actually affects our decisions in the planning process," he said.


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WORLD BRIEFLY

Israel may scale back military operations

By The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israel signaled willingness to scale back military operations in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank ahead of cease-fire talks involving Egyptian mediators, the Palestinian prime minister and militant groups.

Egyptian intelligence officials and Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia scheduled separate talks Wednesday with the leaders of the militant groups, including Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Egyptian officials said they also would meet with Palestinian security branches. Next week, leaders of the militant groups are to meet with Egyptian mediators in Cairo.

Qureia, who took office last week, said his first priority is to get the militants to agree to a truce, then bring Israel into the accord.

Israel showed signs of softening its position, in part because Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is under growing pressure at home and abroad to end the deadlock. In the past, Israel refused to consider a truce until Palestinian security forces begin dismantling armed groups.

Prosecutors: Sniper aimed to extort

By The Associated Press

CHESAPEAKE, Va. — The sniper shootings that haunted the Washington D.C.-area last year were part of a strategy to throw the region into chaos and even bring martial law until the suspects got the payoff they sought, Lee Boyd Malvo told police after his arrest.

Prosecutors say the shootings were part of a scheme to extort \$10 million from the government. In a tape of the interrogation played Tuesday for the jury, Malvo says the shootings would have continued until he and convicted sniper John Allen Muhammad received the money.

Malvo said he and Muhammad chose the affluent suburb of Montgomery County, Md., as the starting point for the shooting spree that left 10 dead and three wounded because "it's perfect." He said he expected everyone to "pitch in," with the money.

In a quiet voice with a slight Jamaican accent, the 18-year-old also says he was the triggerman in each shooting and intended to kill all the people who were shot.

Muhammad's jury in Virginia Beach convicted him of capital murder Monday and is now hearing evidence on which sentence — life without parole or the death penalty — to recommend.

Trade deal to be negotiated

By The Associated Press

MIAMI — Trade negotiators worked on a draft for the world's largest free trade region, with Canada, Mexico, Chile and several Caribbean nations advocating a compromise agreement that attempts to skirt the thorny issue of agriculture.

Trade negotiators must settle on a draft by Wednesday, when they will also take recommendations by business leaders and the nonprofit organizations. On Thursday, top trade officials from each country will start two days of negotiations on the final text.

The compromise, obtained by The Associated Press from a participating delegation, attempts to combine several competing ideas by outlining a two-tiered proposal for a Free Trade Area of the Americas.

It includes a universal agreement that all countries would have to sign, but allows nations to opt out of a second level of negotiations on controversial issues like investment. On the topic of agricultural subsidies, the proposal calls for waiting for and incorporating a decision by the 146-member World Trade Organization, something the United States had been seeking.

Mutual fund scandal escalates

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers are agitating for action in Congress and by federal regulators as the mutual fund scandal escalates, more big-name companies are cited by authorities and the money stampede continues in an investor revolt against implicated funds.

Impatient senators urged the head of the Securities and Exchange Commission on Tuesday to end a turf war with state regulators and go after mutual fund abuses.

At the same time, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and Treasury Secretary John Snow cautioned Congress against passing mutual fund reforms that could cost investors more in fees and diminished returns.

It was the first public statement by Greenspan and Snow on proposed legislation to deal with mutual fund abuses. In a legislative flurry, several senators and House members of both parties are proposing measures to overhaul the way the \$7 trillion industry operates.

The House was voting Wednesday on legislation by Rep. Richard Baker, R-La., to implement harsher penalties for mutual fund abuses, and approval appeared certain.

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Santa Monica Daily Press



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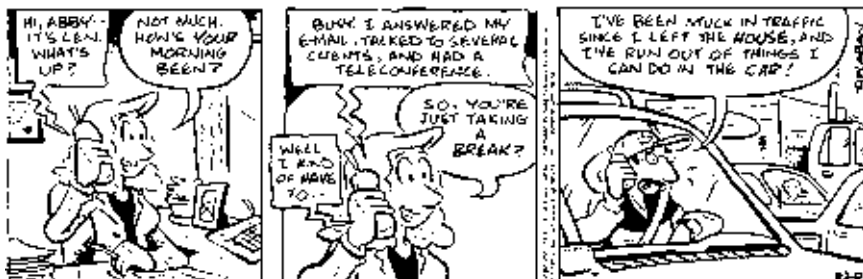
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



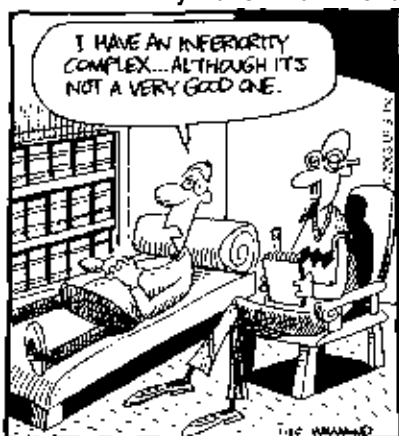
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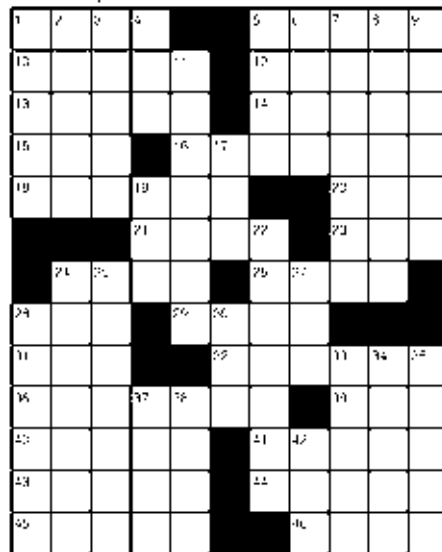
CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bridge
 - 5 Bridge
 - 10 Tubular pasta
 - 12 Non-native, in Hawaii
 - 13 Paint ingredient
 - 14 Pale
 - 15 Finish the cake
 - 16 Overthrows
 - 18 Checked out
 - 20 Big galoot
 - 21 Folding money
 - 23 Went ahead
 - 24 Mob action
 - 26 Put on
 - 28 Outlaw
 - 29 Do a checkout chore
 - 31 "Gotta Man" rapper
 - 32 "Heavens!"
 - 36 Short flight maker
 - 39 Candle count
 - 40 Power provider
 - 41 Canada's Mount —
 - 43 "Cats" creator
- DOWN**
- 44 Bumbling
 - 45 Old radio parts
 - 46 War god
 - 1 Divided
 - 2 Dove's love
 - 3 Starts a hand
 - 4 Compass dir.
 - 5 Bloke
 - 6 Coarse file
 - 7 Wolf's comment
 - 8 Surprise hit
 - 9 Detected
 - 11 Scopes
 - 17 Keats creation
 - 19 Excessively
 - 22 African tongue
 - 24 Trattoria order
 - 25 Resistance to change
 - 27 Finish
 - 28 Smiled broadly
 - 30 Crew leader
 - 33 Gung-ho
 - 34 Clearly
 - 35 Lets
 - 37 Gimlet, e.g.
 - 38 Liberal study
 - 42 — roll (doing well)

B	A	T	M	A	N		S	P	U	D
O	R	I	O	L	E		H	O	N	E
P	E	E	V	E	S		I	R	O	N
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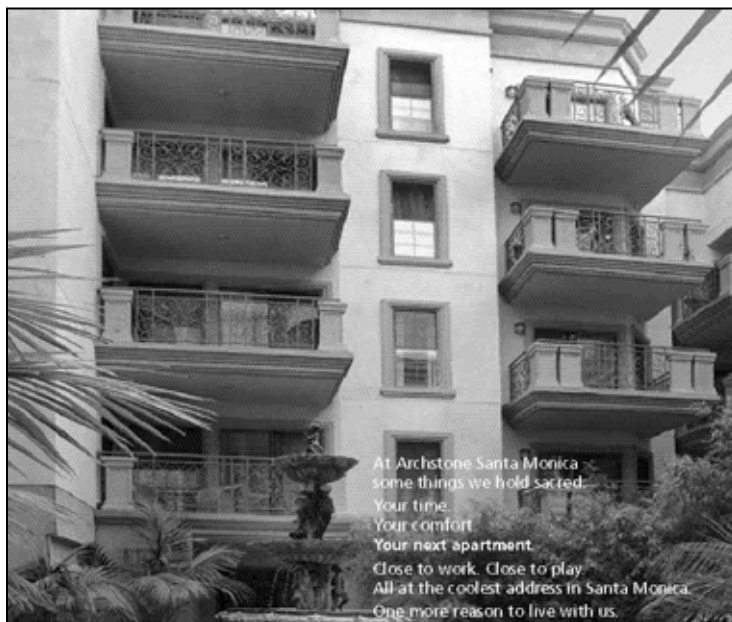


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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Investigator testifies on topless Cameron Diaz photos

By The Associated Press

■ **LOS ANGELES** — A photographer accused of trying to extort \$3.3 million from actress Cameron Diaz for photos taken before she was famous threatened to sell them to a European group for \$5 million, an investigator testified Tuesday.

Detective Brian Bennett, an investigator in the district attorney's office, said during a preliminary hearing for John Rutter that the "majority" of the 20 photos depicted Diaz topless.

Bennett testified that Diaz, 31, told him she feared the photos would "hamper her ability to land certain family movie roles," including a role in an upcoming "Shrek" sequel.

Rutter, 41, has been charged with one count of attempted extortion, attempted grand theft, perjury and forgery. He was released from custody after posting \$250,000 bail.

Bennett said he interviewed Diaz in June at her lawyer's Century City office and was told Rutter threatened to sell the photos to a European group that planned to place them on buses, billboards and kiosks to promote "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle," which starred Diaz.

Diaz told him the photos were taken in 1992 during a "spec shoot," meaning they were taken only to build her and Rutter's portfolio and weren't meant to be published.

She also said Rutter didn't have a valid photo release giving him rights to sell the photos, Bennett testified.

Rutter, who was arrested Aug. 12, has said he was negotiating with Diaz and she offered "sums of money" to keep the photos private. Rutter said he contacted her lawyers to offer them right of first refusal before trying to sell the photos.

Authorities raided his apartment and seized the photos, which are being kept in a safe deposit box.

■ **PHILADELPHIA** — Oprah Winfrey has received

the Marian Anderson Award for her efforts helping minority students and families.

The award honoring artists and performers for their humanitarian efforts was presented Tuesday by Mayor John Street and musician Quincy Jones, a 2001 winner. Winfrey, 49, said she hopes to "light up the world."

Winfrey said she stands on the shoulders of people such as Anderson, an opera singer from Philadelphia who fought discrimination to become the first black singer to perform with the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

The Chicago-based talk-show host has transformed her celebrity into activism by starting numerous charities including Oprah's Angel Network, which raises money from viewer and celebrity donations. The donations have been put toward scholarships and building homes for Habitat for Humanity, and the construction of 34 schools in 10 countries.

In 2005, she'll open the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls, an education program in South Africa. She's also the spokesman for A Better Chance, which offers scholarships to minority high school students to attend prep schools.

■ **WHISKEY FLATS, Texas** — A Texas man stuffed the tails of nine live rattlesnakes in his mouth Tuesday, besting his record of eight.

In a field behind his mobile home in Whiskey Flats, a community about 25 miles southwest of Fort Worth, Jackie Bibby banded nine snakes together by their rattles and wedged the tails into his mouth.

The 52-year-old leaned forward from the waist and held still for 10 seconds, the snakes dangling down. Guinness World Records sent a photographer to record the event.

"I have to break my own records. Heck, there's nobody else who can do it," Bibby told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram for its online edition. "I think I could do 12 or 13, but probably no more. My mouth is only so big."

Bibby, who's performed snake stunts for TV shows and other events, said he's been bitten six times in 34 years of snake handling.

He also holds the world record for sitting in a bathtub with the most live snakes — 75 western diamondbacks, according to Guinness.

Bibby had planned to break that record Tuesday by sitting in a tub with more than 81 snakes, but the snakes wouldn't cooperate and Bibby had to quit after only about 40 were dumped on him.

■ **MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich.** — Eminem's ex-wife appeared in court on a bench warrant after skipping two separate court hearings.

Kim Mathers was arraigned Tuesday in a Macomb County court on charges connected to the two missed dates, WDIV-TV in Detroit reported.

Mathers, 28, posted a \$50,000 bond and left. A pre-trial hearing is scheduled for Dec. 18.

She failed to appear in Warren District Court on Nov. 6 for an arraignment on charges of running a drug house. The charges stem from a Sept. 29 hotel party in the city.

Mathers' lawyer, Michael Smith, had said he didn't know where she was and hadn't spoken to her since Oct. 30.

District Judge John Chmura subsequently issued the bench warrants.

Mathers was also supposed to attend a hearing on Nov. 4 for violating the conditions of her bond in a St. Clair Shores drug case.

In that case, Macomb County Circuit Judge Edward Servitto issued a warrant when Smith said he couldn't reach Mathers after she missed the hearing.

Mathers and the Grammy-winning rap star, whose legal name is Marshall Mathers III, married in 1999 and divorced in 2001. They have a daughter together, Hailie Jade.

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