

# Santa Monica Daily Press

*A newspaper with issues*

## Down below!



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press  
Santa Monica Police Harbor Patrol officer Ryan Penrod takes a flying leap off the pier Tuesday. Harbor patrol officers routinely make the 20-foot drop into icy cold water as part of ongoing training.

## Affordable housing project planned for Main Street

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER  
Daily Press Staff Writer

A major affordable housing project is planned for Main Street that will cost \$11 million for 44 apartments.

Community Corp. of Santa Monica wants to build the complex on the southwest corner of Pacific and Main streets.

The five-building complex could house about 185 people in 22 three-bedroom units, 16 two-bedroom units and three units of four-bedrooms and one-bedrooms that would rent for \$500 to \$1,300 a month.

Currently, the 27,045-square-foot site proposed for the project is vacant and used to have apartments on it. The five

buildings in the complex, which would be connected by upper-floor walkways, are gathered around a series of internal courtyards. The entire project will keep 50 percent of the land for open space.

While the complex would not be Community Corp.'s largest project in Santa Monica, it will be the first time the developer of affordable housing is proposing a project on Ocean Park lots intended for commercial use.

The largest building Community Corp. currently manages is a 62-unit complex in an eastside neighborhood, but the largest affordable housing development the

See HOUSING, page 5

## Game inventor fights the city

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER  
Daily Press Staff Writer

A game inventor accused of illegally operating a business on the Third Street Promenade without the proper permits may be heading to trial today.

Stewart Lamle will appear in Santa Monica Superior Court today in his ongoing fight against 16 misdemeanor citations that each carry a maximum penalty of six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine. Six of those citations are for illegally possessing a milk crate.

Lamle has argued when it comes to selling his invented game on the Promenade, the city is accusing him of breaking laws that don't exist. And because six of the 15 citations the police department issued last year for the illegal possession of a milk crate were given to Lamle, he believes the city has targeted him for prosecution.

"We want to know about these other nine people," said Paul Mills, Lamle's attorney.

"What were they doing to have the full weight of the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office coming down on them?" he said. "Lamle represents one-third of the milk crate crime wave in Santa Monica."

However, Lamle and Mills say Deputy City Attorney Linda Mills, who is prosecuting the case, has neither produced the specific city code Lamle violated nor the reasons the city decided to prosecute the nine other people who were charged with illegally possessing a milk crate.

Linda Mills was unavailable for comment Thursday.

Superior Court Judge Bernard J. Kamins will rule today whether the city must present the evidence Lamle and his attorney have requested. He will also decide if a full jury trial should begin

See LAMLE, page 5

## Identity theft, Internet fraud top list of consumer complaints

BY JENNIFER COLEMAN  
Associated Press Writer

**SACRAMENTO** — Identity theft and Internet fraud topped a list of consumer complaints, boosted by the rapid growth of technology, according to a survey of California district attorneys released Thursday.

"Consumer fraud is a pox on our communities," said state Sen. Jackie Speier, D-Daly City. Speier heads the Senate Select Committee on Government Oversight, which surveyed the district attorneys.

The U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs estimates that consumer fraud costs Americans \$100 billion annually, and much of that money is never recovered, Speier said.

Identity theft topped the last list of consumer complaints that was compiled in 1995. New additions to this year's list include immigration consultant fraud and

scams regarding health and diet products.

Kathleen Hamilton, director of the state's Department of Consumer Affairs, said the list illustrates the challenge of fighting new crimes, such as Internet fraud, and the familiar "snake oil salespersons" whose scams have been recycled for decades.

"The movement of the consumer culture from mainstream to the mall to the modern has complicated the consumer marketplace and brought with it clear enforcement and education challenges," Hamilton said.

Consumer education is more important than ever, and so is an easier system for victims to report fraud, she said. One of the complaints consumers often report is "the extensive labyrinth that must be navigated" to report a crime, Hamilton said.

Speier's committee held a hearing Thursday to discuss whether the state needs additional laws to help district

attorneys prosecute consumer fraud.

Other complaints on the list included phone services, auto repair and contractor fraud and negative option marketing, where the consumer is offered a free trial service, but later has to cancel the service to avoid a monthly charge.

Identity theft is the fastest growing white-collar crime in the nation, said Steven Blackledge, a consumer advocate with the California Public Interest Research Group.

The state needs to make it harder for criminals to steal personal information necessary to set up credit card accounts as someone else, and make it easier for victims to clear their record, he said.

Blackledge said identity theft is related to financial privacy.

See FRAUD, page 6

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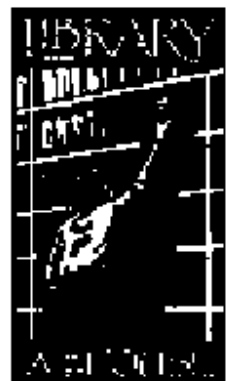
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**♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)**  
★★★★★ Reach out for someone at a distance. Your perspective could change once you get the full story. Communication excels as you move past a problem. New beginnings bubble forth. Your softer side comes out in your dealings. Tonight: A must appearance.

**♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**  
★★★★★ Realize that a partner often sheds a lot of light on a situation. Serious dealings head your way on the money plane. You know that you can and will deal with it. Others go out of their way to make everything easier for you. Let them. Accept help. Tonight: Consider your options carefully.

**♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**  
★★★ Indulge yourself right now. Kiss self-discipline goodbye. Sometimes you rein yourself in to such an extent that you forget what living is about. Loosen up and enjoy yourself more. Make what you desire happen. Tonight: Treat others and yourself.

**♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)**  
★★★★ Others happily join in during the p.m. Where you found you were hitting dissension earlier eases off now. Think in terms of gain and what would make you and a loved one happy. Infuse fun into your life. Tonight: Away you go.

**♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**  
★★★★ Use the morning to accomplish any tasks that are heartfelt. Realize what is going on with a friendship or close associate. Take some time out to confer with this person and to get back to the issues existing between you. Tonight: Do your thing. Take time for yourself.

**♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**  
★★★★ Move through work with precision this morning. Aim for an early getaway, if possible, or perhaps a more social afternoon with co-workers. A social occasion easily develops into a late-night happening, if you so desire. Tonight: As late as you want to go.

**♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**  
★★★★ Others respond intensely to your inquiries, helping you put together some vital parts of a "story" or scenario. Your skill to hop past a problem come out. Realize more of what you want and need. Success surrounds you. Tonight: In the limelight.

**♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**  
★★★★★ Reach out for others. Their perspective could amaze you. In that sense, communication invigorates your commitment to a project. Sit back this afternoon and brainstorm. You could be amazed by what comes out. Tonight: Take off ASAP.

**♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
★★★★★ The Sun moves into your sign, signaling the beginning of your birthday time of year. Others might be overly serious in the morning. Don't take someone personally. In fact, a p.m. conversation illuminates a comment so that you understand where this person is coming from. Tonight: Follow someone else's suggestion.

**♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
★★★★ Clear your desk with enthusiasm, knowing that better things lie ahead, i.e. the weekend. Leave work early, if possible. Get into the holiday mood. Friends have suggestions that you simply cannot say "no" to. So, say "yes!" Tonight: Among the throngs of people.

**♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
★★★★ Listen to another's grievance, even if you're not in the mood! You'll absorb some important information that you need to know, whether you like it or not! Ultimately, you will be thankful for what you hear. Tonight: Soak away stress first.

**♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
★★★★ You might be closed off and not willing to share with others at first, especially since you see someone as being touchy and demanding. Carefully consider your options as you skip out the door. Make "possibility" your middle name. Tonight: And away you go.

### QUOTE of the DAY

"I have to think hard to think of an  
interesting man who does not drink."

— Richard Burton

## Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday  
Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913  
1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401

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# LOCAL



Photo courtesy of Jill Barnes

**Santa Monica firefighters stand ready on the 2000 block of 14th Street Thursday morning in case a ruptured gas line exploded.**

## Gas leak leads to evacuation

By Daily Press staff

Two buildings were evacuated Thursday morning after work crews ruptured a natural gas line on the 2000 block of 14th Street.

At 8:11 a.m., the Santa Monica Fire Department arrived at the scene and then called for additional personnel, because they were concerned there could be an explosion. Twenty-one fire department personnel responded to the scene.

A two-story apartment building and an adjacent motel were evacuated, after the fire department found high readings of natural gas in the area. Children at a day-

care facility across the street were moved to the back of their building.

The fire department continued to monitor the amount of natural gas in the air and stood by with hose lines ready until a gas company crew was able to get the flow of gas shut off. Residents were able to return to their homes about two hours later.

The fire department reminds Santa Monicans that if they smell natural gas and suspect a leak, do not operate electrical appliances or light switches, and call for help.

## surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

A new swell is due today; a steep angled northwest, around 300 degrees. South Bay spots will gain size as swell fills in during the morning.

Expect waist- to chest-high waves by afternoon.

Saturday swell builds to its peak early in the a.m. Surf should stay in the two- to four-foot range throughout the county, staying smaller in the north where northwest swell is heavily shadowed.

Sunday size is expected to decline some as swell begins its fade. Good sets will show in the morning, and get less consistent as the day progresses.

To anyone who doesn't already know, high bacteria levels persist at Surfrider, where our recent rain storm broke through the natural sand bar, so avoid that break if you want to have children some day.



### Today's Tides:

|       |            |        |
|-------|------------|--------|
| Low-  | 3:11 s.m.  | 2.41'  |
| Hihg- | 9:25 a.m.  | 5.66'  |
| Low-  | 5:06 p.m.  | -0.17' |
| High- | 11:45 p.m. | 3.26'  |

| Location    | Friday    | Saturday  | Sunday    | Water Quality |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| County Line | 2-3'/Fair | 2-3'/Fair | 2-3'/Fair | A             |
| Zuma        | 2-3'/Fair | 2-3'/Fair | 2-3'/Fair | A             |
| Surfrider   | 1-2'/Fair | 2-3'/Fair | 1-3'/Fair | C             |
| Topanga     | 1-2'/Fair | 2-3'/Fair | 1-3'/Fair | B             |
| Breakwater  | 3-4'/Fair | 3-4'/Fair | 2-4'/Fair | B             |
| El Porto    | 3-4'/Fair | 3-5'/Fair | 2-4'/Fair | A             |

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## The Q Line

### Some say tighten, some say give

Last week, Q-line asked:

**"Should the voters bail out the school district and ensure the public education system won't suffer? Or should the school board find a way to tighten their belts during these lean economic times just like everyone?"**

Here are your responses:

■ "Yes, thanks for asking the question about Measure EE. I voted for it. I think it's very important that we support the school district and I think that the tax override was ... okay. I understand some of the

shortcomings of the \$300 per parcel tax, you might want to try a graduated parcel tax so that smaller properties would pay less, proportionally less. But in any event, I do support it, and I think that it's impor-

tant that we have this special election and see if we can't reverse the defeat, get more votes for it. Thanks very much for asking the question."

■ "First of all, a majority of the voters did support EE, but it did not get the two-thirds that it needed to pass. So the first order of business is to change state law to enable a simple majority to carry the day. Secondly, this whole thing was only necessary because the state had to cut back funds to pay for our now proved to be phony energy crisis. So I don't think it's right to ask the children of our district to tighten their belts until the greedy oil companies do the same thing. For the record, I'm a substitute at Malibu High School. Thank you."

■ "Again, we're asked to bail out the incompetence and inept people of the school board and the superintendent of this stupid EE measure that there was no support for, not enough support anyway to pass. I think the whole problem with the school district is, is that there's a lack of discipline all the way down from the superintendent on down to elementary school level teachers, staff, whatever. And the biggest problem is that the money gets wasted and is not spent correctly and instead we have all these lame, stupid liberal programs that do nothing to promote the true educational qualities that we look for and it's just another example of throwing money at a problem. Instead, we need a whole new school board and superin-

See Q-LINE, page 7



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## OPINION

# LETTERS

### Stop spending money

Editor:

The taxpayers rejection of Measure EE was a message that we don't want to pay more taxes, AND that the city council needs to set new priorities that allocate additional money to our schools instead of spending millions for low-rent housing for Santa Monicans for Renters Rights campaign workers, social programs for non residents and other pork projects.

Bill Bauer in this paper last week exposed that the city had just given Community Corp. of Santa Monica \$3.5 million solely to purchase the empty lots at 15th and Broadway. CCSM apparently intends to build about 30 units of low-rent housing primarily for SMRR campaign workers on the property. It will probably take another \$6 million to build 30 units. Meanwhile, the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District is about to embark on layoffs of teachers, increase class size and implement a hiring freeze.

We have passed in the past few years a parcel tax for the schools, a SMMUSD construction bond, a bond for Santa Monica College and a library bond.

We are currently paying a 10 percent utility tax on all of our electric, gas, telephone, fax, cable, water and trash bills. These taxes generate millions of dollars. In addition, the recent sales of office buildings and houses have generated millions of dollars in real estate transfer taxes. With the highest utility tax in Southern California, and with \$370 million in revenues, the City of Santa Monica has one of the highest incomes per resident in Southern California. The city council must stop spending our money on social programs for non-residents until our children's school needs are fully funded.

Why should the city spend \$3.5 million just to buy the land to build low rent housing? Now I hear the city wants to spend \$5 million to buy the property in the 1700 block of Cloverfield Boulevard for homeless programs.

Why should the city spend \$5 million to buy a building on Cloverfield Boulevard when within six months the police will vacate their building behind City Hall and move into the new Public Safety Building? The empty police station could be used for whatever is in mind for the Cloverfield Boulevard property. Why should the city spend \$5 million to buy a property on Cloverfield Boulevard when the historic Rand building will be vacant soon? Instead of demolishing this landmark, the \$5 million SMRR intends to use to buy the Cloverfield building could be given to the SMMUSD and the city could use the (former) police building and or the historic Rand building after Rand moves to their new headquarters.

Parents of school children and other taxpayers, contact your city council members and tell them to stop spending money for SMRR campaign worker housing their pet social programs and pork projects, and instead give the money to our schools. The local PTAs should also organize and demand the schools be fully funded before SMRR spends more money to build additional units of low-rent campaign worker housing, their pet social programs and pork projects. Also, if you think the city should not spend \$5 million to buy a building on Cloverfield Boulevard when the police station and the Rand building will be available soon, tell them to allocate the \$5 million for our schools.

Mike Rosenfeld  
Santa Monica

### Homes are not community resources

Editor:

Ms. Trudi Sandmeier, described in the article as a "preservation advocate" with the L.A. Conservancy, has taken it upon herself to lecture the homeowners of Santa Monica as to what is best for the community.

Memo:

To: Ms. Sandmeier

From: Santa Monica Homeowners:

Our homes are NOT "community resources." Home ownership is a sacred right of our citizens, well-grounded in constitutional and statutory law. Homeowners, and those who wish to be homeowners someday, will rise up in defense of home ownership, and will resist any attempt to seize virtual/actual control of their private homes. This fact should be obvious to anyone as witness the recent Homeowners for Voluntary Preservation initiative, which will be passed by this city council in December, or pass by special election vote in the spring. Those who favor preservation had better begin to understand that if you wish to achieve your goals you need to "make your case" to the homeowners. This is best accomplished through thoughtful, respectful, collaborative, co-operative negotiation and agreement, not through force and intimidation.

Phil Grunland  
Santa Monica

## Politically correct school district proposed policy hurts all students



### AS I SEE IT

By Bill Bauer

The latest controversy to hit the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is a proposal by school superintendent John Deasy that would eliminate "gifts" earmarked for specific schools.

Deasy's proposes changing the district's policy which allows gifts and donations to benefit a specific school or schools. Deasy's proposal that gifts or donations would have to be equally distributed among all the schools was on the agenda of last night's SMMUSD school board meeting.

Apparently the superintendent is concerned that schools in more affluent neighborhoods are in a better position to replace programs and services lost due to budget cuts with gifts and donations than schools in less affluent neighborhoods.

Deasy was quoted in this paper, Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2002, as saying, "There are sections omunity that can replace cuts and those that can't and I will

do everything in my power to prevent further disequity."

Deasy is correct in his analysis. The affluent Malibu schools and two elementf the comtary schools north of Montana Avenue have very active PTSA organizations and friends that contribute generously to these neighborhood schools. Supporters of "wealthier" schools are in a better financial position to provide everything from extra school supplies to computers than, say, supporters of the Edison Language Academy in the Pico neighborhood.

However, with serious budget cuts looming, can our schools risk any loss of financial support even if it is earmarked for a specific school in a more affluent neighborhood? According to Deasy and school board president Julia Brownley, yes, it can — and should.

Brownley told the Daily Press, "We don't want some schools to be able to reinstate programs that have been cut that another school can't afford, because that would further increase the divide."

What we have here is a sinking ship with 1,000 passengers and lifeboats for 500. Do we save 500 passengers or does everyone drown because it wouldn't be fair to save just half of the passengers?

It seems that the oh-so politically correct school administrators would rather see everyone go down with the ship than see anybody survive — especially if they happen to be in a school in a wealthier neighborhood.

There are numerous subsidies that benefit low-income students and their families. There are many cases where low-income students or "disadvantaged" schools get gifts, grants and special programs, both governmental and private, that are not available to affluent students and schools. Is the school district going to stop these programs, too?

I can see it now. How about those organizations that distribute hundreds of free toys and holiday gifts to needy children, by request, at schools in lower income neighborhoods? Will these groups have to take some of the toys earmarked for disadvantaged children and hand them out at Franklin School or Malibu's Point Dume or Cabrillo this holiday season? What about proceeds from various school fundraisers? Will they have to be dispersed equally, too?

It seems to me the net effect of such an equality policy will further hamper the district in obtaining the desperately needed independent resources needed to main-

tain and improve the educational process district wide.

It appears that school administrators forgot that parents donate to schools because its where their kids go to learn. A wealthy Malibu parent willing to donate a dozen I-macs to his child's school might not bother if those I-macs are to be dispersed throughout the district.

Potential corporate donors will likely not target a specific project such as new audio-visual equipment for a school in need. And parent volunteers will avoid doing anything that might be taken away from their children's school.

This is political correctness for the sake of political correctness and penalizes those who do the most for their neighborhood schools — especially the school PTSAs. This is a no win policy and everyone suffers.

It all seems like it's cutting off your nose to spite your face. Let's hope our liberal, "politically correct" school board voted "NO" to Deasy's recommendation last night and didn't put our schools even further behind the eight-ball.

Bill Bauer is a longtime Santa Monica resident and a freelance writer.

**YOUR OPINION MATTERS!** Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press Attn. Editor:  
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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.

## LOCAL



# Residents worry about scale

HOUSING, from page 1

group has built from the ground up is a 45-unit complex near the corner of Ashland Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard, according to planners.

"It's on the large size for us, but it's not totally put of the realm of what we do," said Community Corp. Executive Director Joan Ling.

Ling said Community Corp. manages between 150 to 200 affordable housing units in Ocean Park, which is less than what the non-profit operates in the Pico and Wilshire-Montana neighborhoods in Santa Monica.

In Ocean Park, Community Corp. has built smaller affordable housing buildings that are inconspicuously placed on residential streets. The Main and Pacific project will be one of the larger affordable complexes in Ocean Park.

"Most of the buildings we have done (in Ocean Park) are small buildings," Ling said. "But what people don't see is that we have built much larger complexes elsewhere. It's all a matter of perspective."

Plans for the project conform to the city's master plan and zoning laws. A market-rate apartment complex on the same location could actually build six more units than what is proposed by Community Corp. Under state and city codes, Community Corp. can build up to 80 units on the site.

The proposal also adds six parking spots more than is required under state and city codes for affordable housing.

However, some residents living near the proposed project have said while they welcome the affordable housing, they are concerned about the size of the complex.

They say the approximately 185 people the project would house would triple the number of residents currently living on the street. The effect would eliminate what available street parking exists now and would clog nearby intersections with excess traffic, they say.

"This project will overrun our neighborhood," said Jeff Weinstein at a recent city council meeting. "It is out of scale with what can be supported."

However, there are many other residents who say they want the project to be developed at the proposed location at the

size currently being proposed.

"The need for affordable housing is greater than ever with rents skyrocketing under rent de-control," said Doris Ganga at the council meeting.

The divide between Ocean Park residents over the project may best be illustrated by the mixed reports from the region's neighborhood group, Ocean Park Community Organization.

A report released by OPCC's Main and Pacific Committee on Sept. 26 states that the project is out of scale and character with the neighborhood, will exacerbate the intense competition for existing street parking and it runs counter to the goals of the Main Street Master Plan, among other things.

The group's Housing Commission, though, released a study on Nov. 11, detailing the need for more affordable housing and trumpeting the project as a well-needed and well-thought out plan.

However, neither group will likely be heard by the city's planning commission because the Main and Pacific project has been exempted from going through the public process, which is costly — especially for developers of affordable housing who rely heavily on public funds — and can delay projects for years at a time.

The city council recently adopted an ordinance that would exempt 100 percent affordable housing projects with fewer than 50 units from having to go through the city's planning commission and pay for an Environmental Impact Review.

A similar law was recently enacted by the state Legislature, granting affordable housing developers comparable exemptions, which will take effect on Jan. 1, 2003.

Due to the exemption, the Main and Pacific proposal would only need to comply with the city's master plan and zoning codes — and be approved by the city's appointed Architectural Review Board to get approval.

Ling said Community Corp. welcomed the exemption from the city council and felt residents' concerns could adequately be heard during an ARB meeting.

"We applaud the council for passing this ordinance," she said. "While it retains design control in ARB and public process, at the same time it takes away the tools that opponents of affordable housing use to delay and kill our projects."

# City cites game inventor for possessing illegal milk crate

LAMLE, from page 1

today, or if the case should be sent to a courtroom in the Airport Courthouse located in Westchester.

Due to Lamle's federally protected right to a speedy trial, the proceedings against him must begin by Dec. 4.

For the past three years, Lamle has set up an impromptu table on the Promenade to demonstrate a game he has invented called Farook, which looks like a tic-tac-toe board combined with Chinese checkers.

However, the demonstrations are not considered "performance" by the city, which refuses to grant Lamle permits or a business license for his game.

"The city contends playing Farook is no different than hair braiding or personal massage," Mills said.

Santa Monica police, however, ticketed Lamle 34 times during the last three years for not having a performance permit, but he was able to have each ticket thrown out because he was not considered a performer in the eyes of the court, Lamle said.

Then on July 6 at 11:30 a.m., police arrested Lamle on the Promenade. They seized his game, his table and all his money for operating a business without a license.

A Santa Monica Superior Court Judge later returned the property to Lamle, and police were told not to further interfere with his activities until today's court date.

Lamle says his right to freedom of speech protects his ability to set up shop on the Promenade and sell his invented game.

Playing and selling the game gamers a lot of money for Lamle, who charges \$1 to play a game with him and \$15 for a copy of Farook.

Mills said the city is playing a game with his client. When the 34 performance citations were thrown out of court, police then issued him with misdemeanor citations for not having a business license, which the city refuses to issue to Lamle.

Mills said he believes the city has deliberately written vague street performer laws to give them more leverage over controlling performers.

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## STATE

# Senior citizens are seen as favorites of con artists

FRAUD, from page 1

"There's a freewheeling exchange of information out there right now in the marketplace that makes it easy to gather, find and steal this information," he said.

Insurance companies, banks and others swap or sell consumer names, account balances, debts, loans and purchasing habits, he said, urging the state to give consumers more control over who has that information.

The second most common complaint — Internet fraud — includes misrepresented items sold through online auctions, or items that were purchased, but never sent. The category also includes Internet scams such as advance fee loans, work-at-home schemes or pleas for money from deposed Nigerian officials.

Christopher Carpenter, assistant district attorney in Alameda County, said

most people would refuse if asked a stranger asked to borrow hundreds or thousands of dollars.

"So why do you do it when somebody on the Internet, who you can't even see, asks you for the same thing? Incredibly, every day hundreds of consumers are fleeced through various types of Internet fraud," he said.

Senior citizens are a perennial favorite of con artists, said Denine Guy, a Monterey County deputy district attorney, especially for phony sweepstakes prize offers.

An investigation by her office found seniors often receive dozens of notices each week that promise cash, cars or vacations that require "processing fees" of \$20 to \$50 or more, Guy said.

"Shockingly, many of them respond," she said. "Many of them, when we went to interview them, thought they were in trouble. They associated it with gambling."

## Top 10 consumer complaints

By The Associated Press

The top 10 consumer complaints as reported by California district attorneys:

**1. Identity theft** — Thieves pose as the victim to open credit card or cellular phone accounts.

**2. Internet fraud** — Includes misrepresented items sold through Internet auctions, or items that were purchased, but never sent. Also includes Internet scams such as advance fee loans, work-at-home schemes or pleas for money from deposed Nigerian officials.

**3. Negative option contracts** — Deceptive or misleading advertising that signs someone for goods or services without consent, such as free trial memberships that require the consumer to call and cancel the service.

**4. Phone company fraud** — This includes slamming, switching a customer to a new long distance carrier without consent, and cramming, billing consumers for services they didn't authorize.

**5. Contractor fraud** — The California State License Board, which regulates contractors, received more than 23,000 complaints last year. The survey finds that consumers are often frustrated by inadequate restitution for fraud, long waits for resolution and confusing contracts.

**6. Auto repair fraud** — Includes payment for repairs that aren't made and false advertising.

**7. Auto purchasing and leasing** — Consumer complaints include the addition of unwanted extras added to cars, such as alarms, dealers who fail to pay off the loan or lease of a trade-in promptly, and dealers who collect excessive DMV fees, or don't forward the fees to the state.

**8. Immigration consultant fraud** — These complaints include consultants who made false promises by guaranteeing a work permit or other immigration benefit, unqualified consultants, not delivering any services or persuading a customer to lie on an immigration documents.

**9. Dietary and health supplement fraud** — Includes cure-alls, weight-loss scams and risky products that could cause health problems.

**10. Phony prizes** — Misleading prize notifications that tell consumers they've won a car, prize or vacation, but then require a "processing fee" to collect the winnings.

Dishonorable mention went to women's gifting clubs, such as "Women Helping Women," that promise to turn a \$5,000 investment into a \$40,000 payoff. Officials say this is a pyramid scheme that relies on recruiting new members and will collapse with most of the investors losing their money.

**Source:** Survey by Senate Select Committee on Government Oversight.

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# LOCAL □ STATE



## The Q Line

CONT., from page 3

tendent, and we need to get rid of some of these liberal educators and administrators at these schools and put in somebody that holds the students accountable until they're 18 and they graduate. Thank you."

■ "Yes, we do need to support our schools, but the school board should also tighten their belts. However, we need to listen to the opponents of Proposition EE and make the parcel tax fairer so the small homeowner does not have to pay the same amount as the owner of a large expensive home or an office complex. I believe if the tax was apportioned in a fairer manner, there would be no arguments against it and everybody could support it and it would get passed."

■ "Since we are indeed in a weak economy, I advocate that the school district become realistic about its situation and cut expenses wherever possible. Comments from the SMMUSD superintendent and candidates running for the school board left the impression that they are extremely reluctant to do this. Yet at times like this when so many are striving to be more efficient, the school district should adopt this attitude and cease their pursuit of outside help."

■ "It would be wonderful if all Santa Monica Unified School District alumni would send a one time tax deductible gift of 1 percent of one year's income to be distributed equally throughout the Santa Monica school district. A way of saying thank you and contributing to a truly worthy cause."

■ "The lottery was established here in California in order to provide money so necessarily needed for the school system of California. Why has that failed? Why is the money from the lottery not being used properly spent as was enacted so that the schools would get help? What is wrong with our lawmakers and our council members that are not enforcing the mandate that lottery money would be used for school systems? What is the problem here? Why has there not been a rectifica-

tion of this matter? Why is the money from lottery not being used for our schools like it was promised? Thank you."

■ "In response to should the voters bail out the school district, my response is no. I did not vote for Measure EE, and I will not vote for any upcoming special election in March. I think that the residential, commercial and industrial property owners should be able to pay in an equitable manner. As a property owner with no children, the cost of \$25.00 per month that was proposed in Measure EE is not fair, as opposed to renters that may pay approximately three to four dollars a month. I believe that the majority of students attending these schools are predominantly renters. I don't know what the actual statistics are on the numbers, I would like to see these numbers, on the number of students coming from homes as opposed to apartments as opposed to students coming out of the district. There are a lot of students whose parents work in the city, but they do not pay property taxes. And I do not feel that it is my responsibility at this time to pay for the school board. They need to manage the funds in a better way and there may be a blessing that a lot of these programs that are not necessary may not be needed. Thank you."

■ "Deasy and those do-gooders say the school situation is cat-a-strophic. Well, I say bull-puppy, things is just gettin' good. When schools were crowded and teachers few, the smart, tough kids find ways to survive and flourish, just like in real life. That's the best education those molly-coddled, whipper snappers can get. And if they don't like it and act out, let's give them the thrashin' they deserve."

■ "Thank you for the opportunity. I am for EE. It's not a question of fighting or tightening the belt, it's a question of saving lives and minds of students and teachers. We need more counselors, smaller class size and also check the figures in relation to violence as well as health problems on campus. We need more counselors. I am a member of the health advisory group in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. Thank you, very much. I appreciate the opportunity."

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## DEA to break up ecstasy rings

BY SETH HETTENA  
Associated Press Writer

**SAN DIEGO** — Saying teenage use of Ecstasy is reaching "epidemic" levels, U.S. authorities are stepping up efforts to stamp out rings making and selling club drugs at home, in Europe and on the Internet.

The Drug Enforcement Administration plans to double the number of club-drug investigations in the United States as part of its "Operation X-Out." Currently, the DEA says about 5 percent of its major investigations involve club drugs.

The agency also intends to focus new efforts on Internet trafficking and in the Netherlands, where some 80 percent of the world's supply originates.

Drug Enforcement Administration Director Asa Hutchinson planned to detail the operation at a news conference Thursday in San Diego.

"The explosive use of Ecstasy and predatory drugs among our youth is fast reaching epidemic levels," Hutchinson said in a statement released in Washington.

The DEA reports that 8.1 million Americans 12-years-old and older tried

Ecstasy in 2001, up from 6.5 million the year before.

Nationwide hospital emergency room mentions for Ecstasy rose to 5,542 last year, up from 637 in 1997, according to the Drug Abuse Warning Network.

Ecstasy, also known as MDMA, is a synthetic drug considered part hallucinogen and part amphetamine that has been linked to brain, heart and kidney damage. It became popular over the past decade at dance parties known as raves.

Earlier this month, federal authorities broke up an Ecstasy ring operating in New York City and the Netherlands, intercepting tens of thousands of pills smuggled into the United States in, among other items, the frame of a Rembrandt painting.

Hutchinson also noted a rise in the use of so-called "date-rape" drugs such as GHB, or gamma hydroxybutyrate, and Rohypnol.

In September, authorities broke up four Internet drug-trafficking rings operating in the United States and Canada, making more than 100 arrests and seizing enough chemicals for 25 million doses of GHB and similar substances.

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## STATE

### Actor spends day in court



Nick Ut/Associated Press

Actor Jeffrey Jones, center, and his lawyers Leonard Leaven, left, and Jeffrey Broody, right, are shown in a courtroom in Los Angeles, Thursday. Jones did not enter a plea Thursday to charges of hiring a 14-year-old boy to pose for sexually explicit photos and possessing child pornography. Jones' attorneys asked a judge to give them some time to look at evidence brought against their client and asked for a January 9, 2003, arraignment date. Jones is best known for his role as the high school principal in "Ferris Bugler's Day Off."

### Ridge talks security in LA

BY LAURA WIDES  
Associated Press Writer

**LOS ANGELES** — Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge met with county officials Thursday to discuss the region's emergency preparedness.

Ridge spoke with Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe and representatives of the fire, sheriff's and health departments about security at ports, and about ensuring communication between agencies in the case of a terrorist attack.

Officials would not release details of the meeting, citing security precautions.

"We were giving him an update of where we are," Knabe said. "It was a good exchange."

Ridge appointed Knabe as a committee member for the President's Homeland Security Advisory Council in October. The committee provides the council with local government perspectives on increasing America's security.

Knabe said he discussed concerns about improving communication between police and fire authorities. "And we're talking about how to improve our communication with the public so if something were to happen, there would be

standard procedure so we don't create panic," he said.

"Everyone agreed that Los Angeles and San Francisco are ahead of the nation in terms of preparedness," said Knabe spokesman John Musella.

"What's happened here especially in LA County, is that we've had earthquakes, fires, floods and riots. We've had just about every natural and manmade disaster possible. That has forced us to be able to respond," he said.

Knabe represents a district that includes the huge ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, Los Angeles Air Force Base and Los Angeles International Airport.

All four planes hijacked on Sept. 11, 2001, were headed to Los Angeles International.

Knabe said the group also discussed future federal funding for regional security. The amount is estimated to be in the billions of dollars, but they did not discuss specific numbers for the county.

Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman, Undersheriff Bill Stonich, Chief Administrative Officer David Janssen and Department of Health Services Director Tom Garthwaite attended the meeting.

### Police arrests in skid row

By The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — Police raided the city's skid-row area where many homeless people reside and arrested more than 130 people, some of whom are ex-convicts who had violated parole, authorities said.

Police roused the people they were searching for in the city's skid-row district south of downtown. Of those taken into custody Wednesday, about half were found inside buildings, while the others were on the streets. About 40 percent of the cases involved parolees found to be in possession of narcotics or weapons, authorities said.

Police officers were accompanied by

parole officers who had gathered information about parolees by conducting surveillance. Authorities did not approach people randomly.

"This operation was not aimed at the homeless population; rather it was aimed at many of those who seek to victimize the homeless," said Lt. Horace Frank, an LAPD spokesman. "Those arrested were found to be in possession of heroin, rock cocaine and other contraband, including weapons."

The number of arrests quickly overcrowded the jail facilities at Parker Center, the LAPD's headquarters, and forced police to use buses as temporary detention housing.

## NATIONAL



# Domestic security legislation offers shot at gov't money

BY SHARON THEIMER  
Associated Press Writer

**WASHINGTON** — The ink is barely dry on the new Homeland Security Department legislation, but corporate lobbyists are already chasing the pot of gold it offers.

One German-based contractor has started a political action committee and recruited budget experts to help its pitch for U.S. anti-terrorism money. Microsoft has hired a former Coast Guard commander to oversee its homeland bidding.

And several firms are creating special units to help companies compete for bil-

lions in new national security spending.

"It's our intent to become a politically sophisticated player here," said Gregg Ward, head of the Washington lobbying office of German-based Siemens AG, whose business includes medical systems, information technology, energy, transportation and communications.

The bill approved this week to create a domestic security department offers high-tech companies a chance to share in at least \$500 million a year in research and development grants. And they hope that's just for starters.

The new department will give industry

a front-row seat as it sets its priorities. The legislation calls for "private sector advisory councils" composed of industry and trade group representatives who will advise the department on security products, services and policies.

The government's anti-terror spending could reach into the billions in coming months — an enticing prospect for many companies as the faltering economy makes new business hard to find.

Siemens currently is sharing a \$1.37 billion federal contract with Boeing to install and maintain explosive detection equipment in airports and to train baggage screeners.

The company is using that U.S. contract, awarded in June by the Transportation Security Administration, as a selling point as it seeks similar work in other countries, Ward said.

Siemens is seeking to raise its profile in Washington through a PAC funded by its employees and through its new procurement office. The company is hiring four or five people specifically to pursue government contracts, and is looking for those with experience in appropriations in government, said Ward, an assistant secretary in the Energy Department during the first Bush administration.

Siemens is also trying to win state business. Its health care information technology company won a contract from Pennsylvania to link hospitals so they are alerted whenever an emergency room physician reports potential bioterrorism-related illnesses such as anthrax or smallpox.

"For most companies, the private market is relatively flat right now and has been for a little while," Ward said. "The public procurement, the public accounts are that much more attractive ... particularly in the security area and the defense area, obviously the budget continues to increase."

Siemens is far from alone in realizing that.

Others who have include Cerberus Capital Partners, which hired the Phoenix-based lobbying firm of former

Vice President Dan Quayle to pursue contracting opportunities for companies it has an interest in.

The government's anti-terrorism effort is shaping up as an industry unto itself; the phrase "homeland security" began popping up on lobby registrations almost as soon as President Bush coined it last fall.

Dozens of companies have registered to lobby for domestic security contracts and grants in the past year, joining an already-long roster of businesses seeking military contracts.

Those hoping for homeland defense money include some long in the security business who are repackaging their products and services for government consumption and turning to lobbyists for help navigating the complex world of procurement. Others have experience winning contracts from the government, but are focusing anew on security.

The American Electronics Association has been holding procurement seminars around the country and plans to give the government a database of its members and their security offerings.

Walter White of the Dutko Group lobbying firm is trying to help at least eight companies win domestic security contracts.

With few specifics on what the federal government, including the upcoming Homeland Security Department, will be spending, White said he advises company executives to focus on building relationships so they can win contracts when more anti-terrorism money starts to flow.

Clients include experienced contractors like Illinois-based Motorola, which also has its own in-house lobbyists.

Jim Goldstein, who heads Motorola's Washington office, said his lobbying includes helping states that buy communications equipment from Motorola win federal grants they could use to equip their emergency response teams.

White said that for smaller players seeking government business for the first time, the first step is developing name recognition.

## NATO summit



Tom Hanson/Associated Press/CP

President George Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell listen to opening remarks at the first working session of the NATO summit in Prague, Czech Republic, Thursday.

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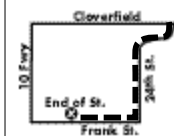
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**NATIONAL**

# **Giuliani seeks another challenge at WorldCom**

BY AMY WESTFELDT

Associated Press Writer

**NEW YORK** — He is trying to rid horse-race wagering of corruption, keep the painkiller OxyContin off the black market, and help a major brokerage handle conflict of interest charges.

Now Rudolph Giuliani says he is ready to tackle the spectacularly bankrupt WorldCom Inc.

Even some admirers say the former New York mayor's next big thing may be too much for him. But some say Giuliani — the mob-busting ex-prosecutor and Time magazine Man of the Year who saw New York through the aftermath of Sept. 11 — sees another opportunity to prove he is a master of the universe and, perhaps, make millions in the process.

"He believes that he can do anything. He wants to be president," said former Mayor Ed Koch, who has alternately praised and criticized Giuliani over the years.

Giuliani, 58, said his consulting firm, Giuliani Partners, is working with a leading WorldCom investor to advise the crippled telecom giant after it emerges from the biggest bankruptcy in U.S. history. He said he wants to turn the company, tarred by a \$9 billion accounting fraud scandal, into a "model of corporate governance," using principles he describes in his new best-selling book, "Leadership."

According to news reports, Giuliani's associate, bond investor David Matlin, wants to install him as WorldCom chairman.

Giuliani said it is premature to talk about the chairmanship, but he said twice at a news conference this week that WorldCom should have a separate chairman and chief executive. Michael Capellas, a former Hewlett-Packard executive, was named chairman, CEO and president of WorldCom only last Friday.

Running the largest U.S. city is not the same thing as heading a multibillion-dollar company, telecommunications analyst Drake Johnstone said. He said WorldCom needs an experienced industry executive to lead a turnaround.

"Yes, he's well-respected, but he hasn't run a major corporation," Johnstone said.

But Fred Siegel, a writer and history professor who has advised Giuliani, said the former U.S. attorney's experience prosecuting white-collar crime has made him familiar with corporate inner workings.

"This is not quite the leap it appears to be," said Siegel, adding Giuliani is known for his exhaustive preparation. "He's one of those guys with a cast-iron rear end who will sit down and absorb an enormous amount of material."

Yet he and others wonder whether Giuliani is spreading himself too thin.

"The reasonable question to ask is: Can he take on all these challenges at once?" Siegel said. "And I don't know the answer to that."

Despite its high-profile contracts, Giuliani Partners is a small firm of 35 staff members, many of them top aides from Giuliani's City Hall administration, including the city's former police and fire commissioners.

The firm is advising Merrill Lynch in addressing a state investigation into alleged conflicts of interest by Wall Street analysts, and is working with Purdue Pharma in protecting its inventory of the pain medication OxyContin against abuse. Giuliani is also traveling to Mexico City to tour its violent neighborhoods and advise officials on how to reduce crime.

This week, his firm agreed to oversee the National Thoroughbred Racing Association's industry wagering system after a series of betting scams culminated in a fraudulent \$3 million win at the Breeders' Cup.

Andrew Kirtzman, a WCBS-TV political reporter who wrote a biography of Giuliani, said it is clear why organizations with credibility problems are seeking out Giuliani.

"He's got a reputation for probity, for honesty and he's kind of a saint in the eyes of the American public since 9/11," Kirtzman said.

If he is successful in turning around WorldCom, Giuliani could earn millions for a political campaign and position himself for a run for higher office, said Douglas Muzzio, a public affairs professor who has followed the ex-mayor's career.

## **McDonald's burgers are making kids fat, lawyers say**

BY DEVLIN BARRETT

Associated Press Writer

**NEW YORK** — Are Big Macs hazardous to children's health?

Lawyers have filed a class-action lawsuit against McDonald's on behalf of New York children who have suffered health problems, including diabetes, high blood pressure, and obesity.

In federal court in Manhattan on Wednesday, a lawyer alleged that the fast-food chain has created a national epidemic of obese children. Samuel Hirsch argued that the high fat, sugar and cholesterol content of McDonald's food is "a very insipid, toxic kind of thing" when ingested regularly by young kids.

The plaintiffs include a Bronx teen who ate every meal at McDonald's for three years while living in a homeless shelter. Another is a 13-year-old boy from

Staten Island who says he ate at McDonald's food three to four times a week and is now 5-foot-4 and 278 pounds.

McDonald's lawyer Brad Lerman insisted the lawsuit was a frivolous attempt to cash in on the Golden Arches, "the kind of lawsuit that shouldn't be in court."

"People don't go to sleep thin and wake up obese," Lerman said. "The understanding and comprehension of what hamburgers and french fries do has been with us for a long, long time."

McDonald's has asked Judge Robert Sweet to dismiss the case, arguing those who filed the claims cannot show their health woes were caused by Big Macs and insisting the company has never misled customers about its food. The judge did not immediately rule on the request.

## INTERNATIONAL



# Israel buries dead after suicide bomber kills 11

BY NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press Writer

**JERUSALEM** — A 13-year-old Israeli girl who loved to draw was buried at sunset Thursday on a Jerusalem hilltop, one of 11 people killed when a Palestinian man blew himself up on a crowded bus. Four of the dead were children.

It was the first attack in Jerusalem since August, and the bomber's hometown — Bethlehem — braced for retaliation.

Late Thursday, the army ordered residents of about 30 homes in el-Khader, on the outskirts of Bethlehem, to leave their homes so the army could take up positions, residents said.

The army confirmed soldiers were operating in el-Khader, and an adviser to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Raanan Gissin, said the Israeli Cabinet had decided the army would carry out a "pinpoint operation," which would include entering Bethlehem.

Two militant Islamic groups claimed responsibility for Thursday morning's bomb attack: Islamic Jihad and Hamas. Gissin said Hamas would be the group targeted.

Hamas participated in talks with Egypt and Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement to negotiate a freeze on Palestinian attacks at least until Israel's Jan. 28 election. A first round of talks in Cairo ended inconclusively.

A continuation of bombings and shootings would strengthen Israel's right-wing parties going into the elections.

Among the dead were four children: two 13-year-olds, an 8-year-old boy who died along with his grandmother, and a 16-year-old boy whose mother also was killed.

Hodaya Asaraf, an 8th grader at a Jerusalem arts school, was the first to be buried. Shortly after sunset, the 13-year-old was laid to rest at a hilltop cemetery amid the wails of her mother.

"Her friends said the last thing she drew were leaves," said a teacher, Chena Ben-Yaakov. "The leaf has fallen."

Passengers and police said the bomber boarded bus No. 20 and detonated the



Enric Marti/Associated Press

**Religious medical volunteers gather around the bombing victims seen in body bags at the scene of an explosion in a bus in Jerusalem Thursday. A suicide bomber blew himself up on a crowded Jerusalem city bus during the morning rush hour, killing himself and at least ten passengers and wounding dozens, police sources said. Many school children were on the bus, officials said.**

explosives belt at about 7:10 a.m., as the bus was stopped in Jerusalem's Kiryat Menachem neighborhood, police said.

The blast blew out the bus windows and sent glass shards and body parts flying. Hours later, a man's arms dangled from a broken bus window and a torso was covered with a blue and white checkered blanket.

Maor Kimche, 15, was among those on the bus, which was jammed with high school students, soldiers and the elderly.

"Suddenly, it was black and smoky. There were people on the floor. Everything was bloody. There was glass everywhere and body parts," Kimche said.

The 10th grader jumped out of a bus window and was scooped up by a taxi driver who took him to Hadassah Hospital, where he was treated for a leg injury.

He said he'd ride buses again. "How else will I get to school?" he asked.

Eleven people were killed and at least 48 wounded, eight of them seriously. Israel Radio said many of the casualties were students, though hospital officials declined to give a breakdown.

Israeli police identified the bomber as Nael Abu Hilail, 23.

Abu Hilail's father, Azmi, said he was pleased with his son. "Our religion says we are proud of him until the day of resurrection," Abu Hilail said. "This is a challenge to the Zionist enemies."

He said Israeli troops had arrested another son and a nephew after the bombing.

Several of Nael Abu Hilail's friends said he was a supporter of Islamic Jihad.

President Bush condemned the bombing, saying the goal of the United States is to see two independent states — Israel and Palestine — living side by side in peace.

Sharon adviser Gissin accused the Palestinian Authority of assisting the attackers and said that with such violence, it seemed futile to bring about a

limited truce and withdraw from some Palestinian areas.

"All our efforts to hand over areas .... and all the talk about a possible cease-fire, that was all window dressing because on the ground there was a continuous effort to carry out as many terrorist activities (as possible)," Gissin said.

There was no official comment from the Palestinian Authority, but Ghassan Khatib, the Palestinian labor minister, accused Israel of provoking the attacks with strikes against militants.

The Israeli army has enforced stringent travel restrictions on Palestinians in the past 26 months of fighting, and has reoccupied most West Bank towns in an attempt to stop the attacks. However, Israeli security officials say they continue to receive dozens of warnings every day about planned attacks.

Israel's range of responses is restricted by the possibility of a U.S. strike against Iraq.

Several Israeli hard-line leaders have called for Arafat's expulsion in retaliation for bombings, but such a step is sharply opposed by Washington, which is eager to maintain the support of moderate Arab governments at a time of confrontation with Iraq.

Israel's new Labor Party leader, Amram Mitzna, repeated his pledge that if elected prime minister, he would fight terror, but would also disengage from the Palestinian territories. Mitzna has said he would pull settlers and soldiers out of the Gaza Strip and would restart negotiations with the Palestinians unconditionally.

"It's very hard, to stand on this stage when those killed by terror are being buried," he told a Labor Party conference. "It is natural that a person feels revenge, hate, to hurt them, but we, a chosen leadership, must look past the horizon and offer Israeli citizens another reality."

Palestinian leaders have welcomed Mitzna's call although they have stopped short of endorsing him, apparently for fear of hurting Mitzna's chances.

## Peace advocates see little chance for leaders to discuss Chechnya

BY JUDITH INGRAM

Associated Press Writer

**MOSCOW** — Expanding NATO. Disarming Iraq. Hunting down terrorists. With so much ground to cover during their brief meeting Friday, President Bush and President Vladimir Putin might not dwell on the Russian leader's least favorite subject: the Chechen war.

Bush told some East European journalists in Washington this week that he will raise Chechnya with Putin, a leader he also considers a friend.

But Russian peace advocates are skeptical that Bush and Putin will discuss the war seriously during their lightning-quick meeting outside St. Petersburg. They contend the United States has done little to push the Kremlin to initiate a peace process in Chechnya because Washington has been so focused on the war on terrorism and is reluctant to alienate Putin, who has become a valuable diplomatic partner.

"We see a silent deal between the United States and its president and Russia and its president: 'You support us in the anti-terrorist operation and sanctions against Iraq, and we'll close our eyes to what's going on in Chechnya,'" said Ivan Rybkin, a former Russian Security Council chief who has spearheaded efforts to jump-start talks with Chechen rebels.

In an interview aired Thursday on Russia's NTV television, Bush said Chechnya was an internal issue but he would encourage Putin to solve the conflict peacefully.

"Our position with Chechnya is we hope it can get

solved peacefully, that this is an issue within Russia. And I will continue to work with Vladimir Putin as best I can to encourage him to have a peaceful resolution with the Chechen issue," Bush said, an NTV transcript said.

Chechen rebels last month seized about 800 hostages in a Moscow theater. After 58 hours, special forces stormed the building, resulting in the deaths of 41 rebels and 128 hostages, most of them felled by gas used to knock out the attackers.

The Kremlin said the attack ended any hopes for a political solution to the Chechen conflict and ruled out talks with separatist leader Aslan Maskhadov, who was elected president of Chechnya in 1997. Russia has accused Maskhadov of complicity in the theater raid.

Condoleezza Rice, Bush's national security adviser, told reporters Thursday she was certain the two presidents would discuss Chechnya on Friday, and that Bush would push for a peaceful resolution despite the theater attack.

"He will encourage the Russians to work toward a political solution with the Chechen people, because there are aspirations there that need to be understood and need to be met," Rice said. "He will ask the Russians to work to make certain that human rights are upheld and that humanitarian conditions in Chechnya are addressed."

In Bush's interview on NTV, he also assured Russia that its economic interests in Iraq will be honored if a U.S. military operation topples Saddam Hussein.

"We have no desire to ... run the show, to run the country," Bush said. "And we understand that Russia (has) got interests there, as do other countries. And, of course,

those interests will be honored."

On Chechnya, Putin nudged open a door to negotiations last year, but said the only topic would be the terms for the rebels to disarm. The rebels wanted to discuss their demands for Chechen independence. The differing conditions torpedoed the single official meeting between the two sides.

Informal talks this summer spurred peacemakers' hopes that official contacts could start this fall, said Chris Swift of the American Committee for Peace in Chechnya.

The Kremlin also offered encouraging signs, including indications of willingness to deal with rebel leaders' allies.

Rybkin discussed his peace efforts with State Department and National Security Council staffers in Washington last month.

"They were politely silent," Rybkin said. "As I understood it, they didn't want to interfere."

Moscow has put foreign countries on notice they will be judged according to their attitude toward the Chechen war, and started with Denmark, accusing it of collaborating with terrorists by letting a Chechen conference proceed after the hostage crisis.

Putin underlined the Kremlin's uncompromising stance in Brussels last week by challenging a French reporter who seemed to sympathize with Chechen civilians to come to Moscow for a circumcision that would ensure "you'll have nothing growing back afterward." But he softened his approach the next day, telling reporters in Oslo that Moscow would try to use models of conflict resolution used elsewhere.



## SPORTS

## Hitting the slopes



Alessandar Trovati/Associated Press/ Pentaphoto  
USA's Sarah Schleper takes a gate during the first run of the America's Opening ladies World Cup giant slalom race Thursday in Park City, Utah.

## Bruins could be tough to figure — once again

BY BETH HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

**LOS ANGELES** — The talent is there, as always. The schedule is tough, too. The big question is whether 15th-ranked UCLA can get its act together to make a run deep in the Pacific-10 Conference and NCAA tournaments.

The Bruins haven't won a Pac-10 title since 1997, Steve Lavin's first season as coach of a team he inherited after Jim Harrick was fired.

Their last NCAA championship — the 11th in school history — came in 1995 under Harrick.

"Every year the expectations are the same — win the Pac-10, win the national title," Lavin said.

A year ago, the Bruins had a stunning defeat to Ball State at the Maui Invitational, then lost to Pepperdine at home, struggled against UC Riverside and beat UC Irvine by one point. That was before conference play even began.

They finished with a 21-12 record and were sixth in the Pac-10 at 11-7.

UCLA was upset by California in the first round of the conference tournament at Staples Center and eventually lost to Missouri in the NCAA tournament.

"We got thrown out in our hometown in the first round by a very embarrassing game," forward Jason Kapono said of the Pac-10 tourney. "We've all learned something from that and hopefully this year we can change that."

The Bruins reached the final 16 of the NCAA tournament last season for the fifth time in six years, something only Lavin and Duke's Mike Krzyzewski have done.

UCLA will play No. 6 Duke at the Wooden Tradition in Indianapolis on Nov. 30. The Blue Devils are one of eight teams on the Bruins' schedule that made the NCAA tournament last season.

Other non-conference games are at No. 2 Kansas and Georgetown and against Michigan and St. John's at Pauley Pavilion.

"We've got a challenging schedule, but that's one reason we've played our best basketball late in the season," Lavin said. "In February and March we could be a very dangerous team, a tough out in the tournament."

But until March, the enigmatic Bruins could be in for another of their patented roller coaster seasons.

The wild ride began earlier than usual with shocking losses in both of their exhibition games, the Bruins' first such defeats since 1993.

UCLA opens the season Tuesday night against San Diego at Pauley Pavilion.

"With our schedule, we'll probably take some hits like we always do," Lavin said.

Gone are starters Matt Barnes, Dan Gadzuric and Billy Knight, who combined for nearly 40 points and 17 rebounds a game last season.

The best news Lavin received was from three-time all-Pac-10 selection Kapono, who again bypassed the NBA draft in favor of returning for his senior year.

The 6-foot-8 forward led UCLA in points (16.0), 3-point percentage (45.3), minutes (34.6) and he tied a school record for starts with 33.

Kapono and fifth-year senior guard Ray Young will be the leaders of a team that returns two starters, five lettermen, four newcomers, four eligible redshirts and two eligible transfers.

"It's definitely up to us, we're going to establish the mindset of the team," Young said.

This season's team is younger and quicker, but the Bruins will need to replace Gadzuric's offense and dominating presence in the post and get rebounding help.

"I'd like to think we can press some, but with all our younger players, we'll have to watch and find out where we are with our frontline," Lavin said.

Junior forward T.J. Cummings backed up both Gadzuric and Barnes the past two years. Now he'll get his chance in the middle, where he has a solid shot and an aggressive post presence.

"I like our depth and we can really shoot

## Packers, Bucs playing with eye to home-field advantage

BY DAVE GOLDBERG

AP Football Writer

The Green Bay Packers could have clinched the NFC North with a win last week. They didn't, and this week they go to Tampa in a game that could help determine whether Green Bay gets to spend the playoffs at Lambeau Field.

The Packers and Bucs share the NFL's best record (8-2) heading into their first non-division meeting since Tampa Bay joined the old NFC Central in 1977.

The Bucs are favored by three points, which is the home-field betting edge.

Folks in Florida seem to be getting excited about their team. Someone even asked coach Jon Gruden on Monday if it will be the biggest game of his career.

"Yesterday's game has been the biggest game that I have ever been involved in," replied Gruden, who two years ago at Oakland coached in a legitimately big game, for the AFC championship.

"I'm sure this one will be the biggest I've ever been involved in because that's just how it is. Every Sunday is the same feeling to me."

Despite Gruden's offensive expertise, his Bucs are performing in much the same way as they did under defensive-minded Tony Dungy — they win with defense. They could be vulnerable to Brett Favre this week because Ronde Barber, their best cornerback, has a broken thumb and will be hampered if he plays at all.

This series definitely has a home flavor to it. Since 1998, the Packers and Bucs are 4-4 against each other, with the home team winning every game.

If they meet in January, the Bucs very much want not to go to Green Bay. They have yet to break their losing streak in cold weather: 21 straight in temperatures under 40 degrees.

That's enough incentive.

BUCS, 19-14

**Philadelphia (plus 7) at San Francisco (Monday night)**

The point spread would have been a lot lower if Donovan McNabb were playing. 49ERS, 24-10

**St. Louis (minus 4 1/2) at Washington**

The Rams continue their run with QB Kurt Warner coming back, while Washington's "ball coach" keeps changing QBs. It's Danny Wuerffel this week. RAMS, 27-9

**Indianapolis (plus 6 1/2) at Denver**

Steve Beuerlein's not much of a step down from Brian Griese. BRONCOS, 26-20

**San Diego (plus 3) at Miami**

the ball well," Lavin said. "That's something we'll have to take advantage of."

Michael Fey, a 6-foot-11 freshman, will back up Cummings.

A more experienced option is sophomore forward Andre Patterson, who didn't make grades and couldn't enroll for fall quarter. He's currently attending Santa Monica College and could return in

late December. Expectations remain high for point guard Cedric Bozeman, who was slowed by inconsistency and a knee injury in his freshman season. He'll be backed up by Ryan Walcott.

"I know we're under the microscope, people expect big things from us," Young said. "We expect big things from ourselves."

**Minnesota (plus 7 1/2) at New England**

The Vikings have lost 15 straight on the road. PATRIOTS, 27-11

**Atlanta (minus 3) at Carolina**

Atlanta's unbeaten in six; Carolina's lost seven straight. FALCONS, 20-15

**Cincinnati (plus 11) at Pittsburgh**

Kordell gets to warm up against the Bungles. STEELERS, 34-13

**Tennessee (minus 1 1/2) at Baltimore**

They're not in the same division anymore, but this has been a nasty rivalry. RAVENS, 17-16

**Buffalo (plus 3) at New York Jets**

Defense gives the Jets the edge. JETS, 27-19

**Cleveland (minus 6) at New Orleans**

Tim Couch isn't Michael Vick. SAINTS, 24-17

**New York Giants (minus 5 1/2) at Houston**

A spot for a Giants letdown if New York wasn't on one of those semiannual Jim Fassel-inspired runs. GIANTS, 27-16

**Kansas City (minus 3) at Seattle**

The Chiefs are starting to play defense. CHIEFS, 24-10

**Oakland (minus 8) at Arizona**

The Raiders' offense is functioning again. RAIDERS, 31-13

**Detroit (plus 5) at Chicago**

Give the battered Bears credit. Eight straight losses and they're still playing hard. BEARS, 20-13

**Jacksonville (minus 2) at Dallas**

The problem for the Cowboys is at quarterback. JAGUARS, 13-12

**LAST WEEK:** 7-9 (spread), 10-6 (straight up)

**SEASON:** 79-77-4 (spread), 102-57-1 (straight up)

**DID YOU KNOW?:** The first credit card was issued in 1951.

# COMICS



## The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



## Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



"Hi, I'm Rodney. Here to pick up Olivia. We met at the Mayday 1999... Daniel Pinkwater group but I never saw... oh... well, she said she was a widow but you certainly aren't... what I mean to say... is... GREAT... you're alive... STILL... huh, huh, huh... MY EYES!... to put the best?"

## CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

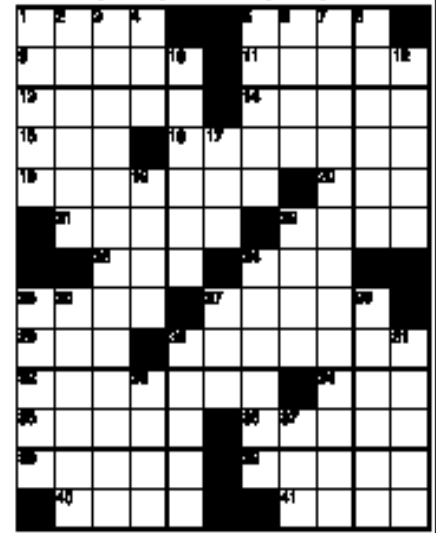
- |                |                           |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>  | <b>DOWN</b>               |
| 1 Rum cake     | 1 Ice chunks              |
| 5 Hightails it | 2 Soar                    |
| 9 Boot out     | 3 Durian                  |
| 11 Wad         | Hoffman                   |
| secretly       | film                      |
| 13 Intimate    | 4 Court test              |
| 14 Seething    | 5 Smallest                |
| 15 Guy's date  | 8 Jessica of "Dark Angel" |
| 16 Church      | 7 Durian                  |
| or             | Hoffman                   |
| 18 Salon       | film                      |
| worker         | 8 Small                   |
| 20 Permit      | plano                     |
| 21 Reviewer    | 10 Casual                 |
| Roger          | top                       |
| 22 Location    | 12 Fill with              |
| 23 Small       | joy                       |
| worker         | 17 East, in               |
| 24 Cloth       | Berlin                    |
| sona           |                           |
| 25 Betty       |                           |
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| 27 Tussle      |                           |
| 28 Blonde      |                           |
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| 30 Targets at  |                           |
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| A-Team"        |                           |
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| TOWS    | WATTS   |
| APRIL   | CHARA   |
| QUEEN   | NAKED   |
| URN     | BIGBEND |
| PASTOR  | OTE     |
| URAL    | TON     |
| RAGE    | IRON    |
| JAN     | RENO    |
| AYA     | REDHOT  |
| BIGBIRD | ECU     |
| BORIC   | UNDER   |
| ELATE   | PAGAN   |
| DIMES   | PENS    |

Yesterday's answer

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 19 Camera     | 27 Worthless  |
| part          | trifle        |
| 22 Lengthy    | 28 Swinger of |
| account       | stories       |
| 24 Freed of   | 30 Airline    |
| suds          | employee      |
| 25 Tower      | 31 Doesn't go |
| setting       | 32 Humorists  |
| 26 "I, Robot" | 37 Went       |
| writer        | ahead         |

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11-22

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## NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

### \$1.4M grant for coffee enema treatment

Even with a \$1.4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Nicholas Gonzalez is having trouble attracting pancreatic-cancer patients for his Columbia University study (only 25 of 90 slots filled), perhaps because the treatment's most prominent component is twice-a-day coffee enemas. A Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center doctor called the regimen "ludicrous," but Gonzalez said the caffeine stimulates nerves in the bowel, helping the liver with detoxification, according to an October Wired magazine report. His initial pilot program reported significant benefits of the treatment but was regarded with skepticism in that it included only 11 patients.





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**1007 Ocean Park \$1200**  
Upper 1 bed, garage, good access, fridge & stove

**1214 California \$1495**  
Upper 2 bed, 2 bath, new carpet & blinds, parking, fireplace

**1446 Princeton \$1590**  
Upper 2 bed, 1+1/2 baths, new carpet, fireplace, parking

**143 Hillster \$1090 & \$1690**  
Single & 1 bed, garage entry, near beach, hardwood floors

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**WILA/BRENTWOOD**

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**SANTA MONICA** \$1300.00 2+1, pet ok, r/s, marble kitchen & bath, prkng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

**SANTA MONICA** \$650.00 Bachelor, r/s, Indry, crpt, util incl. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

**SANTA MONICA** \$695.00 Bachelor, near beach, Indry, prkng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

**SANTA MONICA** \$763.00 Studio, r/s, Indry, great location, util incl. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

**SANTA MONICA** \$850.00 Studio, r/s, quiet, N of Wilshire, prkng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

**SANTA MONICA** \$950.00 1dr/1ba, appliances, no pets, 2535 Kansas Ave., #211. Manager in #101.

**SM3bdr/3ba.** 82718TH St. \$2,800.00 (310) 453-3341

### For Rent

**Santa Monica** 1 bedroom. Brand new building. microwave, dishwasher, refrigerator, stove, berber carpeting, large balcony, upper corner unit, parking. Available now. \$1255.00 (310)899-9917 or (310)666-1442

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**SM NEW Town Homes!** 3 + 2.5. All appliances, W/D included. 2 parking spaces. Security building. \$2950 to \$3250 (310)261-2093.

**SPACIOUS 1BDRM/1BA** Apartments w/large courtyard and swimming pool. 4 blocks to the beach. Gated private parking, laundry room, quiet neighborhood. 2000 Alberta Ave. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)822-9006

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**VENICE** \$795.00 Totally rehabbed. Sunny studio 1/2 block from beach. Great location. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443

**Elly Nesis Company, Inc.**  
[www.ellynesis.com](http://www.ellynesis.com)

**VENICE** \$950.00 1bdrm/1ba w/garden, views and parking. Hardwood floors, new paint. 1 year lease. No pets. (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

**Elly Nesis Company, Inc.**  
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**VENICE** \$995.00 2bdrm/1ba Bright & airy. Quiet upper unit w/new carpet and paint. 2 car parking off street. Close to beach/shops/restaurants. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

**Elly Nesis Company, Inc.**  
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**VENICE** \$995.00 Bright & airy 2 bedroom. Completely remodeled, hardwood floors, very bright. Everything new. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

**Elly Nesis Company, Inc.**  
[www.ellynesis.com](http://www.ellynesis.com)

**VENICE BEACH** \$1050.00 Large 1bdrm/1ba w/parking and pool in courtyard building, close to beach and restaurants. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 x102.

**Elly Nesis Company, Inc.**  
[www.ellynesis.com](http://www.ellynesis.com)

**VENICE BEACH** \$900.00 Single w/lots of charm. 1 block from the beach. Close to shopping and restaurants. 1 year lease, no pets. Paid parking available. (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

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**W. LA** \$950.00 Extra large 1bdrm/1ba w/garden view. Great centralized location and private parking. Laundry room, carpet, private entry. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

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**WESTWOOD** \$1900.00 Townhouse 2bdrm/2.5bath plus office. W/D inside. New carpet, painted, security parking, 2 side-by-side. Lots of storage. (310)820-4681

### Houses For Rent

**SANTA MONICA** \$1000.00 Guest House, pet ok, crpt, prkng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

**SANTA MONICA** \$1050.00 Duplex, r/s, hrwd flrs, laundry, blcny, prkng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

**SANTA MONICA** \$1100.00 Guest House, walk to beach, w/d, hrwd flrs, prkng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

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**VENICE CANALS** House \$3,500 3bdrm/2ba, 2 car garage, canal front patios and views, fireplace. Great location! Repainted inside and out, new carpet downstairs, new wood trim, new garage door, new deck, new windows. 1 year lease. No pets. (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

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### Houses For Rent

**WESTWOOD VILLAGE** 4bdrm/3.5ba House N. of Wilshire in prime location. Hardwood floors, lots of charm, very private yard. 2 car garage. Must see to appreciate. 1 year lease, will consider small pet. (310)271-7064.

**Elly Nesis Company, Inc.**  
[www.ellynesis.com](http://www.ellynesis.com)

### Roommates

**FANTASTIC!** S.M. SHARE 2bdrm furnished apt. 9th & Wilshire. \$2200.00 a month, You pay only \$675.00!! (310)394-1050.  
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### Commercial Lease

1318 Second Street, Santa Monica. Approximately 600 square feet. 2 ocean view offices w/reception. RTH Management (949)916-1430. Parking available.

### Storage Space

**DOUBLE CAR Garage!** Storage only. Available December 1st. Sunset Park area. (310)452-3131

**STORAGE ROOM** 9 x 9 feet. Santa Monica North of Wilshire. \$100/month. (310)393-5900

### Vehicles for sale

1994 JEEP Grand Cherokee. Forest green w/beige interior. 122,000 miles. EXTRA CLEAN! Original owner, new tires. Kelly Blue Book wholesale value: \$6,500. Asking price: \$5,100. (310)704-7772.

1995 SATURN SL1: Excellent condition. AM/FM Cassette, Automatic, A/C, sunroof. \$5,000! Only 64,000 miles. Maroon. (310)264-0887.

### Massage

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**SOOTHING DEEP-TISSUE** bodywork. Intro: \$35/80min. Women only. Non-sexual. Call Paul for appointment: (310)741-1901.

## Services

**BOOKKEEPING SERVICES** Personal, sole practitioner, small business. Accounts payable/receivable, bank reconciliations, payroll, financial statements. (818)512-4512

**FRENCH TUTOR:** All levels, basic skills, conversation, trip preparation. Call (310)434-0113 E-mail: chantal@france.com

**HOUSE CLEANING** - Available 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Windows, laundry, general house cleaning. References available. Responsible. Reasonable prices. Call Lalo (310) 313-0848.

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## Health/Beauty

**DIABETIC WEIGHT-LOSS** Bath Shampoo. Free sample. Ralph Sahara, P.O. Box 62174, Honolulu, HI.

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## Personals

**MY NAME** is Robert. 50/yr. old caucasian male looking for a 50/yr. old caucasian gal for some real fun. Not a financial free ride! Don't be bashful. (310)394-1533.

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**ADVERTISE! Santa Monica Daily Press 310-458-7737**

# Calendar

Friday, November 22, 2002

## Today

**Santa Monica High School Theater Arts Department** presents **Romeo & Juliet**. Friday and Saturday nights at 8:00pm. November 22nd through December 21st. \$10.00 for students, children, and seniors, \$15.00 for adults. Humanities Center Theater at Santa Monica High School, 601 Pico Blvd. For more information please call (310)458-5939.

**Dodd Art Gallery** showing Dafne Nesti "Paintings" and Dodd Jolsapple "New Works". Nov. 17th through Dec. 16th, 5pm to 8pm, 1650 20th Street, Santa Monica. For more information please call (310) 828-5825.

**MAGICOPOLIS** presents **HOCUS POCUS!** (Fish Bones Choke Us). The stage explodes with a colorful mix of Magic, Special Effects, Sleight of Hand, Comedy and Music that's sure to delight audiences of all ages. At **MAGICOPOLIS**, 1418 Fourth Street, Santa

Monica. Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm, \$20. Saturday & Sundays at 2pm, \$15. For tickets call 310-451-2241.

**Santa Monica Strutters**, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica.

**Comedy Underground** presents the following improv groups: **Addle Essence**, show starts at 8pm, tickets are \$5.00. **Off The Wall**, show starts at 9pm, tickets are \$5.00. **Unusual Suspects**, show starts at 10pm, tickets are \$5.00. 320 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. For more information please call (310)451-1800.

**Senior Suppers** - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To

7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

## Saturday

**Farmer's Market** every Wednesday and Saturday. 9am to 2pm, Arizona between Second and Fourth Streets. Come and enjoy one of the largest and best farmer's markets in California!

**Weekly Storytime**, 11:00 a.m. Come to Barnes & Noble for Saturday readings with the kids! Call 310-260-9110 for more information.

**A Tangent of Emotion:** A group show featuring John Newman, Laren Littlefield Jr., and Tiffany Dawn Siego. Blah Blah Gallery, 1453 Lincoln Blvd., 2nd Floor, Santa Monica. Opening Reception 7pm to 10pm. FREE admission, FREE parking. (310) 305-8138.

Meet Author **Jamie Lee Curtis!** 6pm to 7pm, Third St. Promenade. Author and actress

**Jamie Lee Curtis** will read from and sign her newest book, "I'm Gonna Like Me: Getting off a Little Self-Esteem."

**Mt. Olive Film Night!** High quality, thought provoking films shown on the 4th Saturday of each month. November's film is a 1967 release starring Paul Newman and George Kennedy. "What we have here is failure to communicate!" **Mt. Olive Lutheran Church**, 1343 Ocean Park Blvd. Santa Monica. A light supper will be served at 6:00pm. The film starts at 7:00pm. FREE! For more info. call (310) 452-1116.

**The Red Ribbon Squares**, Santa Monica's official square dance club, invites you to enjoy an evening of plus level square dancing, alternating with round dancing, with an A-1 tip during break time. We dance every Saturday at Marine Park from 7:45pm to 10:30pm. Admission is \$5.00 for dancers, including refreshments. Spectators are free. For more information, please call (310)395-3383.

*Calendar items are printed free of charge as a service to our readers. Please submit your items to [todaypaper@smdp.com](mailto:todaypaper@smdp.com) for consideration. Calendar events are limited by space, and will be run at the discretion of the Calendar Editor.*

# KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

Promote your event in the Santa Monica Daily Press Calendar section.  
Fax all information to our Calendar Editor: Attention Angela @ 310.576.9913

## movies

**Loews Broadway Cinema**

**1441 Third St. at Broadway**  
Femme Fatale (R) 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40.  
Half Past Dead (PG-13) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10.  
The Emperor's Club (PG-13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20.  
Ararat (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00.

**Mann Criterion**

**1313 Third St.**  
The Ring (PG-13) 12:45, 4:00, 7:30, 10:40.  
My Big Fat Greek Wedding (PG 7:40, 9:55.  
Punch-Drunk Love (R) 11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15.  
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (PG) 9:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, 7:00, 8:00, 10:30, 11:45.

**AMC Theatre SM 7**

**1310 3rd Street**

Santa Clause 2 (G) 11:20, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:40.  
I Spy (PG-13) 11:15, 1:30, 7:05, 9:30.  
The Sweet Home Alabama (PG-13) 10:30, 4:00.  
8 Mile (R) 12:30, 1:20, 3:45, 4:35, 6:45, 7:45, 9:50, 10:45.  
Die Another Day (PG-13) 11:00, 1:10, 1:55, 4:15, 5:00, 7:25, 8:10, 10:30, 11:10.  
I Spy (PG-13) 11:15, 1:30, 7:05, 9:30.  
Jackass: The Movie (R) 12:15, 2:45, 5:10, 7:55, 10:35.

**Landmark Nu-Wilshire**

**1314 Wilshire Blvd.**  
Bowling for Columbine (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7:30, 10:15.  
Far From Heaven (PG-13) 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30.

**Laemmle Monica**

**1332 2nd St.**

Real Women Have Curves (PG-13) 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00.  
The Fourth Tenor 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15.  
The Quiet American (R) 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40.  
El Crimen del Padre Amaro (R) 1:30, 4:20, 7:15, 10:05.

**Aero Theatre**

**1328 Montana Ave.**  
Secretary 5:00, 7:30, 10:00



## BACK PAGE

# Global warming 'train wreck' forecast for water supplies

BY ANDREW BRIDGES

AP Science Writer

**LOS ANGELES** — Global warming will have a devastating effect on the availability of water in the western United States, according to a new study billed as the rosiest of a series of recent climate forecasts for a region already beset by drought.

Even as a best-case scenario, it forecasts a virtual train wreck, with supplies falling far short of the projected future demands for water by cities, farms and wildlife, scientists said.

"You'd like there to be some good news in there somewhere, but unfortunately there is not," said Tim Barnett, a research marine physicist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Overall precipitation levels are likely to remain constant, but warmer temperatures mean what would have fallen as snow will instead come down as rain.

Currently, the snowpack acts a natural reservoir, storing water through the winter only to melt and release it during the spring and summer when demand spikes. If that precipitation falls as winter rain, however, it will fill rivers and streams at a time of year when demand is low.

The new study involved more than two dozen scientists and engineers, including at Scripps, the University of Washington, Department of Energy and the U.S. Geological Survey, who undertook it as a test of a national climate forecasting effort. The results are expected to appear in a future issue of the journal *Climatic Change*.

(Early next month, scientists will hold a hearing in Washington, D.C., to discuss a draft plan to study climate change on a national and global scale.)

**"You'd like there to be some good news in there somewhere, but unfortunately there is not,"**

— **TIM BARNETT**  
Research marine physicist

To create the forecasts, scientists began two years ago with current observations of the state of the world's oceans — those vast reservoirs of heat that drive climate — and worked to translate that into real effects on precipitation and temperature in the Columbia, Sacramento and Colorado river basins. Although it is not the first study of its kind, it is the most rigorous, Barnett said.

Among the findings of what is forecast to occur in the next 25 to 50 years:

■ Reservoir levels along the Colorado River will drop by more than a third and releases by 17 percent. The lower levels and flows will cut hydropower generation by as much as 40 percent.

■ The Sacramento River will see reduced reliability in the volumes of water available for irrigation, cities and hydropower. With less fresh water, the Sacramento Delta will increase in salinity, disrupting the ecosystem.

■ On the Columbia River system, there will be water

in the summer and fall to generate electricity, or in the spring and summer for salmon runs — but not both.

"The problem is you basically can't resolve that trade off," said Dennis Lettenmaier, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Washington.

Other scenarios that gauge the impact of even moderate global-scale warming on the West suggest the effects could be two to three times larger — or happen sooner — than the newer estimates, Barnett said.

The continued growth in the population of the West will exacerbate the problem. Indeed, that alone makes for a crisis, said Bill Patzert, a NASA research oceanographer who was not connected with the new research.

"The problem in the West is not climate change, it's too many ... people using too much water," Patzert said. "If nothing happens, we're in trouble. If something happens, it's worse."

In California, the 2003 update to the state water plan — a document that forecasts water supplies — will include for the first time consideration of the impact of climate change. The plan, updated every five years, has not typically been tempered by changes in supply.

"Climate change just adds to the complexity the already complex job of responding to changes in demand," said Doug Osugi, an engineer in the water planning branch of the California Department of Water Resources.

One possible outcome is that the West would have to expand its network of dams, adding storage capacity to catch runoff, Barnett and others said.

"Generally, our infrastructure was designed with the current climate in mind, not a different one, so that creates problems," said Pierre Stephens, lead water supply forecaster for the California Department of Water Resources.

**SANTA MONICA FACT:** Comprising 150,050 acres, the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, a unit of the National Park System, is the World's largest urban national park. Golden Gate National Recreation Area is, at 73,000 acres, half the size of the Santa Monica Mountains NRA.



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