



FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

November 20-21, 2004

A newspaper with issues

Volume 4, Issue 7

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

16 23 36 44 47
Meganumber: 10
Jackpot: \$13 million

FANTASY 5

13 16 25 29 39

DAILY 3

Daytime: 3 8 1

Evening: 9 3 9

DAILY DERBY

1st: 04 Big Ben
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 10 Solid Gold

RACE TIME: 1:47.01

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Attorneys for the city of Monte Sereno, Calif. (pop. 3,400), said in October they would proceed with the civil and criminal cases against defiant residents Joe and Darla Padgett over the Padgetts' 2-foot-too-high fence (and illegal chopping down of a tree), which has so far cost the modestly budgeted city \$170,000 to prosecute, with no end in sight.

Joseph Manuel Augusto, 37, and Andres S. Diaz, 52, chased each other around a Burger King in Stratford, Conn., in July after Augusto had become enraged that Diaz had occupied the men's room too long.

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1975, after nearly four decades of absolute rule, Spain's General Francisco Franco died, two weeks before his 83rd birthday.

In 1992, fire seriously damaged the northwest side of Windsor Castle, the favorite weekend home of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II.

Ten years ago: The Angolan government and rebels signed a treaty in Zambia to end 19 years of war, even as fighting continued in their homeland.

INDEX

Horoscopes

Let plans change, Libra 2

Surf Report

Water Temperature: 63° 3

Opinion

Agony of defeat 4

Q-Line

Don't park it right here 4

State

Boxer by a TKO 8

National

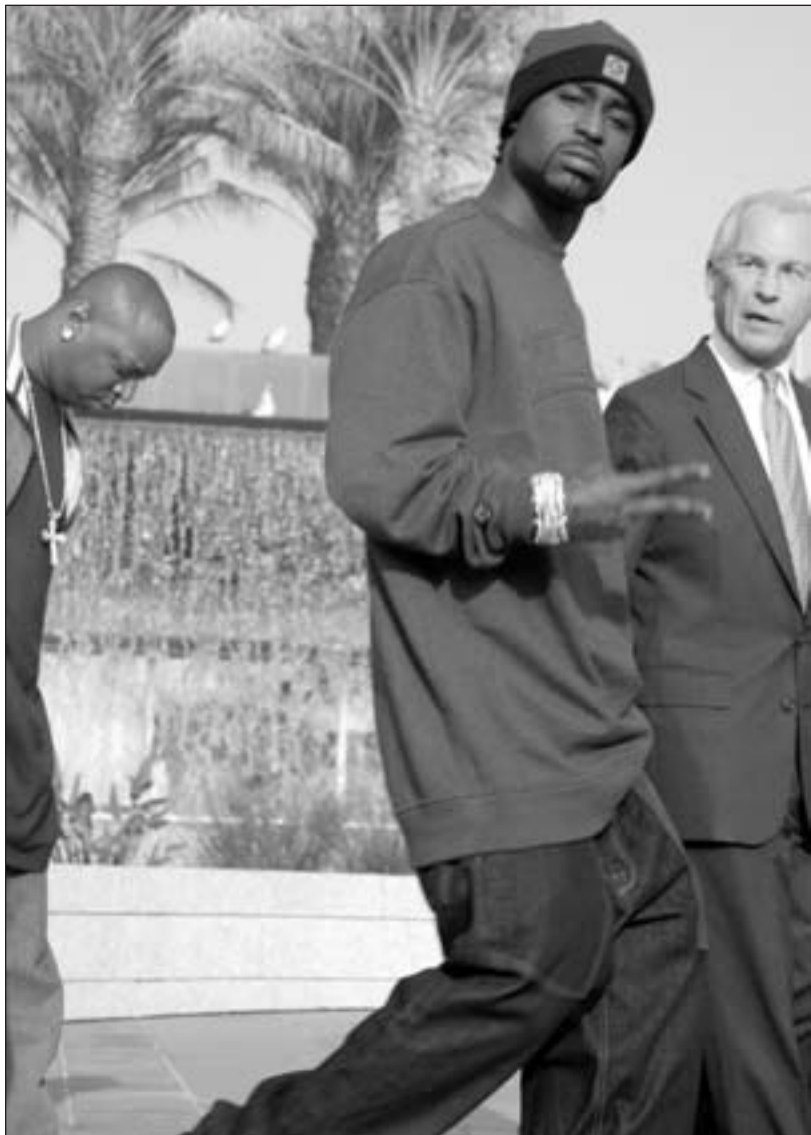
Jailhouse smock 11

Classifieds

Ad space odyssey 17

People in the News

Clay-mation 20



Susan Tam/Special to the Daily Press

Rap artist David Darnell Brown, aka 'Young Buck,' leaves the Santa Monica police station on Friday, after being arrested for attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon

Rapper 'Young Buck' turns himself into police

David Brown arrested for attempted murder, assault

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

POLICE HDQTRS. — After allegedly stabbing a man at a music awards show earlier this week, rap artist David Darnell Brown surrendered himself to local police Friday.

Brown, aka "Young Buck,"

was arrested for one count of attempted murder and one count of assault with a deadly weapon.

Brown, 23, left Loews Hotel shortly before 1 p.m. and drove in an entourage of three vehicles to the Santa Monica Police station. Brown was booked and two hours later, he was released, after posting

See STABBING, page 6

Mall owners lay out controversial plans

Three 21-story towers, high-tech parking, parks planned for 10-acre site

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — Developers aim to break ground in less than two years on a controversial project that would dramatically alter the Santa Monica skyline, it was announced late Thursday.

The owners of Santa Monica Place plan to raze their aging indoor mall and extend the Third Street Promenade another block to the south, with two stories of merchants on both sides. On top of the merchants would be four acres of parks and five high-rise towers, three standing 21 stories high. Below would be four levels of parking.

Major department chains Macy's and Robinsons-May would continue to be the mall's anchors, and discussions are underway to add retailer Crate & Barrel and clothes designer H&M, along with restaurateur The Cheesecake

Factory, mall officials told downtown business leaders at a meeting Thursday.

"Our goal is to establish a connection between Santa Monica landmarks," said Randy Brant, vice president of Macerich Co., which owns 61 malls nationwide. One of those malls is Santa Monica Place, which sits on a 10-acre site in the center of downtown.

"We actually want to create the fourth block of Third Street," Brant said.

Brant hit on several points likely to curry favor with City Hall's decision makers, including the plan to build a hi-tech underground public parking structure, 450 housing units, and the project's four-plus acres of parks, half of which would be privately patrolled but open to the public. Sales tax proceeds from the two levels of merchants would be a "huge" boost to city coffers, Brant added.

Still, the controversial project is sure to face stiff resistance from some community members and

See NEW HEIGHTS, page 7

Local man to serve on state film commission

By Daily Press staff

SACRAMENTO — A Santa Monica man has been appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to serve on the state's film commission.

Frank Stiefel, 57, has been an active member of the television commercial production industry for more than 25 years as owner of Stiefel and Co., a Santa Monica-based commercial production company, and most recently as the executive producer of @Radical Media.

Stiefel has produced thousands of commercials throughout his career and a number of award-

winning films. The film commission post does not require Senate confirmation and there is no salary. Stiefel is a Democrat.

The film commission's goal is to enhance California's position as the premier location for all motion picture and television production. A one-stop office for filmmakers, the commission issues permits for filming on state-owned property and manages incentive programs for filming in California.

Stiefel will serve on the commission with 20 other members, including actors Melissa Gilbert, Clint Eastwood and Danny DeVito.

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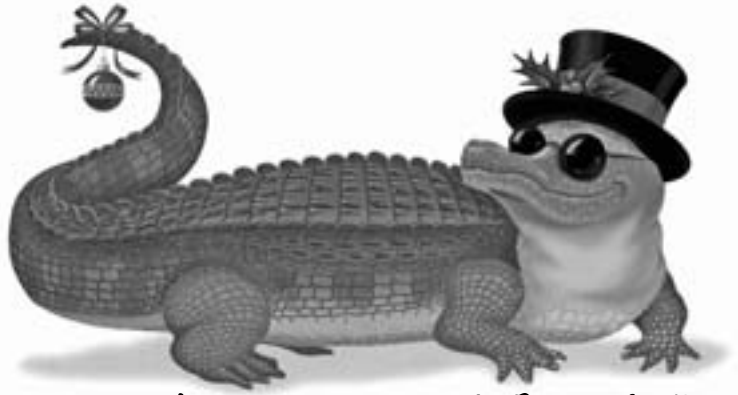
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Let plans change, Libra

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





ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Take your time choosing your words, because you could put your foot in your mouth, creating a very awkward moment or two. Opt to take some time alone to relax. A conversation with a friend or relative at a distance helps renew your perspective. Tonight: Vanish.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Friends mean well, but whenever you make plans, a key partner gives you reasons not to head in that direction. Sit down and have an important, long-overdue talk. Discuss what works best for both of you. Tonight: Think as a twosome.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Others look to you for organization and ideas. You might not want to be in that position, where others can nix or agree with your suggestions. Disengage if possible and make your own choices. If others want to join, fine. Tonight: Out and about.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Take the high road while others quibble about this and that. You might want to let go of the routine and head in a totally different direction. The question remains: Why not? You recharge your batteries and get a better perspective, giving in to wanderlust. Tonight: Go for exotic.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You might want to rethink plans that involve your family and your personal life. A reversal appears in sight if you tap into your imagination. Observe others making power plays and listen. You accomplish a lot more with a dynamic suggestion. Tonight: Be the playful Lion.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Others seek you out but cannot come to a conclusion despite all attempts. You opt to stay close to home, even if there is a certain amount of tension. Eventually, a discussion will resolve an issue. Invite a pal over. Tonight: Let the action be at home.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You might be driven to get a job done. Whatever is going on, you could be overwhelmed. Messages come in from many directions. You will need to confirm exactly what you expect. Hop out the door and meet up with friends. Tonight: Let plans change.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Your imagination takes you in a new direction. You weigh the pros and cons of a personal desire or issue. You might not be able to come to a conclusion immediately, but you will eventually. Tonight: Make it your treat.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Your family wants all of your attention. Giving them what they want could turn your plans upside down. You want to please others; you will find a way to make everyone happy, including you. Give up rigidity. Tonight: Invite others home.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ What you think is going on might not be what is really going on. You might be suspicious. Keep asking questions without adding an angle or bias to them. Once you open your eyes, you'll enjoy everyone around you. Tonight: At a favorite spot.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Friends might have ideas that could cost you more than you want. Discuss with your pals a good way to have fun without draining your piggy bank. In fact, your resourcefulness proves to be fun. Tonight: Indulging doesn't mean spending.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Your personality is on high, and others respond in many different ways. You might not realize it, but often you make a friend or two jealous. Take time discussing plans and ideas, and make a joint decision. Tonight: As you like it!

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Tony Verebes/Special to the Daily Press

Standing, left to right, in back: Han Bin Yoon, cello; Hannah Kim, cello; Jennifer Li, cello; Ken Hamao, viola; Sami Meyerson, cello; Juliana Gabrovsky, cello; Alexander Treger, music director and conductor; Yejin Kim, violin; Maxim Eshkenazy, assistant conductor; Hyo Joo Uh, violin; Yumi Man, violin; Julie Chang, violin; Georgia Broughton, violin. **Seated, middle row, left to right:** Sophie Cash Goldwasser, viola; Diana Newman, violin; Stephanie Yu, violin; Mary Ann Cummins, director of EMMI. **Kneeling in front, left to right:** Shelley Ackerman, flute; Ian Gottlieb, cello; Jeffery Li, cello; Max Dowaliby, cello.

Symphony reaches a Crossroads, touting 60 years

BY D'LYNN WALDRON

Special to the Daily Press

A decades-old tradition of music will be saluted next month, led by internationally known musicians, along with local students.

The Santa Monica Symphony will be joined by the Crossroads School Chamber Orchestra and Santa Monica's acclaimed baritone Jubilant Sykes in a free Salute to the Community concert on Sunday, Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m., to celebrate the Symphony's 60th Anniversary.

Under the baton of music director and conductor Allen Robert Gross, the Santa Monica Symphony will open the program with a new piece, "Momentum" by Chen Yi, which depicts the thunderous power of a volcano and captures the sweeping dynamism of Chinese calligraphy with themes from traditional Chinese music.

The Santa Monica Crossroads School Chamber Orchestra under its director Alexander Treger will play Tchaikovsky's melodic "Souvenir of Florence."

The thrilling baritone and internationally acclaimed singer, Santa Monica's own Jubilant Sykes, will sing a selection of traditional American songs and spirituals.

The Crossroads Chamber Orchestra will join the Santa Monica Symphony in playing Dvorak's Eighth Symphony.

Maestro Gross said the symphony is proud of being in a city with a fine musical tradition in its schools.

The Crossroads Chamber Orchestra is the performance group for the Elizabeth Mandell Music Institute of Crossroads School. The orchestra was started the 1980s and has conductors like Heiichiro Ohyama and Alexander Treger, both acclaimed string players who have become internationally recognized. Treger also is the conductor of the American Youth Symphony.

The concert will be held in the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium at 1855 Main St. A popular pre-concert talk by Raymond Knapp will be held in the meeting room at 6:45 p.m.

Continuing a 60-year tradition, admission is free to the concerts of the Santa Monica Symphony. Parking in the city's Civic Auditorium lot is \$8.



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SURF REPORT

On Saturday, look for holding NW wind/ground swell mix and building SW swell. Northern LA spots see mostly the SW swell for knee-waist high waves at many breaks and occasional chest high sets at top SW/combo breaks. South Bay breaks pick up primarily the NW swell mix for waist high waves for most breaks and chest high+ sets at top breaks as well. Winds are light in the morning, building out of the W in the 8-12 knot range for the afternoon.

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

**Today the
water is:**

63°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	2:23	1.8	3:55	-1.1	8:41	6.8	10:25	4.0
SUNDAY	2:58	2.2	4:48	-1.1	9:20	6.8	11:30	3.7
MONDAY	3:39	2.6	5:47	-0.9	10:05	6.6	N/A	N/A
TUESDAY	4:29	2.9	6:54	-0.6	12:49	3.6	10:59	6.1
WEDNESDAY	5:48	3.2	8:06	-0.3	2:22	3.7	12:06	5.6
THURSDAY	7:50	3.3	9:14	-0.1	3:40	4.0	1:33	5.0
FRIDAY	9:44	2.8	10:13	0.1	4:32	4.4	3:08	4.6

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THE Q-LINE RESPONSES ARE IN!

**WE HAVE THE QUESTIONS.
YOU HAVE THE ANSWERS.
CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S Q-LINE
RESPONSES ON PAGE 4.**

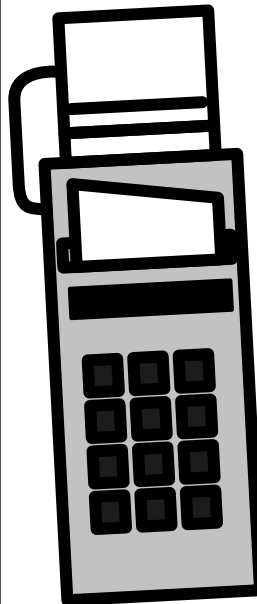


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OPINION

The QLine

TELLING CITY COUNCIL WHERE TO PARK IT

This past week, Q-line asked:
In order to free up parking on major thoroughfares for customers, "should residents give up some of their parking spaces for businesses?"

Here are your responses:

① "I am concerned about the City Council addressing the Pico neighborhood problems as far as shootings and theft and all the other crime that happens here. This is a place that allows people in the middle income group to be able to live in Santa Monica and it's important for our concerns to be addressed and not just those of the wealthy north of Wilshire."

② "In my opinion, preferred residential parking is highly questionable. The streets and roadways are paid for with tax dollars of all people. Considering this fact, all people should be allowed to use them on a first-come basis. I also find parking meters to be a stretch due to the motorists being charged a fee to park in a space paid for with their tax dollars. Still, the reason I agree to allowing workers to have parking permits is that the majority of workers who work in Santa Monica have to drive long distances to get to Santa Monica and need an automobile for that purpose due to the poor public transportation being available. When those employees arrive in Santa Monica, they need a place to park their cars. It's as simple as that."

③ "I cannot understand the idea of this City Council, which is the worst we've ever had, giving up parking spaces for businesses. What are we talking about? Why don't these businesses build their own parking (garages) underneath their buildings? There's not enough parking for residents to begin with. I think we gotta get rid of the City Council. Everyone except for Shriver. This is too much. It's just going on and on and on with all this. We got rid of Feinstein, which was great. Now we gotta get rid of the other ones giving up parking for businesses ..."

④ "As a resident of Santa Monica, and already having difficulty parking near my address four blocks north of Wilshire Boulevard, I cannot understand why I should be asked to subsidize the business owner — in many cases, large, national corporations. I suggest they bear the cost of parking of their employees. Maybe the city of Santa Monica in all its wisdom wants to turn the city into one large shopping center. Does the City Council know the meaning of the word 'density,' or is there only interest to obtain tax revenue that businesses throw off?"

⑤ "The important thing to remember is that street parking is public parking. That means it belongs to the public. It's first-come, first-serve — whether you're a resident, a business customer or a business employee. Now, if you don't think there's enough parking, build a frickin' (sic) parking lot. Or buy a parking lot. Or rent a space that has parking. This preferential parking, for example, is usurping ownership over public property, by individuals of public parking spaces that don't belong to them. They

belong to whoever gets there first, period."

⑥ "Yes, I think it's a wonderful idea to let some of the businesses park in our lovely city of 'Samolicious.'"

⑦ "Landlords should be forced to provide a certain number of spaces for each unit, and beyond that, if people have too many cars, they should charge triple (the fee). If someone has three extra cars, they should be forced to pay three times the regular price for each parking permit. If they can afford to have a lot of cars, they can afford to pay the parking fees."

⑧ "What? No way! If anything, the city needs to cut back on the business build-up and, in turn, use the space to provide more parking for visitors, customers, and also residents."

⑨ "Parking, like so many other things, is a terrible mess in this poor city, which is slowly going down the drain. Now we are pitting residents against struggling businesses and poor employees trying to make a living. All because inept mayors and councilmen have never looked and planned adequately for the future, in issues that really count — traffic and parking being two prime ones. Instead of building a library — way over cost, and not really needed in the first place, which will be a palatial bum hangout anyway — parking structures above and below ground should have been provided. And allowing all these buildings and over-building in general has and will continue to be chaotic and catastrophic. I don't see any hope on the horizon, especially with this status quo mayor and City Council."

⑩ "Residents should not give up their parking for businesses. That's part of the problem in the first place, that the residents couldn't park in front of their own homes."

⑪ "I believe that if there's a business owner, a small business for example, on Wilshire Boulevard, I think that he should have an opportunity to get a placard for his rearview mirror which will allow him to park in the residential neighborhoods. But I don't believe that it's right for customers to be able to do this, or other employees. I think that if all employees of a business are allowed to park in residential neighborhoods, it will really clog the streets for the neighborhoods whose residents don't have enough parking as it is. One of the problems is that with apartment buildings, there are limited spaces available for our street parking, and as a consequence, those who live in the apartments who don't have one of the spaces are forced to park on the street. This is another dilemma and an issue that needs some attention as well."

New technology is afoot, but we're no better off



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

It's not even Thanksgiving yet, but, as usual, advertisers are reminding us that the big holidays are just around the corner. There's no use in our even trying to fight this premature commercialization. However, in addition to seasonal slogans like "Goodwill to Men (and Women)," "A Great Miracle Happened There" and "Peace On Earth," I'd like to add one of my own: "Just Because They Can Make It, Doesn't Mean We Have To Buy It."

As opposed to other generations, invention and technology have now outstripped need. As a result, there is a whole category of amazing things that exist that beg the question, "Does anybody really need that?"

Some people might say my robot vacuum cleaner falls into this category. That's a hard one for me to defend, especially since lately it's been spending more time gathering dust than sucking it up. But there are many more examples. Think of all those fantastic computer programs you bought or downloaded that you never use. There are gadgets on today's cars that we could probably all manage without. How important is it for us to know the outside temperature of our car? If it's hotter or colder than we'd like, what are we going to do? Just stay in our car until the weather changes? And how often do you really use that waterproof CD player in the shower? And was business really conducted less efficiently before people could "instant message" each other 24 hours a day?

I recently read about a new invention that nearly defines this category. Adidas has developed the "smart shoe." Until now, I didn't even know my shoes were dumb. The new shoe comes with a computer chip so that it can be completely customized to your feet and stride. Theoretically, it can help make walking and running more comfortable and more efficient. Adidas flacks say the shoe "has a motor that spins at a rate faster than the rotors of a Blackhawk helicopter." I guess that's impressive, but have they figured out a way to remove gum from its sole when you accidentally step in it?

I'm a little worried about this new product. Think about all the things that can, and do, go wrong with your computer. Now imagine if the same things happened to your shoes. Do you want to run the risk of some competitor like Nike mischievously giving your new shoes a virus? Or if they're worn in the Olympics, what's to stop another country from cracking our athletes' foot code? Forget about the elite athlete. What if you get this shoe because of its presumed comfort, and you're going for a casual walk, and suddenly for no explicable reason, your shoes start running?

Before writing off this invention, I wondered if there were ways of turning these negatives into positives. I believe there are. For example, if you're at home, wearing your computer shoes and relaxing when the phone rings, maybe you'd rather somebody else answered it. Now you'll be able to say, "Can you get that? I can't move. My shoes must've crashed."

So, maybe the best use of this invention will turn out to be claiming it's not working properly — just as people do with so many other technological wonders. You know what I'm talking about. As opposed to when humans took messages, now people can say, "I never got your message. My machine eats them up." When people lose interest in talking to you on the phone, they can say, "Sorry. I'm losing you on my cell phone." And of course, the reason the report is late is, "My computer froze."

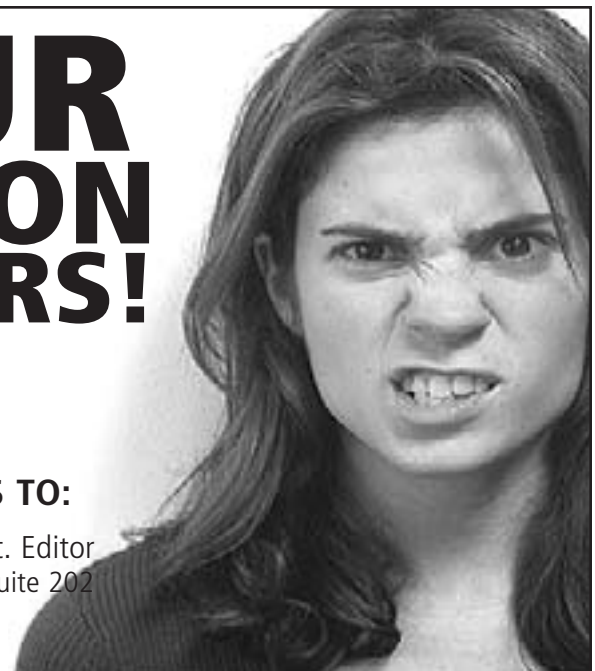
So, maybe people will buy these shoes just so they'll have one more technological excuse for things. Wearing them, they'll be able to call work and say, "I can't come in today. I'm stuck in my house. My shoes' hard disk went bad, and the tech support line is busy." But before you smile about what a great friend technology is, caveat emptor. There's always the chance that when your boss bought his combination pen/videocamera/air freshener, he also picked up a telephone lie detector.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He also has read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermodern-times.com).

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

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LOCAL



When racing for 24 hours, there's time to ponder



EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT

BY THADDEUS REICHLEY

Earlier this month I competed in the first annual "24 Hours of LA" mountain bike race, held in Bonneli Park in beautiful San Dimas, Calif. When I tell people about the race, there are usually a few questions that come up. You probably have a few right now. Well, I would like to take this time to clear up some of the confusion and questions surrounding 24-hour racing.

First, people usually ask if this is an individual or team race. The answer is both. I like to think of it as a "Darwinian" registration. Those with the strongest survival skills choose to enter co-ed or single-sex teams of four people. Right away you can see that the co-ed teams have a much better evolutionary chance for survival. Those with slightly less cranial mass, and therefore an evident evolutionary disadvantage, will gravitate towards the two-person team division. Those destined for extinction, myself included, choose to do the race solo. This obviously abolishes any chance of contact with the opposite sex during the race. Also, though I have seen no evidence to support this theory, I imagine that 24 hours in a bike saddle on rough terrain probably does little to help the reproductive fitness of a rider. Although this final choice may seem puzzling at first, I believe that it's an altruistic choice that serves as a warning to other members of the species. They see the solo riders struggling through hour upon hour of racing and realize that it is basically a pretty stupid idea.

Second, people usually ask if you sleep during the race. Again, this depends upon your evolutionary prowess. On a four-person team, you can be assured at least a few restless hours of tossing around in a sleeping bag waiting for your next turn and pretending to sleep. As a member of a two-person team, you basically get to get off your bike for a little while after each lap. You can forget about sleeping. Solo riders take all different approaches. Some

take naps. Personally, I don't allow myself the luxury of sleep. It's not so much a measure of toughness as it is the knowledge that once I stop it becomes almost impossible to get back on the bike again. Better to stay in the zone. Regardless of your team size, you can imagine that it takes a few days after one of these races to get the old internal clock back to normal.

Next, people usually ask what I think about during the race. I wish I could say that it was something profound or life changing. In fact, I have often said that if I could learn to think about important things while I train and race, I could end world hunger and maybe come up with a comfortable design for a bike seat. But alas, I basically just zone out. I think that if I didn't compete in endurance events I would seriously risk falling into a lifestyle similar to Jeff Spicoli from "Fast Times at Ridgemont High." I vaguely remember an hour or two during the race where I got stuck on the lyrics to Cyndi Lauper's "She Bop." It bugged me so bad I had to look it up. In case you are wondering, the chorus is, "She bop — he bop — a — we bop, I bop — you bop — a — they bop, be bop — be bop — a — she bop." I also had a long stint thinking of names for a new energy bar. What do you think about TURDS? It stands for, "Thad's Ultimate Recovery Dietary Supplement." My catch phrase will be, "They're ugly, but they're good." The real trick with these races is to stay out of your head. As soon as you start to think about what you are doing, a rational thought might sneak in and cause you to realize that you are an idiot and you should really stop, have a beer and call it a day. These thoughts, though wise, are dangerous and must be blocked out at any cause.

Usually towards the end of a conversation about a race like this people will ask me what hurts the most after it's all over. It is usually a tie between my left and right butt cheek, but there is some property in the middle of the two that is usually pretty tender as well. Besides that though, everything basically hurts. I have done three of these races, and after every one I promise myself that I am never doing it again. Unfortunately, my muscles don't

seem to have as many "Electoral College" votes as my brain, even though they are much larger and do most of the work during the race. I really hope they work on their campaign tactics soon because it's usually not long after the race that I begin plotting ways that I can be a little faster in the next one.

Finally, or sometimes right off the bat, people ask, "Are you crazy?" Well, probably. But who isn't a little crazy in his or her own way? It is exciting, though admittedly silly, to push your body to the limits on occasion. I don't recommend doing it on a weekly basis, but there is a feeling of accomplishment that comes with reaching your wall and figuring out a way to go over, around, or through it. Whether it is a 24-hour mountain bike race, a marathon,

an attempt at quitting smoking, or just getting up to face another day, we all have our challenges. Some of them are more serious than others. Maybe that is what makes the silly ones so much fun. They give us a chance to escape the rest of the world for a while. It's hard to worry about work at 3 a.m. when you realize that you have been riding for 16 hours and still have eight to go.

Whatever you do, don't be afraid to push the limits every once in a while. You might just surprise yourself.

(Thaddeus Reichley is a local teacher and pro triathlete. He recently won the solo division in the "24 Hours Of LA." Look for his column every other week in the Daily Press weekend edition).

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Police searching for more Vibe stabbing suspects



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Rap artist David Darnell Brown, aka 'Young Buck,' gets into a Jeep Cherokee in front of Loews Hotel with his lawyers, Karla Lyaken and Roger Rosen, on Friday before surrendering to Santa Monica police on charges relating to the stabbing which occurred at the Vibe Awards on Monday.

STABBING, from page 1

\$500,000 bail.

While Brown declined to give a statement to detectives, his lawyer, Roger Rosen, gave a brief statement to the press, saying Brown was at home when the stabbing took place at the Vibe Awards. The awards show honoring urban music was held at the Barker Hangar at the Santa Monica Airport on Monday night. Police say videotape footage shows Brown allegedly stabbing Jimmy James Johnson, 26.

"Pictures can be deceiving," Rosen said during a brief press conference Friday. "My client was at home in Tennessee."

Rosen said when Brown learned that police named him as the prime suspect on Tuesday, he began cooperating with local authorities to surrender. Brown is scheduled to appear in Los Angeles Superior Court at the LAX Courthouse on Dec. 20.

The stabbing occurred seconds after Johnson punched Andre Young, also known as Dr. Dre, as the rap artist approached the stage to accept a lifetime achievement award from Quincy Jones and Snoop Dogg. Police say Johnson appeared to be asking for an autograph, but instead assaulted Dr. Dre.

Brown, a native of Nashville, Tenn., is

a member of 50 Cent's G-Unit group, which is part of Dr. Dre's Aftermath label. He released his first major solo album, "Straight Outta Ca\$hville," in August.

The awards show melee broke out shortly before 7:30 p.m. After Johnson lunged at Dr. Dre and was being subdued by private security officers, several unidentified men tried to assault Johnson, police said. He was moved toward the stage by security personnel and two Santa Monica Police officers attempted to intervene. The officers suffered minor injuries after chairs were hurled at them.

Several videotapes of the chaos reveal that three men were seen holding knives, one of whom was identified by police as Brown. At one point in the videos, Brown is allegedly seen lunging over another man and swinging the knife at Johnson while he was looking away, according to police.

Johnson continued to be assaulted by unknown assailants and was later taken to a local hospital. He suffered from a serious stab wound to the upper body and a collapsed lung. He was listed in stable condition earlier this week.

Detectives are in the process of identifying several other assault suspects, particularly the two other men seen in the video footage with knives.

Student convicted of torching SUVs for environment's sake

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A graduate student was convicted Friday of firebombing dozens of sport utility vehicles and causing more than \$2 million in damage in an eco-vandalism rampage, but was cleared of the most serious charge against him.

William Jensen Cottrell, 24, was found guilty in U.S. District Court of conspiracy to commit arson and seven counts of arson. But the jury acquitted him of attempting to use a destructive device — Molotov cocktails — in a crime of violence. That charge carried a sentence of at least 30 years in prison.

Cottrell, who is being held without bail, will be sentenced March 7. He faces at least five years in prison, according to the U.S. attorney's office.

The charges against Cottrell, a doctoral candidate at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, stemmed from a series of firebombings in August 2003 at dealerships and homes in San Gabriel Valley east of Los Angeles.

About 125 vehicles were damaged or destroyed, causing an estimated \$2.3 million damage. Some vehicles were spray-painted with "polluter," "smog machine" and "ELF," an acronym for the Earth Liberation Front, a radical environmental group.

Defense lawyers argued that Cottrell had agreed with two friends to spray-paint vehicles but was shocked when they began hurling Molotov cocktails. Federal prosecutors have identified former Caltech students Tyler Johnson and Michie Oe as "fugitive co-conspirators" in the case. Both are believed to have fled the country.

But prosecutors said Cottrell was trying to minimize his role while placing blame on Johnson and Oe. Cottrell testified that SUV dealers were evil and that he had no "problem at a moral level" with spray-painting vehicles at dealerships. He also acknowledged that he had asked a friend he told about the vandalism to marry him "on paper" in order to prevent her from testifying against him.

Cottrell was arrested in March after authorities said they linked him to anonymous e-mails that taunted the FBI and boasted about the firebombings.

Cottrell's co-counsel, Marvin Rudnick, said the defense was pleased because Cottrell was cleared of the most serious count.

"We're very happy that the jury threw out the 30-year mandatory minimum to life count, so Billy has a future in his profession of physics," Rudnick said.

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LOCAL



Public gives mixed reviews while developers look to reach new heights

NEW HEIGHTS, from page 1

it's unclear how much Macerich officials are willing to compromise. Nearly 50 residents and merchants attended the regular meeting of the Bayside District Corp., a non-profit organization that manages downtown with funding from local merchants and City Hall. Ten people spoke on the proposal, asking Macerich officials about the height of the proposed towers, and about the future relationship between the project and the rest of the Promenade.

Janet Morris, whose family owns property on the Promenade, said she hoped the new mall would be an active member of Bayside and not cast a shadow over downtown. When the Frank Gehry-designed mall was built in 1980, it sucked business away from the Promenade. Today, it lags behind its open-air neighbor.

"I'm afraid that this is going to be a repeating cycle, that Santa Monica Place is going to be the new kid on the block and the Third Street Promenade is going to go down the tubes," Morris said.

Others asked whether Macerich would accept street performers, and probed for specifics concerning parking, traffic and what quantity of rentals would be affordable. Brant said Macerich hadn't made firm decisions on many of the details, but added the company would consider different opinions.

Some things were set, though. The underground parking, which would be built in partnership with City Hall, would not be free with a three-hour maximum stay, as the current mall parking garages are. Like the other garages downtown, motorists would pay \$1.50 for every 20 minutes they stayed after the first two hours. The new lots also would be equipped with sensors to detect open spots and direct drivers there, Brant added.

The proposal includes 560,000 square feet of retail and restaurant spaces spread out over two stories of shops along an outdoor walkway. Above the shops would stand three 21-story towers with a total of 300 condominiums, and two seven- to eight-story buildings. One of the smaller towers would house 150 apartments. In the other would be 70,000 square feet of leasable office space.

Also above the shops would be four acres of park space. On the east side of the Third Street extension would be a private two-acre park and swimming pool exclusively for residents living in the new project. On the west side would be another two-acre park. Both would have trees and water fountains. Plans for the mall were drafted by the Jerde Partnership, a firm with developments around the world.

"We don't want it to look like a mall," Brant said. "We want it to look like it's been there a while."

Currently, Santa Monica has just one 21-story tower, the white GTE building at



Photo of a rendering
An artist's rendering of the proposed Santa Monica Place site development, looking eastward.

100 Wilshire Blvd. Brant defended Macerich's plan to quadruple that number, saying the alternative would be to bring the buildings down but make them wider, which would block out more light and obstruct views.

Brant dismissed as impractical an alternative proposal to bring down the towers by removing the two anchor department stores and moving residential units closer to the ground level. Macy's and Robinsons-May are locked in from very favorable leases signed years ago, when the two department stores were the mall's main draw, and the reason smaller merchants rushed to set up shop there.

"The configurations of the department stores don't lend themselves to commanding high rents," Brant said. "It's all moot anyway, because they both want to stay. And they both have the right to stay."

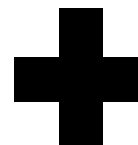
Macerich officials declined to say how much the project would cost. Local architects and developers estimated the cost at anywhere from \$200 million to \$500 million or more, though Macerich officials said they may sell the rights to the project's residential component to a housing developer.

Before mall officials can begin the estimated 30-month construction process, they'll have to get approval from City Hall and the Coastal Commission, which governs all development near California's coast. Macerich already has applied for what's called a development agreement with the city. If granted, the agreement would allow developers to skirt city codes governing building heights, among other things.

The City Council is expected to discuss the proposal on Dec. 14 and may direct city staffers to work on an agreement with Macerich.

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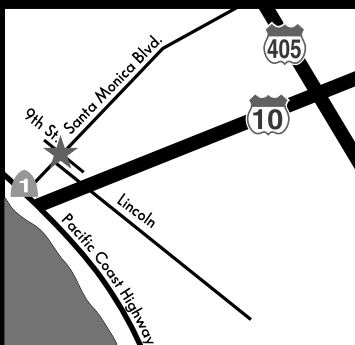
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STATE

Boxer stood tall amid liberal bout with GOP

BY ERICA WERNER

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Little noticed in this month's election was that the nation's third biggest vote getter, behind only President Bush and John Kerry, was Sen. Barbara Boxer, a fiery California Democrat who proudly wears her liberalism on her sleeve.

In a campaign year when the GOP picked off most of its Democratic targets, Boxer sailed to a third Senate term Nov. 2 with 6.4 million votes, 200,000 more than Kerry got in the state. Ralph Nader's total for the country: 407,000 votes.

Boxer crushed former California Secretary of State Bill Jones by 20 percentage points and scored a bigger share of the electorate than Democrat Dianne Feinstein, the state's senior and more popular senator, got in her last election.

This from a San Francisco Bay Area liberal who's made a habit of exasperating the GOP, whether taking on the Pentagon over a \$7,600 coffee pot — a fight she waged as a junior congresswoman two decades ago — or leading opposition to drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

"She's certainly one of the most liberal senators in the country, and one that Republicans love to hate," said Ken DeBow, a political scientist at California State University, Sacramento. "And they can't come close to touching her."

Boxer's success has several explanations: California's electorate leans stubbornly Democratic, even as voters nationwide hand victories to the GOP. The state Republican Party has a small pool of talent from which to draw candidates despite the success of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. And Boxer herself has honed her skills as a campaigner through two previous, much tougher Senate races.

Her huge victory is all the more noteworthy because it came in the first statewide race since Californians recalled Democratic Gov. Gray Davis and replaced him with Schwarzenegger, a moderate Republican, a year ago.

Many Republicans argued that the recall portended a shift toward the GOP in California. Virginia Sen. George Allen, head of Senate GOP campaign committee, predicted Jones could beat Boxer because "it's a whole new terrain there, a whole new ball game with Governor Schwarzenegger."

Boxer said she was consciously trying to prove that argument wrong.

"After the recall, I knew that I was carrying on my shoulders an enormous

responsibility to make the point that a Democratic candidate could win, could win resoundingly, and that Arnold Schwarzenegger's election would not mean the end of Democratic candidacies," she told reporters this week.

"That's why you saw how hard I was working. And people kept saying, 'Well you're going to win, you're going to win.' But we had to win resoundingly, we had to, I had to," she said. "It wasn't about me. It's way bigger. It was about the issues I believed in, it was about Democratic candidates in the future."

Boxer made her point, and in the wake of her victory, Schwarzenegger increasingly appears to be the exception, not the rule, in California politics, according to one analyst.

"While Arnold is wildly popular, he's hardly the party standard-bearer," said Barbara O'Connor, director of the Institute for the Study of Politics and the Media at California State University, Sacramento. "People view him as not a politician."

As for Boxer, polling figures showed she was potentially vulnerable to a GOP challenge, said Mark DiCamillo, director of the nonpartisan California Field Poll. In the months leading up to the election, she never reached 50 percent or above when voters were asked whether they were inclined to re-elect her.

But the challenge never came. Even after Schwarzenegger's election proved a moderate Republican could win statewide in California, the GOP nominated a social conservative whose views on issues like abortion and guns put him to the right of most California voters.

Jones struggled from the beginning, raising so little money he was never able to air even one television commercial, considered a must for reaching voters in sprawling California.

Boxer amassed a \$16 million war chest, campaigned around the state and bought upbeat television ads touting her support for health care and abortion rights. She finished with 58 percent of the vote in a state where Democrats make up 43 percent of registered voters (35 percent are Republicans and 18 percent are independents).

"Originally I think she represented the blue counties in California as somebody who was very popular in the Bay Area, and she's grown and become more popular in other parts of the state," Los Angeles Democratic consultant Bill Carrick said. "She has become an increasingly formidable political figure."



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STATE



Peterson investigation, trial may exceed \$2.5M

BY JIM WASSERMAN

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Costs to investigate, arrest and prosecute Scott Peterson for the murder of his wife, Laci, have topped \$2.1 million in the couple's hometown of Modesto and in Stanislaus County, government officials estimated this week as they try to have state taxpayers pay the bill.

Acrimony over costs is also growing between Stanislaus County and San Mateo County, where Peterson was convicted last week of first-degree murder in the 2002 death of his wife.

The Bay Area county just south of San Francisco says Stanislaus County still owes it more than \$250,000 for jailing Peterson through most of 2004, using a county courtroom for five months and keeping jurors in \$135-a-night hotel rooms. The county seat of Redwood City also claims that controlling traffic, media and crowds outside its downtown courthouse have cost city taxpayers more than \$70,000 since the trial began.

Frustrated with the slow pace of reimbursement, San Mateo officials said Thursday they want a court order compelling Stanislaus to pay.

Stanislaus County Auditor-Controller Larry Haugh said the county has already paid \$67,000 and will pay more. "Things are tight," he added.

If Stanislaus doesn't move faster, San Mateo wants legislation to have the state pay the bills.

In a letter to the county's state Assembly member, San Mateo Supervisor Mark Church said it's "imperative" the county be reimbursed to avoid cuts in other county services. San Mateo, Church said, shouldn't be penalized for its willingness to conduct the trial after it was moved from Stanislaus.

Combined, the still-rising costs faced by both counties seem certain to make the Peterson case the most expensive in California since 2002, when a Santa Clara County jury convicted and sentenced to death Mariposa County handyman Cary Stayner for murdering three women in Yosemite National Park in February 1999.

The Stayner case cost nearly \$5 million to investigate and prosecute, according to the state controller's office, with the state picking up nearly all of Mariposa County's costs, including those of moving the three-month trial to San Jose. The

controller's office reported the state also paid Shasta County in northern California \$5.2 million to investigate and prosecute Ben and James Williams for the July 1999 shotgun murders of two local gay men.

Stanislaus County and the city of Modesto want the state to pay for their investigation into the 2002 Christmas Eve investigation into Laci Peterson's disappearance and murder that started in Stanislaus County, spread to searches of the San Francisco Bay that led to the discovery of the bodies of Laci Peterson and her unborn son and then moved to the trial in San Mateo County.

From the beginning of the case, when Modesto police spent more than \$100,000 on overtime searching for Laci Peterson, local officials have scrambled to get the state to pay the bills.

Estimating that costs could reach \$5 million with appeals, Sen. Jeff Denham, R-Salinas, said he'll introduce a new bill to get the state to pay 100 percent of the bills when the Legislature reconvenes Dec. 6.

Denham's first bill died in the final minutes of this year's legislative session that ended in August. Although most lawmakers favored paying Stanislaus County's estimated \$1.5 million costs, some objected to paying the Modesto Police Department's tab to investigate and arrest Peterson, which Denham estimates at \$1 million.

Haugh said under current state formulas Stanislaus County must pay the first \$1.5 million to get 90 percent reimbursement for costs above that.

"That's why the legislation we're trying to get is so important," he said.

Costs of Peterson's defense are also expected to run into the millions, though Los Angeles defense attorney Mark Geragos and Peterson's family have refused to discuss their financial arrangements. The Petersons own San Diego Crating and Packing, a Poway company that provides customized packing and crating for shipping.

The Modesto Bee, citing records filed with the San Diego County Recorder's office, reported the Petersons refinanced a home in July 2003. They also lent Scott Peterson \$100,000, the newspaper reported, citing records filed with the Stanislaus County Recorder's Office. Peterson used his Covena Avenue home as collateral.

A call from The Associated Press to Peterson's parents was not immediately returned.

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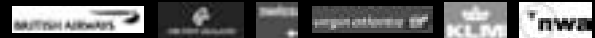
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The Q^{Line}



Electronics retailers dispatch geeks to do house calls

BY MAY WONG
AP Technology Writer

SAN JOSE — The first time Bruce Dougherty tried to get his home wireless network up and running, it was a bust. The former marketing executive had to enlist his son’s help, and still there were problems.

So who did he turn to when he wanted a network upgrade?

“That’s my geek, Johnny,” Dougherty said happily outside his local Best Buy store, gesturing toward a young man in a snappy black-and-white Volkswagen Beetle emblazoned with a “Geek Squad” logo.

Best Buy’s Geek Squad employs white-shirted men and women with snap-on ties whose mission, for a fee, is to convert consumer wrath about complicated gadgets into warm and fuzzy feelings.

Like Dougherty, many consumers are warming this holiday season to expanded tech house call services offered by Best Buy Co. Inc., Circuit City Stores Inc., CompUSA Inc., and Dell Inc.

The retailers’ traveling alpha geeks help customers with everything from home theater installations to virus removals to setting up gaming consoles. They even program remote controls.

"It's less of a do-it-yourself and more of a do-it-for-me marketplace now," said Sean Skelley, a senior vice president of services at Best Buy. His company, the nation’s largest electronics retailer, acquired Geek Squad in 2002 and turned the 60-employee company into a 6,200-strong 24-hour service.

Since August, it’s had a Geek Squad precinct in each of its 650 stores. Now it’s selling house-call gift cards, including a \$129 card specifically for setting up digital camera equipment and software.

Problem-solving missions include any

electronics — not just Best Buy purchases.

Dell recently expanded its at-home services to include nights and weekends, and last month, strengthened its lineup to include not just basic computer setups and wireless networking, but also the installation of PC accessories, Internet connections and e-mail accounts as well as moving files from an old computer to a new one.

The direct-to-consumer tech titan now also sells and installs plasma TVs.

Circuit City, which has been offering at-home installations for wireless networking and home entertainment systems for about two years, last month expanded services into more PC-related problems.

Its new “IQ Crew” is being tested in three cities to help customers — either in-store or at their homes — to fix a computer, remove viruses or do software or hardware upgrades.

Electronics retailers say customers have asked for such assistance for years, especially as often vexing digital devices have gone mainstream.

In the past, Dell’s customer service representatives would sometimes refer callers to Microsoft Corp., antivirus companies, Internet service providers or other manufacturers because the technical problems weren’t covered under Dell’s service warranties.

“Now we say, we can do it, but for a fee,” said Jennifer Jones Davis, a Dell spokeswoman.

At Best Buy, natural-born technicians on the staff felt handcuffed about providing certain services that they didn’t have the tools or job descriptions to handle. Now, the Geek Squad includes “counter intelligence agents” or CIAs, and “double agents” who both work the store counter and do house calls.

“Technology is going to keep changing, and our service is built around fixing anything and everything,” said Robert Stephens, the Geek Squad’s founder and chief inspector.

Prices for house calls start at about \$100, depending on the task. Circuit City and Best Buy provide 30-day warranties, and Dell promises return house calls if the technicians somehow don’t properly complete the job the first time.

But caveats abound — consumers should read the fine print, which often includes extra fees for additional services, some time caps, and warranty exemptions for such things as user error.

Last week, Mark Reardon, a double agent with Best Buy’s Geek Squad in the San Francisco Bay Area, was dispatched to the home of a 12-year-old who wanted to be set up to play online before the highly anticipated release of the Halo 2 video game.

Reardon worked until 9 p.m. to wirelessly network three PCs and hook up the Xbox, and by midnight, the boy was standing in line with hundreds of others to purchase the game.

For a flat-rate of \$159, Reardon handled another assignment: configuring a wireless router at the Brentwood home of Tom Guercio.

“I considered it a reasonable amount to pay, and it’s a learning experience,” said the 51-year-old former sheriff’s deputy as Reardon tapped away at a desktop keyboard in his den, next to Guercio’s prized fishing pictures and reels.

Reardon, who not only wore the white shirt and clip-on tie but also the requisite black pants, white socks and black lace-up dress shoes — patiently explained what he was doing as Guercio watched intently and fired off questions.

“You going to show me how to encrypt?”

“If you want,” Reardon said.

“How come MSN won’t let me come up on the laptop without paying another \$10?”

Reardon showed Guercio what he had been doing wrong.

“Will my wife be able to use the laptop at the airport?”

Reardon explained how.

Reardon spent almost two hours at the home, not only setting up the router but discovering a nasty adware infection. Guercio couldn’t be more pleased.

“I’m glad I didn’t set this up; there’s a lot more to this than I would have thought,” he said.

Electronics retailers are happy, too.

Best Buy expects \$650 million in revenue this year from repair, installations and delivery services — of which computer-related services are a significant component, Skelley said.

And the retailer expects double-digit growth from Geek Squad services in the coming year.

The deep-pocketed retailers are tapping a multibillion dollar computer-services industry that analysts say has been largely underserved and fragmented, with small, locally based businesses.

Demand will only grow, said Colin McGranahan, an analyst at Bernstein & Co. Inc. “With the complexity of inter-networked devices, from audio players to TVs and computers,” he said, “things are getting more involved than what most consumers are comfortable with.”

Best Buy hopes that means more calls for its men and women in geeky black-and-white. But don’t expect them to wear pocket protectors.

“We are the auto mechanics of this generation,” Stephens said. “We’re a little bit Dragnet and Ghostbuster, but this is not revenge of the nerds.”

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NATIONAL



Experts: Forget the fires, get to root of problem

BY REBECCA BOONE

Associated Press Writer

BOISE, Idaho — The United States needs to stop thinking of wildfire as a menace or a tool and start considering the overall health of the land instead, a wildfire expert told foresters and government officials Thursday.

Instead of debating over thinning forests and suppressing fires, fire managers should deal with the health of the entire globe by trying to reduce global warming, Arizona State University Professor Stephen Pyne said at the conference held by The Idaho Statesman and the Andrus Center for Public Policy.

That would help reduce catastrophic fires, said Pyne, who has written two books on America's fire management practices.

"We can't cut our way out of the problem, we can't burn our way out. We can't suppress and we can't walk away," Pyne said. "It is not simply what was done that has troubled fires' past history — it was how it was done. It would be a sad irony if we only replaced state-sponsored forestry with state-sponsored ecology."

The fledgling U.S. Forest Service and its predecessors saw fire as a problem that destroyed far more natural resources than logging, Pyne said. When the Forest Service gained control of the national forests in 1905, its mission was to completely stop wildfire.

"In 1902 there was little one could do about large fires except flee," Pyne said. "In 1910, the government could marshal forces to fight back and did so at considerable cost in money and lives."

Ultimately, Pyne said, the forests became packed with

timber and tame fires became raging ones.

In recent decades, forest policy has swung the other way, with more emphasis on controlled burning and thinning forests, he said. Now, he said, global warming is likely becoming the leading cause of huge wildfires.

"Giant smoke plumes rising over the northern Rockies are not the big burn of today. For that, look at the industrial plumes of urban construction," he said. "These are the fire practices of our times, and likely increasingly the drivers of fire in our wildlands."

Conference panelist and University of Montana professor James Burchfield said the public is no longer willing to buy the idea that trees are simply fuel for wildfire.

"We've got to be really careful that we don't talk about healthy forest as all thinned forests," he said.

Beating Martha: Prison chefs tout their creativity in cookbook

BY NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS

Associated Press Writer

SPOKANE, Wash. — Talk about your Iron Chefs.

Proving that the steel bars of the Washington State Penitentiary are no barrier to fine dining, inmates at the Walla Walla prison have just produced "The Convict Cookbook," which includes recipes that can actually be made inside a cell without a stove.

"We wanted to beat Martha Stewart to the punch" is the explanation one inmate gave for the book, said prison spokeswoman Lori Scammahorn.

Po' Mans Burritos, Cell Block Fudge or Jail Mix, anyone? How about Dope Fiend Sandwich or Prizzon Po Carcass Casserole? Those are just a few of the tasty dishes featured in the 163-page book. There's a helpful glossary of prison slang in the back, too.

The cookbook grew out of a community college class on how to make the transition to the outside. The soon-to-be-released classmates discovered they had such talents as cooking, writing and cartooning.

The book includes short facts and insights into prison life. There is also an essay "Why Do We Cook in Our Cells? or Bad Guys, Good Taste?" by Rick Webb, one of the authors. He explains that while prison food is OK, it becomes monotonous over time, and cell cooking provides some variety and creativity for inmates.

Cooking food in a prison cell isn't easy. Prisoners do

not have stoves or microwaves. What they are allowed is an immersion heater known as a stinger, which can heat a cup of water to boiling.

Some recipes can be cooked on radiator pipes. Others require the prison kitchen. Many of the recipes involve plastic bags standing in as mixing bowls.

All involve some ingenuity.

Henry Chavez wrote that during the 1980s he worked in a prison kitchen and cooked his Upside Down Huevos Rancheros by slipping them into an oven alongside the food being cooked for the evening meal.

"Needless to say, my clandestine culinary skills got me run out of the kitchen," wrote Chavez, who has honed his abilities over 19 years in prison.

Dave Rivers' Perfect Omelet is made by combining all the ingredients in a plastic bag and boiling.

John Bucko, who drew the cartoons for the book, contributed a baklava recipe using flour tortillas layered with peanut butter, honey, a banana and peanuts.

Ron Valentine's Blue Mountain Crabbies combined canned crab, crushed crackers, cream cheese, mayonnaise and a few other ingredients in a plastic bag that was hung outside a cell window during winter to chill.

Donald Dunn's Jailhouse Pizza uses uncooked Top Ramen as the crust and tops it with pizza sauce, cheese spread, some pepperoni or summer sausage and corn chips.

Other sweets include Behind These Bars, Celly Smores, Short-timer Cheesecake and Convict Mocha.



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NATIONAL

Greenspan: Trade deficits may threaten the economy

BY JEANNINE AVERSA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Swollen trade deficits eventually could threaten the economy by souring foreign appetites to invest in the United States, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan warned Friday. The dollar, already sliding, took another nosedive after his remarks.

Greenspan's remarks, to a banking conference in Frankfurt, Germany, referred to the broadest measure of U.S. trade, the current account deficit. That swelled to a record \$166.2 billion in the second quarter of this year, the most recent figure available.

This deficit is considered the best measure of a country's international economic standing because it tracks not only goods and services but investment flows between countries as well. For all of 2003, the current account deficit mushroomed to an all-time high of more than \$500 billion.

So far, foreigners are willing to lend the United States money to finance its current account imbalances, Greenspan said. The worry is that at some point foreigners might suddenly lose interest in holding dollar-denominated investments.

That could cause them to unload investments in U.S. stocks and bonds, which would send prices of the stocks and bonds plunging and interest rates soaring. Japan, followed by China and then Britain are the biggest holders of U.S. Treasury securities.

The sinking value of the U.S. dollar, which reflects in part investors' fears about the big U.S. trade and budget deficits, has some private economists more worried about this potential risk.

"It seems persuasive that, given the size of the U.S. current account deficit, a diminished appetite for adding to dollar balances must occur at some point," Greenspan said. That, in turn, could elevate the cost of financing the deficit, he said.

On Wall Street, Greenspan's warning sent stocks down. The Dow Jones industrials were off more than 100 points in afternoon trading.

The U.S. dollar has been sagging against the euro, the currency used by France, Germany and 10 other European countries. After Greenspan's remarks, which spurred traders to dump more dollars, the dollar fell again, flirting with a record low against the euro. The value of the greenback dropped to a 4 1/2-year low

against Japan's yen.

The dollar's slide has been good for U.S. manufacturers because it makes their products less expensive in foreign markets. That can help U.S. exports and narrow the trade gap.

Although the Bush administration publicly espouses a "strong dollar" policy, officials have done nothing meant specially to stem the dollar's decline. Private economists believe that's because the administration is OK with what so far has been a relatively orderly decline of the dollar.

The dollar dropped early this week as Treasury Secretary John Snow reaffirmed the administration's dollar policy and signaled the United States had no intention of intervening in currency markets to stop the greenback's decline.

Greenspan, in his speech, did not specifically discuss the value of the dollar. He said that forecasting exchange rates "has a success rate no better than that of forecasting the outcome of a coin toss."

The Fed chief also didn't talk about the future course of interest rates in the United States.

With recent signs that inflation is heating again after a long cool spell, economists believe the chances are increasing that the Fed will raise short-term interest rates for a fifth time this year on Dec. 14.

President Bush says the best ways to handle the yawning trade deficits is to persuade other countries to remove trading barriers and open their markets to U.S. companies. Democrats, including Sen. John Kerry, Bush's former rival for the presidency, have blamed Bush's free-trade policies for the loss of U.S. jobs.

"What Greenspan is saying is that the United States is being financed by the rest of the world. We cannot continue to keep on spending. Sooner or later we have to pay our debt," said Oscar Gonzalez, economist at John Hancock Financial Services.

Greenspan said that although there's been evidence that "among developed countries, current account deficits, even large ones, have been diffused without significant consequences, we cannot become complacent."

Reducing the federal budget deficit or moving it to surplus, Greenspan said, would be an important action to boost U.S. savings. The deficit hit \$412 billion, a record in dollar terms, in the budget year that ended Sept. 30.

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NATIONAL



\$388B question: Will it pass through Congress?

BY ALAN FRAM

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers and White House budget bargainers whittled their differences to a handful, fueling hopes Friday that Congress can speed an overdue \$388 billion bill to President Bush that finances most federal agencies.

The giant measure, which leaders hoped to pass by Saturday, bears extra money for priorities like veterans, the wartorn Darfur region of Sudan, biohazard detection equipment for the post office, and likely thousands of projects for lawmakers' home districts.

The legislation was largely defined by Bush's demands for curbs on domestic spending, with only modest increases for favorites like education and cuts for some of the president's own initiatives.

"Everybody took hits," said House Appropriations Committee Chairman Bill Young, R-Fla., a chief author of the measure. "There will be members who aren't totally satisfied, but we we're committed to stay within the budget number."

Young said the bill would have been \$20 billion larger had he accommodated all of his colleagues' requests for more projects.

Late problems included staunch White House opposition to an effort by some legislators to curb Bush's plan to contract out federal jobs to private businesses, as well as a plan to pay for some of the bill's increases by cutting unspent defense funds.

On his way to economic meetings in Chile, Bush signed legislation on Friday raising the government's debt limit by \$800 billion, a measure forged by the same budget pressures that squeezed the spending bill.

The bill would bring to \$2.23 trillion the total borrowing increases Bush has needed in his four years in the White House.

The debt-limit vote and the progress on the spending bill came with leaders saying they hoped to end their lame duck session by Saturday. They also hope to approve an overhaul of intelligence agencies before departing.

The new federal borrowing cap would be \$8.18 trillion. The House approved the increase by a mostly party-line 208-204 vote, a day after it won Senate passage. Its passage was not in doubt because the alternative was a jarring federal default, but it was nonetheless a battlefield for partisan finger-pointing.

"I understand there's been an election, I understand you won and I commend you for it," said Rep. Charles Stenholm, D-Texas, who was defeated last month after a 26-year career as one his party's most stalwart deficit hawks. "But that also means you have the responsibility for

your actions" because the GOP controls the White House and Capitol Hill, he said.

Democrats said GOP tax cuts were the problem and that the measure should have been accompanied by a revival of a requirement that the budget be cut to pay for any tax cuts or spending increases. Republicans said Democratic cries for fiscal responsibility contrasted with their frequent calls for higher spending.

"There's nothing like a reformed lady of the evening," said Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind.

In a written statement aimed at reassuring the financial markets that federal borrowing would be unimpeded, the White House said Bush would sign the legislation by Monday.

"The president commends the Congress for passing the debt limit increase. Passage of this legislation was important to protect the full faith and credit of the United States," the statement said.

The spending bill contains \$14.8 billion for programs for low-income students, 2.5 percent more than last year. Biomedical research by the National Institutes of Health would grow 2 percent to \$28.4 billion, well below the robust boosts it won in recent years.

Veterans' health care would grow to \$30.3 billion, \$1.9 billion over last year but less than veterans groups wanted. Aid for refugees in Sudan would be \$404 million. A plan to draw \$93 million of the Sudan aid from a slow-spending fund for rebuilding Iraq was dropped in deference to administration demands.

But the bill would cut grants for local water improvements and research supported by the National Science Foundation, and hold the federal subsidy for Amtrak to \$1.2 billion, the same as this year.

Ending one lingering dispute, lawmakers agreed to \$577 million, the same as last year, to continue developing a nuclear waste storage site at Yucca Mountain in Nevada, one lawmaker said.

Spending-bill bargainers also sorted through a stack of policy changes that lawmakers and lobbyists were trying to shove into one of the last measures Congress will approve this year.

Congressional aides said they believed a milk subsidy extension sought by Midwesterners and an effort to repeal required country-of-origin labels for meat would not make the final bill. Also thwarted was a drive to ease rules designed to protect endangered species from pesticides, the aides said.

The spending measure, covering the government budget year that started Oct. 1, is an amalgamation of nine separate bills financing all federal agencies except the Pentagon and the Homeland Security Department.

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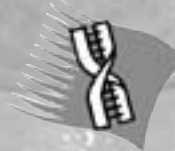
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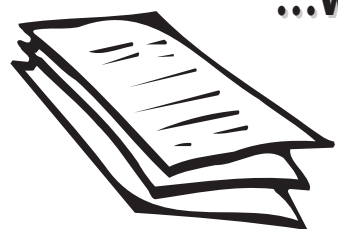
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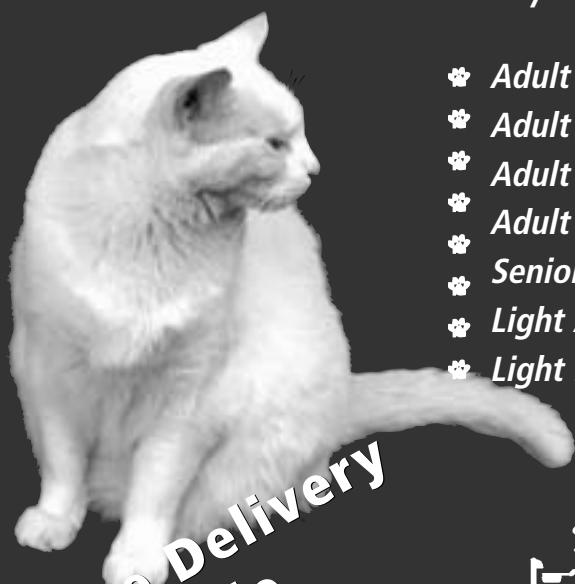


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NATIONAL

Bush's second-term domestic agenda far weightier than first

BY TOM RAUM

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — From his domestic policy platter, President Bush chose to serve dessert before the main course.

He accomplished the things that were palatable and relatively easy during his first term, and which required little sacrifice for Americans, at least on the home front: hefty tax cuts to spur a stumbling economy, education legislation that promised to leave no child behind, adding a prescription drug benefit to Medicare.

The meatier stuff was put off: making those tax cuts permanent and "fundamental reform" of the tax laws, overhauling Social Security to allow private investment accounts, easing immigration restrictions, cutting the deficit in half within five years.

Having now won a second term, the president may find it increasingly difficult to deliver on those promises, even with the political capital he is claiming and larger GOP majorities in the House and Senate.

Given that the federal budget was \$413 billion in the red last year, Bush lacks much of the traditional capital available to spend on his priorities.

"Making the tax cuts permanent would drain about a trillion dollars of revenue, at about the same time you would need an extra trillion or more for the Social Security plan," said Robert Bixby, executive director of the Concord Coalition, a bipartisan group advocating fiscal responsibility.

"And the plan to cut the deficit in half assumes that we don't spend any more on Iraq or Afghanistan, which is not a reasonable assumption," Bixby said.

Bush may discover that it isn't just outnumbered Democrats that will give him a headache.

Unless the economy takes off and conditions improve markedly in Iraq, the president may find increased restiveness among the GOP, and this only will intensify as the 2006 midterm congressional elections approach.

Republicans united to resist the candidacy of Democrat John Kerry for president. Now that the election is over, GOP majority-party strains are beginning to show even before Bush's second term begins.

Conservatives who are deficit hawks are unhappy with Bush's spending plans and his failure thus far to use his veto. Social conservatives want him to do more to advance their agenda and some are peeved about his push to liberalize immigration.

On foreign policy, extricating the United

States from Iraq poses a far more daunting challenge than did the march to Baghdad. Some top Republicans, including Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Richard Lugar of Indiana, have expressed frustration at the cost and chaos of postwar Iraq.

Right after his victory, Bush claimed "the will of the people at my back." While there is no doubt that Democrats are in a state of disarray, there are practical limits to what the president can deliver, despite his optimism.

"He probably has a better chance of pushing his Social Security program than he does at tax reform," said Henry J. Aaron, an economics analyst at the Brookings Institution. "I think you can move the pea around under the shell a little more readily on Social Security."

Aaron said overhauling the tax laws is "in essence tax redistribution. It involves taking goodies away that people now enjoy."

Bush wants fundamental changes of "our complicated and outdated tax code" and says they should be "revenue neutral." He has proposed a bipartisan commission to come up with recommendations, but that is about as far as he has gone.

Many conservatives would like Bush to move toward a simplified flat tax or a tax on consumption, such as a national sales tax.

There is a widespread clamor for him to ask Congress to modify the alternative minimum tax. Designed to prevent high-income people from taking too many deductions, the tax was never indexed for inflation, so it is starting to hit many middle-class families.

White House officials give little guidance or details.

"It's too premature to speculate, when an advisory panel hasn't even been appointed," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said. "The president said this is going to be a top priority for him."

On Social Security, Bush also has not said much beyond repeating his 2000 mantra that younger workers should be allowed to invest a small portion of their Social Security funds in personal retirement accounts.

Veterans of the legislative process expect it to take many months, perhaps all of Bush's second term, to get to final votes on his Social Security and tax overhaul plans.

"The schedule gets really short once you start taking out the stuff Congress has to do. A lot is going to be left on the cutting room floor," said conservative economist Bruce Bartlett, director of the National Center for Policy Analysis.

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NATIONAL



Bush seeks more global support in fight to wipe out terrorists

BY JENNIFER LOVEN

Associated Press Writer

KILLEEN, Texas — President Bush, meeting with Asian-Pacific leaders, is seeking more international backing to both persuade North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons ambitions and to take concrete steps to cripple terrorist networks around the world.

In short, the agenda Bush takes to this weekend's annual 21-nation summit of Pacific Rim leaders looks much like it did last year — and the year before that.

"The big priorities will focus on the security and economic side because they really go hand in hand," said White House press secretary Scott McClellan. "You need to make sure you have security so that you can move forward on the economic side."

After a night at his central Texas ranch, Bush arrives late Friday in Santiago, Chile, this year's host of the two day Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum starting Saturday.

Iraq, once a dominant topic, has largely fallen off the Bush administration agenda.

But North Korea, an "axis of evil" brother of the former Iraqi regime, is high on the priority list. Of the seven foreign countries whose leaders Bush plans to meet with in private one-on-one sessions, four of them — China, Japan, South Korea and Russia — are U.S. partners in talks with North Korea aimed at making the Korean peninsula nuclear-free.

Three rounds of talks in Beijing have yielded little progress and Pyongyang refused to attend a fourth round slated for September. The White House hopes to use to the APEC gathering to map strategy to put another meeting on the calendar for early 2005, a senior White House official said.

Bush will lean especially on Chinese President Hu Jintao to persuade the fellow communist nation to return to the table, said another official.

Each year, the White House chooses allies on whom to lavish the most attention by scheduling separate meetings with the president. Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin, whose predecessor, Jean Chretien, was openly snubbed last time for his lack of support for the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, gets such a plum, as does Russian President Vladimir Putin, viewed warmly by the White House as a solid war-on-terror ally.

In other meetings with leaders of Indonesia, Mexico and even China, Bush could confront priorities conflicting with his own.

Indonesia, for example, is one of the countries pushing to return APEC to its traditional focus on trade, giving security a back seat. Newly elected Indonesian

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono also plans to ask Bush to restore military ties, severed in 1999 over human rights concerns.

And Mexican President Vicente Fox will want to turn the conversation to reforming U.S. immigration laws. Bush proposed giving work visas to undocumented workers, but he has done little to get Congress to go along, and his top goal in U.S.-Mexican relations after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks remains enhanced border security.

Hu, meanwhile, comes to Santiago focused on establishing his country as a Pacific Rim economic and political powerhouse to rival the United States. Bush and Hu will meet just weeks after a top Chinese official accused the U.S. president of trying to "rule over the whole world" and destroying global anti-terror efforts with the Iraq war.

Nevertheless, Bush will press China anew to end an exchange-rate policy that U.S. manufacturers claim is costing American jobs and giving China an unfair trade advantage, aides said. Last year, Bush came up mostly empty on that front, but China recently raised hopes by increasing two key interest rates.

In the war on terror, Bush hopes to build on last year's pledges from regional leaders to intensify their crack-down on terror groups and curb the spread of unconventional weapons.

Freer trade will be a key focus of Bush's meetings, as well.

He will use an official state visit with Chilean President Ricardo Lagos after the summit's close Sunday and a brief stopover in Colombia en route home to the United States on Monday to press his top policy goal for Latin America: a firm 2005 deadline to complete negotiations on a Western Hemisphere free trade agreement.

Brazil and Venezuela have led the resistance to such a pact, but Bush could find willing boosters in both the Chilean and Colombian leaders. The United States and Chile signed a bilateral free-trade pact last year. And Colombia is a major recipient of U.S. aid, which funds President Alvaro Uribe's war on leftist rebels and anti-drug efforts. Senior administration officials hinted before Bush's trip of a possible increase in those funds.

Mostly, though, Latin America is on the back burner despite playing host to the meeting. Colombia is the only additional stop Bush is making in conjunction with the APEC summit; last year, when the meeting was in Thailand, Bush traveled widely through Asia.

With the U.S. reputation in Latin America damaged by the Iraq war and a perception of neglect, Bush was expected to arrive to thousands of anti-Bush and anti-globalization protesters in the streets of Santiago.



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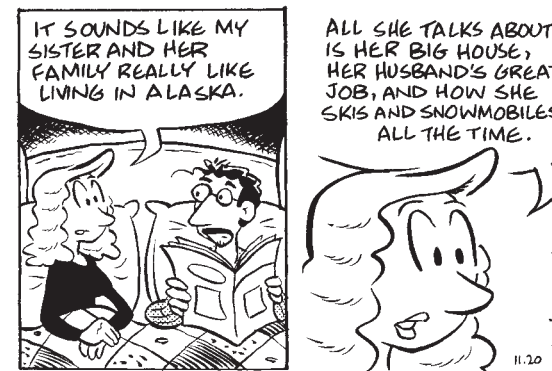


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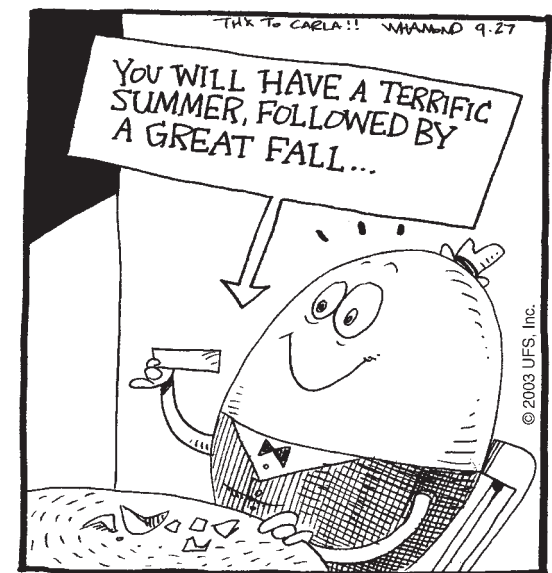
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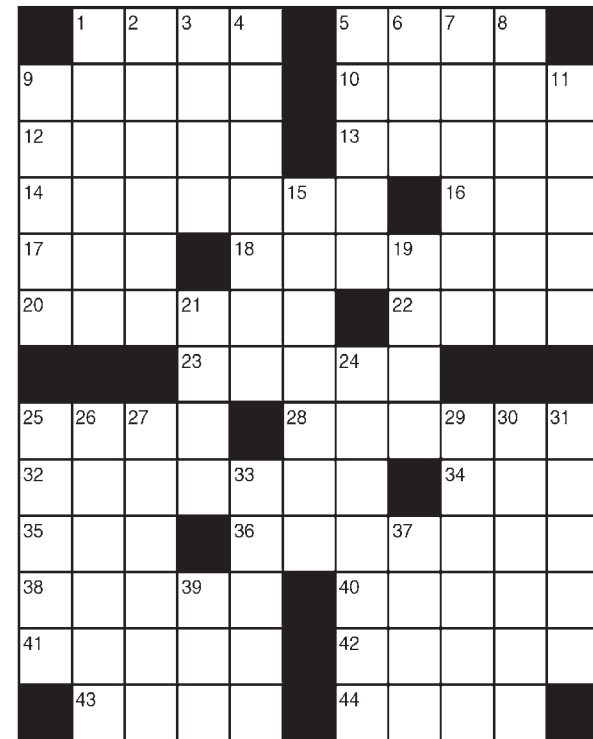
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

The 'Joy' of Clay: Aiken plans a holiday tour

By The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Clay Aiken has fond memories of holidays at home — driving 40 minutes back from Durham with a fake Christmas tree sticking through the back windows of his packed car because his family waited too long to buy a real tree.

"Most of America is accustomed to things going wrong" around the holidays, Aiken said. "Those are the memories I think are the funniest."

But one thing the self-described "skinny, redheaded, geeky little dork from the South" hopes goes off without a hitch this holiday season is his 21-city Joyful Noise tour, which begins Sunday in Pasadena, Calif.

"This is a different kind of concert," said Aiken. "It's not meant to be a show where fans bring signs and scream. The goal is to be more intimate, almost semi-formal. The crew will be dressed up in their Sunday best and I hope the audiences will do the same."

Aiken — plus a conductor and 20-piece orchestra — will perform a holiday-only repertoire from his "Merry Christmas With Love" album, which features standards such as "Winter Wonderland" and "Silent Night."

The 25-year-old singer has been named a spokesman for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots campaign, so Marines will be collecting toys at each stop on the tour.

Aiken will be among the performers on NBC's "Christmas in Rockefeller Center" special to air Nov. 30, and will star in "A Clay Aiken Christmas" Dec. 8 also on NBC.

He was recently named a national ambassador for the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, and he has a new book, "Learning to Sing."

TRENTON, N.J. — Who'd a-thunk it?

The Amazing Kreskin, who bills himself as "the world's foremost mentalist," wants to help his home

state of New Jersey stem the tide of shady practices in government, a problem U.S. Attorney Christopher Christie has called widespread.

Kreskin sent a letter to acting Gov. Richard J. Codey offering his nonpartisan services to help ferret out those who come to government with ulterior motives.

Kreskin, who lives in northern New Jersey, said he would monitor government meetings with a mind's eye toward keeping things above board.

"If a person is coming in with a strong hidden agenda, they're thinking about it. They're focusing on it," he said Wednesday in a phone interview. "I could get a ... strong sense (of that)."

Kreskin said he sent his letter to Codey's office Monday, signing it "ESpecially, Kreskin." A spokeswoman for Codey, Kelley Heck, wasn't sure the letter had been received.

Codey, who has a penchant for one-liners, was shown a statement Kreskin provided to news reporters. The acting governor was "interested in hearing whether The Amazing Kreskin can read Chris Christie's mind," Heck said.

GENEVA — Jewelry formerly belonging to Maria Callas — most of it given to the opera star by her husband, wealthy Italian industrialist Giovanni Battista Meneghini — fetched \$1.86 million at an auction.

Some 200 collectors, opera fans and the plain curious packed the Sotheby's auction room for Wednesday's sale, which included 11 pieces, at the plush Le Beau Rivage hotel.

All the lots sold above their highest catalog estimate, said Sotheby's Executive Director David Bennett, who ran the sale. Sotheby's didn't immediately identify the buyers, most of whom bid by phone.

"It was a very animated room," Bennett said. "It was demonstratively a great success."

The most expensive of the jewels — an 11.7-carat, marquise-shaped diamond ring — sold for \$340,000. It

had been expected to go for between \$136,000 and \$204,000, Sotheby's said.

A diamond-and-ruby necklace that Callas often wore at recitals went for almost double its estimate, selling for \$280,000.

The cheapest item in the catalog, an 18-carat yellow gold and diamond evening bag made by Van Cleef & Arpels in 1957, attracted the heaviest bidding. Listed at between \$5,524 and \$10,200, it sold for \$44,875.

Callas married Meneghini in 1949, but later left him for Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis. Most of the items on sale were given to Callas in the 1950s, during the best period of her marriage and the peak of her fame.

When she died in 1977 at 53, Callas had no heirs and didn't leave a will. She reportedly gave the jewels to a friend upon her death, and that person, whom Sotheby's refused to identify, is selling them now.

ROME — OutKast topped the winners list at the MTV Europe Music Awards, picking up three prizes, including best group.

The hip-hop stars from Atlanta also won best video and song for "Hey Ya!"

"I hope you don't get tired of us. We only do what we do," said OutKast's Andre 3000 while thanking the crowd of about 6,000 Thursday at the Tor di Valle hippodrome.

Winners also included Usher, best album for "Confessions" and best male; Alicia Keys, best R&B; Britney Spears, best female; Black Eyed Peas, best pop; and Linkin Park, best rock.

The ceremony featured performances by Usher and Keys, Eminem, Scottish rockers Franz Ferdinand, Swedish punk band The Hives and Gwen Stefani.

Eminem kicked off the show with "Just Lose It," from his new album, "Encore." The Detroit rapper appeared against a backdrop of a camouflaged tank, drummer boys and children dressed as soldiers.



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Available for private parties

ALL LAKERS GAMES
\$5 Burgers
\$5 Philly Cheese Steaks
\$3.00 DRAFTS
Limit 1 Special per customer. Expires 12/31/04

Available for private parties
1333 Santa Monica Blvd. (310) 899-0076 (corner of 14th and Santa Monica)
Lunch-Time Delivery Available

SUB SANDWICH
Buy One at Regular Price & Get the 2nd of equal or lesser value for **FREE!**
Limit 1 Special per customer. Expires 12/31/04

\$1.00 OFF LUNCH SPECIALS
11 TO CHOOSE
FROM MONDAY - FRIDAY 11:30AM-3:00PM
With choice of seasoned or curly fries, potato chips, mixed greens or rice & beans and a soda.
Limit 1 Special per customer. Expires 12/31/04

BARERRA VS MORALES
SATURDAY NOV. 27TH

Since 1993
Available for private parties

14 BELOW

Next door to
Over/Under
(310) 451-5040
www.14below.com

Upcoming Headliners

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20
12:00 **The Options**
11:00 **Kinematic**
10:00 Fall Water Project
9:00 Gia's Fix
8:00 Amy Garcia Band