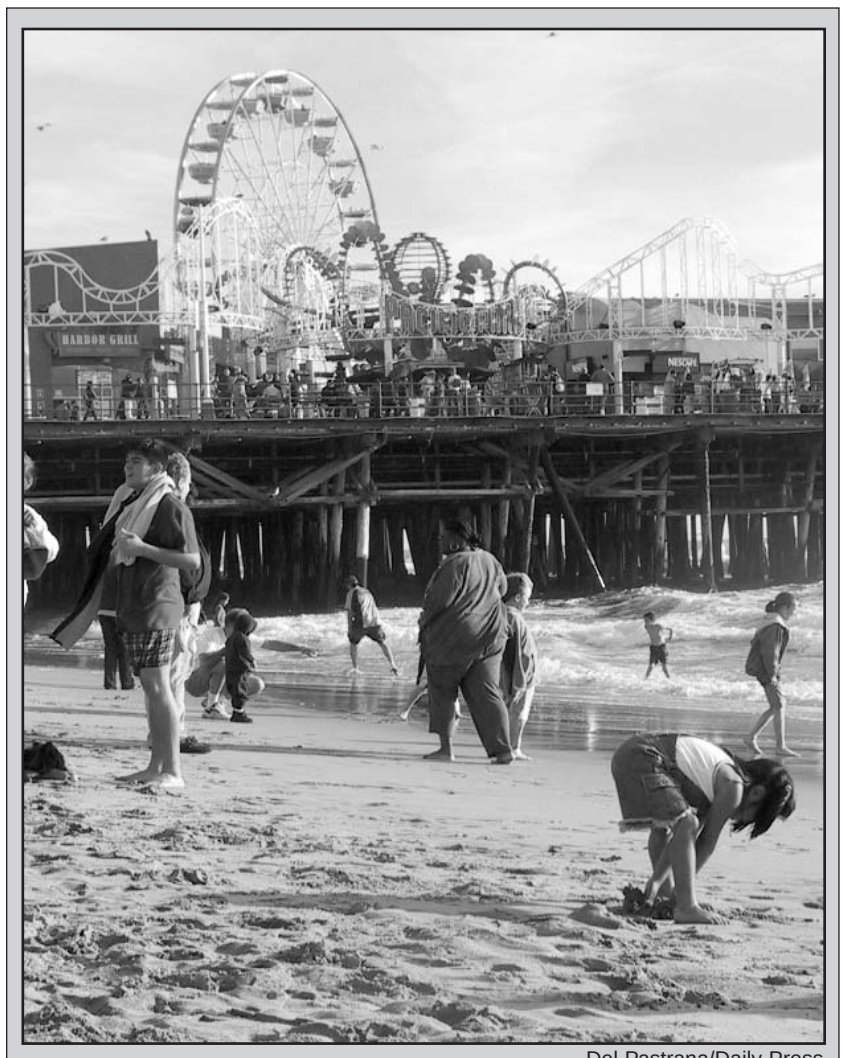
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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2001

Volume 1, Issue 11

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Del Pastrana/Daily Press

The city of Santa Monica has just recieved money to clean up the bay around the pier, one of the most heavily-polluted sections of the California coastline.

Swimming by the pier may not be as risky

City to spend $350,000 to tackle pollution problems

By Daily Press Staff

Swimming near the Santa Monica Pier may not be a health hazard for much longer.

The city of Santa Monica has recieved $350,000 to clean up one of the most heavily polluted sections of Santa Monica Bay. The area around the pier is one of the worst pollution origins along the Los Angeles coastline; the Heal the Bay Beach Report has regularly given the pier a poor water quality rating.

To combat that, three state grants have been awarded to the city to curb urban runoff pollution from the city, safeguarding the health of beach-goers and the marine ecosystem. Urban runoff is the single greatest source of water pollution in the bay. In the past, urban runoff flowed untreated from the city's streets into the Pacific Ocean. Now, cities are responding to the problem, and Santa Monica officials say the city is leading the way.

The poor rating from the Heal the Bay has continued despite the recent completion of the Santa Monica Urban Runoff Recycling Facility. The SMURRF treats up to 500,000 gallons per day of dry weather urban runoff flowing through the Pico-Kenter and pier storm drains, and reuses it for landscape irrigation and non-

See PIER, page 3

College theater proposal calls site into question

Neighbors worry about facility's traffic, noise

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Community debate is surfacing about whether a new 500-seat theater should be built in the middle of one of Santa Monica's oldest neighborhoods or if it should go in a more public place like the civic center.

If you ask anyone at Santa Monica College where it should go, the answer is easy — the complex should be at its Madison Campus on 11th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard, where it's being proposed. But there has been some discussion, prompted by a few city officials, that perhaps a theater of that size would be better suited at the mammoth civic center redevelopment proposed near City Hall.

It would certainly make neighbors near the Madison campus happy.

One of those neighbors is Susan Suntree, who lacks no qualms about the thought of having a performing arts center in her "backyard." Suntree is on the advisory committee that monitors the project's plans and was one of dozens of neighbors who spoke out at the college's first meeting in August, when the project was unveiled. The room was packed with concerned and curious neighbors, who drilled college officials with questions about how a new performing arts center would affect them. Many walked away disappointed after they felt officials dodged their questions by answering with generic statements about how the theater will improve the cultural landscape in Santa Monica.

Perhaps that's why not even a handful of people showed up at the advisory committee's meeting in October. David Stover, who lives directly across from the Madison Campus on 11th Street, felt that way even though he would rather see the theater in the civic center area.

"Isn't that the civic, central spot for it?" he asked.

"The side that I am on is the people who own property there."

— DAVID STOVER
Santa Monica resident

Stover's also concerned that the facility will generate more traffic, noise and parking problems in his neighborhood. What's more, he's scared that the proposed theater is the first step in a larger plan to grow the campus into the size of the Pico Boulevard campus.

"The side that I am on is the people who own property there," he said. "There is a side of an

See SMC, page 3

Flaming patriot hospitalized

By the Associated Press

CHERRY VALLEY, Ill. — A man shouting "freedom and liberty for all" set himself on fire in a suburban shopping mall Friday and hurled flaming objects at shoppers before he was subdued and taken to a hospital, officials and witnesses said.

Four other people also were injured.

Witnesses said the man, in his late 20s or early 30s, was yelling about freedom as he leaned from a mezzanine railing and threw burning packages onto the CherryVale Mall's center court. The fire was just outside the second-floor entrance to a department store in this Rockford suburb.

Two shoppers subdued him and extinguished the fire that burned him. Security guards put out the burning packages.

Mall employee Jeremy Wolf said the man appeared to have containers of cleaning chemicals strapped to his chest. He had stretched his leg over the railing as if to jump down to the center court, where hundreds of shoppers were waiting in line, Wolf said.

"I could literally see his face on fire," Wolf said.

The man, who was not carrying any identification, was taken to Rockford's OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center but was flown to Loyola University Medical Center outside Chicago, Saint Anthony spokesman Gregory Alford said. Loyola hospital officials reported him in critical condition Friday afternoon.

Two men who grabbed the man were treated for burns on their hands, and a woman was treated for smoke inhalation, Alford said. A 67-year-old woman remained at the hospital with difficulty breathing but was expected to be released.

Phone calls to the Cherry Valley Police Department went unanswered Friday.

The mall closed its center court area after the incident. Managers were unavailable to say when it would reopen.

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HOROSCOPES

Pisces, enjoy a play or a concert tonight!

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Schedule today alone with a loved one. Don't be the gregarious Ram, inviting others to join you. Dote on this person as if he is the only person in the world. You get the same in return when you need it. Let the courtship begin. Tonight: A quiet dinner far away from others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Friendship abounds between you and another. If single, this person might want more than being just a pal. Think in terms of whether you want the same as well. Laugh along with a friend or loved one; enjoy the moment. Tonight: Where the party is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Your caring comes out in many ways. Don't think that a gift must be just that. Sometimes choosing an action type of experience can make an even better present. Be open to another's suggestions. Don't make anything difficult, rather, see how you can make things easy! Tonight: Your treat.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Your softer side emerges with a child or loved one. Dote on someone, and let feelings emerge. You might want to be spontaneous or do something very special. Don't worry about ramifications, just express your loving friendship. Tonight: Playful, aren't we?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Your positive energy and caring ways draw out a partner, friend or family member. Deal with this person as if he were your best friend. Before you know it, new trust and caring build within this relationship. Buy flowers or something special for a parent. Tonight: Reveal what is on your mind.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Others seek you out. When you hear from that special someone, let him know how very pleased you are. Make plans to get together. Wherever you are, you let go and enjoy the moment. You could have a close-to-perfect day. Tonight: Hang out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Make a list before you go out; otherwise, you could overspend. Getting a head start on the holidays is one thing, depleting your checking account is another. Know that there are many types of gifts that could please others. Dig into your imagination. Tonight: Be a couch potato.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Your smile thaws out someone who could be a bit uptight. You have had difficulties with this person recently. Make light and allow the mood of the moment to float through. Express your feelings in a neutral manner to a child or friend. Tonight: Play away.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You have a special glow in your eyes that tells much more than you want to reveal. You might do well to curl up with a good book or vanish if you don't want to let the cat out of the bag. Share your authentic feelings. Avoid games. Tonight: Stay close to home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Something you have always wanted could happen; just relax and ask for it. Others remain highly responsive to your suggestions and direction. Talk about your long-term desires. Someone works well with you, and with him, anything is possible. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ There is something special on your mind that you want to do for someone. Check out different possibilities and price this idea. Though you believe it is achievable, you might want to work overtime or make an effort to tame your budget during the next few weeks. Tonight: Treat another to a back rub

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Your positive attitude and emotional generosity pay off. Detach when a loved one expresses his feelings. Though his words might not be yours, he does have a lot to share. Take a drive together and visit a place that is special to both of you. Tonight: Enjoy a play or concert.

WEATHER

Today ... Scattered Showers. Hi of 63°F Wind from the South Southwest at 9mph.
Tonight... Showers. Low of 53°F. Wind from the South Southwest at 9mph.
Saturday ... Partly cloudy. High of 60°F. Low of 47°F.

QUOTE of the DAY

"What would you attempt to do if you knew you could not fail?"

— Dr. Robert Schuller

CORRECTION: In the Nov. 23 edition, it was reported that the Eco-Challenge race was held in Borneo. It was actually held in New Zealand ... we're just a few continents off. We regret the error.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa ..... ext. 104
EDITOR
Carolyn Sackariason ..... ext. 102
PRODUCTION MANAGER
Del Pastrana ..... ext. 106
TEST SUBJECT
Dave Danforth ..... ext. 103

LOCAL



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

You couldn't tell judging by the crowds on the Third Street Promenade Friday that the economy is in a recession. The mall was teeming with holiday shoppers.

Woman beaten on bike path in serious condition

By Daily Press Staff

A Santa Monica woman was found Tuesday beaten on the bike path on the north beach.

The victim — who was transported to a local hospital in serious condition — was found around 9 p.m. in the 200 block of the beach.

The initial information provided to investigators indicates that the victim was physically assaulted and may have been robbed, but due to the seriousness of the victim's injuries, police are still investigating the incident. The victim was unable to give a description of the suspect(s).

Potential witnesses should contact Santa Monica Police Sgt. Rudy Camarena at (310) 458-8962 or detective Rich Nickel at (310) 458-8932.

City wants a quieter Santa Monica

By Daily Press Staff

City officials — and your neighbors — want you to tone it down a bit.

The Santa Monica City Council wants to change the noise ordinance in the city so it can protect residents who live in industrial and commercial districts. And the city fully intends to enforce the new laws.

Toward that goal, a community meeting is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 3, 2001, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Ken Edwards Center, Rooms 103, 104 and 105, to receive public input about noise issues throughout the city. City staff and its consultant, Mestre Greve Associates, want comments from residents, business people, and community groups about their concerns and suggestions for addressing community noise levels. This input will be considered as the new law is created.

The current noise ordinance was adopted in 1995 to implement the city's general plan noise element, which was adopted in 1992. The noise element is one of seven state-mandated elements of a general plan that identifies and appraises noise problems in the community while calling for creative methods to protect the community from excessive noise.

Mestre Greve Associates is a nationally recognized community noise engineering firm. The firm's past experience has ranged from small to large communities, from rural to urban environments, and from stable to fast-growing cities.

The Ken Edwards Center is located at 1527 Fourth Street in Santa Monica and can accommodate up to 60 participants. The facility is wheelchair accessible and served by Big Blue Bus lines 1, 3, 7 and 8. Metered parking also is available. Registration for the meeting is not necessary but is encouraged to ensure that enough handout materials and seating are available. Interested persons may call the RSVP line at (310) 434-2634 or use the on-line registration form to confirm their attendance.

Those unable to attend the meeting are encouraged to address written comments, concerns and/or suggestions to Bill Rodrigues via e-mail: bill-rodrigues@santa-monica.org or by regular mail at: City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, Calif., 90401.

Debate over the proposed college theater grows

SMC, from page 1

administration to bolster its reputation and career ... it could be a whole adjunct branch like what's on Pico and who wants something like that?"

SMC President Piedad Robertson has said that neighbors will not be left out of the planning process, in fact they are part of it. There are five people that live within a quarter mile of the proposed theater that were selected to be on the advisory committee.

The idea of moving the proposed theater off campus was first publicly talked about last spring at one of the Civic Center Working Group meetings. The working group is overseeing the design of the $120 million redevelopment plan. The city purchased 11 acres from the RAND Corporation last year for $53 million. A new development plan is being reviewed that would change the entire face of the civic center area. It could include hundreds of housing units, open space and new public buildings such as City Hall.

Last spring, Santa Monica City Councilman Richard Bloom, who is on the working group, suggested the SMC facility should be at the Civic Center. He is backed by councilmen Kevin McKeown and Ken Genser, who also serve on the committee.

The idea was brought up again last month when Borris Dramov, the architect designing the new civic area, presented a scenario with the SMC theater in the parking lot east of the current civic center auditorium.

Because of neighbors' concerns about increased traffic and already overcrowded schools which may force the Madison Campus to be reverted back to a middle school, some city officials think a new campus facility isn't the best idea.

McKeown said it is up to SMC officials to decide whether they would want a new performing arts center off campus.

"The college has to accept the invitation first," adding a formal invitation regarding the offer was made in early November.

But college officials already have said they aren't interested in taking the facility off site. "We cannot support a stand-alone theater," reads a statement in the college's information packet about the project. "We must integrate a theater into a whole campus setting. The college does not have the economic resources to create an entirely new campus at the civic center and the Madison site already provides the campus setting we need."

The Madison Campus theater is being proposed in the same location as the existing auditorium. The main level, expanded balcony and new lobby will add about 15,000 square feet, which would make the entire facility 56,000 square feet. The height of the building has not been determined yet, and neighbors are anxiously awaiting the dimensions from the project's architect, Renzo Zecchetto.

Grants enable city to treat pollution in storm drains

PIER, from page 1

potable dual indoor plumbing. The result is little or no urban runoff reaches the beach from the storm drains during dry weather. Other suspected causes of beach pollution from the pier include trash from beach goers, leaking trash containers, bird feces, fish wastes from the fishing public, and occasional leaks from around the pier. The grant, part of a $30 million statewide effort, will fund strategies to eliminate and reduce pollutants into the bay adjacent to the pier.

The area around the pier is one of the worst pollution origins along the Los Angeles coastline; the Heal the Bay Beach Report has regularly given the pier a poor water quality rating.

The remaining grants, totaling $1.25 million, come from the state's Proposition 12 and the California Integrated Waste Management Board to reduce trash, debris, sediments, oil and grease, and other soluble pollutants found in urban runoff. Prop 12, the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000, provides $25 million, to be administered by the State Coastal Conservancy, for restoration of the bay to reflect the goals and priorities of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan. The third grant is part of the state's solid waste cleanup program to remove pollutants, such as trash and debris, that cause negative impacts on the environment. The grants will be used to install pollution prevention devices at the Centinela Drainage Basin to reduce polluted urban runoff draining the eastern portion of the city into Ballona Creek and the Bay.

In addition to these efforts, the city plans to install additional pollution prevention devices at the Wilshire and Montana storm drains, which drain at the beach during winter months. The city's new objective, part of its 1994 Sustainable City Program, is to have some type of device at each of its 13 storm drains, which carry urban runoff out of the city, within the next few years.

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NATIONAL

ODDS & ENDS

Candy box turns up $10,000 for honesty

By The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Kathleen Healy didn't want a cash reward when she returned a wad of money she found in a department store, but she agreed to take a box of candy. The gift turned out to be worth at least $10,000 — and maybe $100,000.

"This is unbelievable," Healy said Wednesday.

Earlier this month, Healy found a clip holding a large amount of money while trying on jeans at a Marshall Field's store in Rosedale. She said she didn't check how much cash was in the clip.

"When I went to pay for my jeans, I gave the money to the sales clerk," Healy said. "She screamed and said, 'Oh, a customer's been looking all over for this.'"

When Healy refused a cash reward, the sales clerk insisted that she take a box of Frango mints, Marshall Field's signature candy.

When she opened the mints, she found a ticket saying she'd won at least $10,000 in a contest. If she is selected from the five contest winners in a February drawing, her prize will jump to $100,000.

Healy said she plans to use some of the money for her daughter's college tuition and religious missionary work. She also plans a "small family vacation."

Getting a look from down below

By the Associated Press

BRANDON, Fla. — A man who was arrested last year for using a tiny video camera hidden in a shoe to look up women's skirts is in trouble for allegedly doing it again.

Daniel W. Searfoss, 43, was in jail Wednesday on voyeurism charges after police said he filmed women at Peddlers Mall Flea Market in Brandon, 10 miles east of Tampa.

Searfoss, a mechanic, walked around the flea market on Nov. 18 with a small camera inside one of his shoes wired to a recording device in his shoulder bag, according to the Hillsborough County sheriff's department.

Searfoss tried to break the camera by throwing it to the ground as he was being arrested, deputies said.

Searfoss was initially charged and released Monday after posting bail, but deputies arrested him Wednesday after additional evidence was gathered in the case.

Voyeurism is a first-degree misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail.

On Dec. 31, Searfoss was arrested on charges of voyeurism after he was spotted at a Wal-Mart in Plant City with a recording device on his shoe. He was sentenced to 12 months probation, but the sentence was terminated in September.

Underwear burglars sought

By the Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Malaysian authorities are searching for four men they say conduct break-ins clad only in their underwear.

Police have dubbed the group of four men the "Underwear Gang" and believe they are responsible for a spate of robberies in Malaysia, said Zuber Shariff, a senior officer in the northern state of Perak.

During the past week, the gang broke into five bungalows and held up two kiosks where gasoline is sold, escaping with more than $47,000 in cash and valuables, Zuber said.

Zuber did not offer any theory of why the gang carried out robberies wearing only underwear, according to the Bernama national news agency.

"We believe the robbers are illegal Indonesian immigrants who are taking advantage of the festive season to rob," Zuber was quoted as saying, referring to the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Pasties block freedom to express

By the Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — A group of nude dancers in Salt Lake City feel pasties hamper their freedom of expression.

The six women are required to wear pasties by an ordinance passed last spring forbidding nude dancing. An attorney for the women says his clients are artists and therefore should have the same freedoms ballet dancers and modern dance companies have.

Unlike ballet dancers, erotic dancers must register with the city and get work cards. But the city has refused to renew the women's work cards, saying the new ordinance forbids their profession.

The ordinance also requires dancers to wear G-strings. That matter already is the subject of a lawsuit in state court.

NATIONAL

Small airlines adapt quickly to industry

BY NICK WADHAMS
Associated Press Writer

DENVER — A handful of smaller, scrappier airlines are emerging battered but not beaten in the worst downturn in the history of the airline industry.

While the nation's largest airlines posted $2.4 billion in losses and laid off more than 100,000 employees in the third quarter, three small airlines — AirTran, Frontier and jetBlue — are adding more routes.

"We're basically just going about our business," said David Neeleman, chief executive of New York-based jetBlue.

Though all airlines have reported steep drops in air traffic, and several small airlines have failed or are teetering near bankruptcy, a few of the independent carriers have managed to absorb the damage caused by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Frontier, jetBlue and AirTran have distinguished themselves as leaders of the pack. Their simple route plans have made it easier to handle increased security, delays and schedule changes without disrupting their entire networks.

Frontier and jetBlue both reported profits in the third quarter. AirTran reported a loss of $10.6 million, including charges directly related to the Sept. 11 attacks, after 11 straight profitable quarters.

All three airlines are doing well enough to proceed with plans for expansion — an idea that is far from the minds of those who run the major airlines.

American Airlines' parent company, AMR, recently eliminated about 20,000 jobs at American, TWA and American Eagle, and it posted a $414 million third-quarter loss, the largest in its 75-year history.

At the same time, Frontier rehired 70 of the 440 employees it laid off after the attacks. It also is planning flights to Alexandria, Va., and recently opened a route to Reno, Nev., while other airlines cut flights to that city.

Despite its financial troubles, AirTran, of Orlando, Fla., announced it will fly between Baltimore and Atlanta. The move came after US Airways' low-fare carrier, MetroJet, cut its route between the cities.

"Our advantage in being small gives us the ability to jump around and make the moves quickly where we see the opportunity," said Sean Menke, vice president of marketing and planning at Denver-based Frontier.

The smaller airlines also have imitated the model of Southwest Airlines, a larger carrier that distinguished itself by offering low fares and stressing customer service.

Frontier recently took out full-page ads in Denver newspapers announcing a plan to give away empty seats to charities. When airports reopened after Sept. 11, jetBlue dispatched psychologists to gates in New York to comfort passengers.

Mary Kay Ash dies at age 83

BY JOHN MCFARLAND
Associated Press Writer

DALLAS — As she built her cosmetics empire, Mary Kay Ash made millions of dollars and became one of the most famous women in American business.

"I wasn't that interested in the dollars-and-cents part of business," she said. "My interest in starting Mary Kay Inc. was to offer women opportunities that didn't exist anywhere else."

The cosmetics magnate, whose eponymous company made her name one of the most known in the country, died at her home in Dallas on Thursday. She was 83.

Ash died of natural causes after spending several years in fragile health, Mary Kay Inc. said in a news release.

"The world has lost one of its greatest champions of women and one of the most loving and inspirational business leaders," said Ash's son Richard Rogers, who is also co-founder, chairman and chief executive officer at Mary Kay.

Mary Kay claims to have produced more wealthy women than any other company. Spokesman Randall Oxford said more than 150 women have made more than $1 million with the company.

Mary Kay also created an award system for employees specifically designed for women, offering mink coats, diamond rings and, most famously, pink Cadillacs.

Compacts and makeup boxes sold by the Mary Kay were also pink, and Ash once owned a 19,000-square-foot pink mansion with a gigantic pink marble bathtub.

Moving to Dallas, she took a part-time job for Stanley Home Products, selling household goods at parties in women's homes in 1938. She studied to become a doctor, but focused on sales full-time as her success grew. She used to write weekly sales goals in soap on her bathroom mirror.

She later joined another direct-sales company, World Gifts, as national sales director. According to a biography on her company's Web site, Ash quit in 1963 when a male colleague hired as her assistant was promoted over her at twice her salary.

"I couldn't believe God meant a woman's brain to bring 50 cents on the dollar," she told The Dallas Morning News in 1974. "Before I started my company in 1963, I had worked for 25 years in sales, and nothing would make me angrier than training some man only to have him become my superior."

GOP chairman braces for the 2002 elections

BY WILL LESTER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — For the past two weeks, GOP national Chairman Jim Gilmore has had to endure this: Democrats openly bragging about the 2001 election results; personal taunts from the Democratic chairman; and reports of grumbling within the ranks of his own party.

He says he's not fazed.

"It does not irritate me. It's their job to put their best foot forward," the Virginia governor said of the Democrats. "My only response is congratulations."

Democrat Jim McGreevey won the governors' race in New Jersey and Democrat Mark Warner took the governor's job in Virginia two weeks ago, while Republicans won the New York City mayor's race with billionaire Michael Bloomberg.

The day after the elections, Democratic national Chairman Terry McAuliffe spoke of his Republican counterpart by name several times, referring to "poor Jim Gilmore" as he predicted Democrats were on a winning streak that would extend to 2002.

"Now Republicans have to go back to their playbook and figure out how to win elections," McAuliffe said.

Gilmore, a blunt-spoken former prosecutor dismisses the taunting and says he hasn't changed the Republican game plan for 2002.

He wants to expand the party's base to include more Hispanics, women and blacks. At the same time, he says the party should support President Bush's agenda and campaign on a platform of "keeping taxes down, while providing a good economic stimulus package, international and internal security from terrorism as well as accountability and quality education."

He says he sees no reason to drastically overhaul the GOP's strategy.

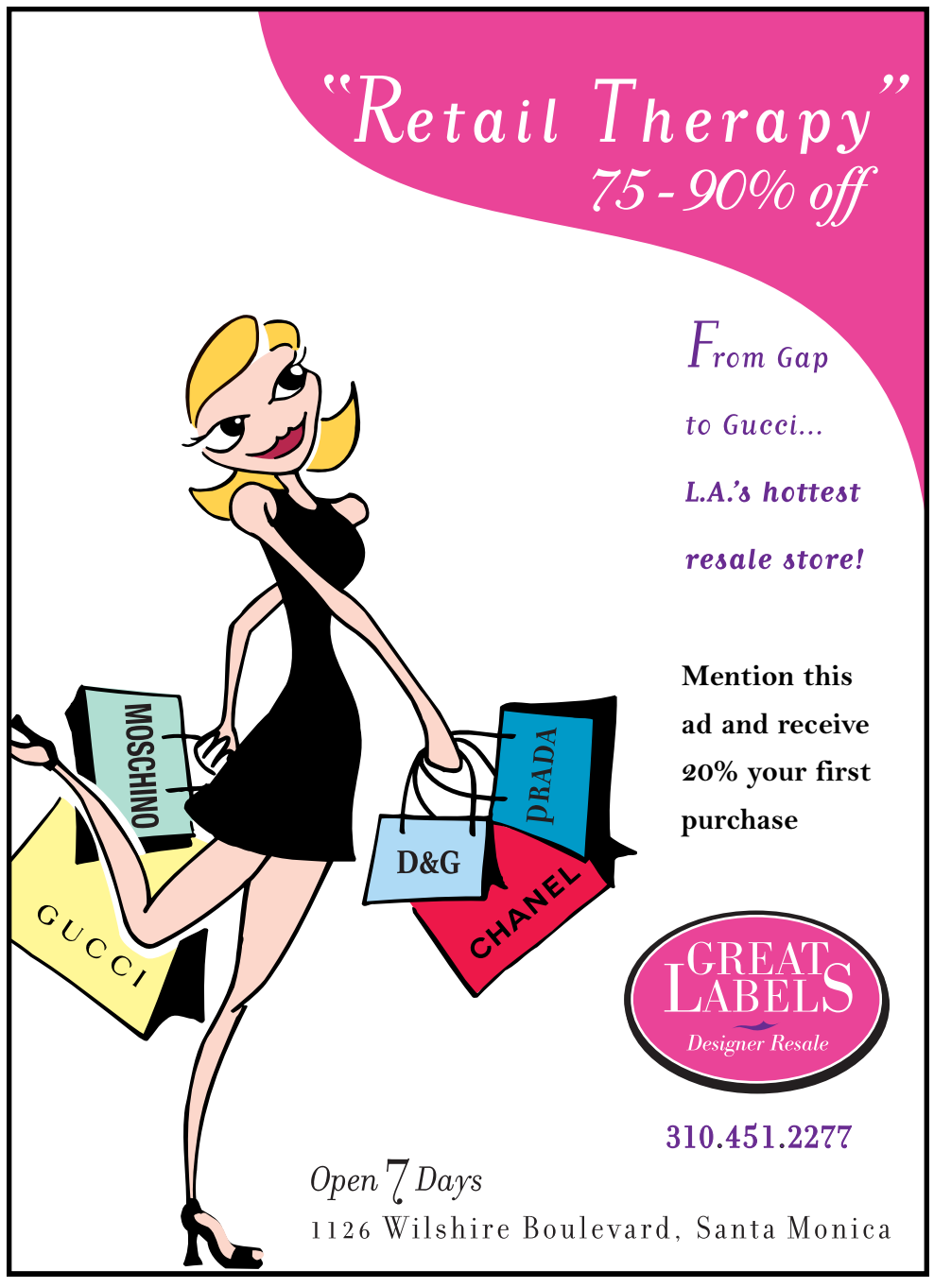
"On Election Day, we did not suffer a wipeout," Gilmore said. "It was a split decision. We won the mayorship in New York, won a landslide in the Virginia House of Delegates, won judicial races in Pennsylvania, special elections in Missouri."

He acknowledged the two governors' races were the contests everybody was watching. But Gilmore says he's personally unaware of criticism within the party ranks.

"The only place I saw that was in the newspapers — and it was unattributed," Gilmore said.

Several top Republicans around the country said privately this week that few people blame Gilmore for the election losses, but they've heard scattered grumbling that he attempted to distance the national party and the White House from the gubernatorial candidates. Gilmore responds that the national party strongly supported both Republican candidates for governor.

After the elections, the Bush administration quickly made clear there was no reason to speculate about Gilmore's future as chairman. Three days after the vote, Bush spokesman Ari Fleischer made clear that the president was behind Gilmore.



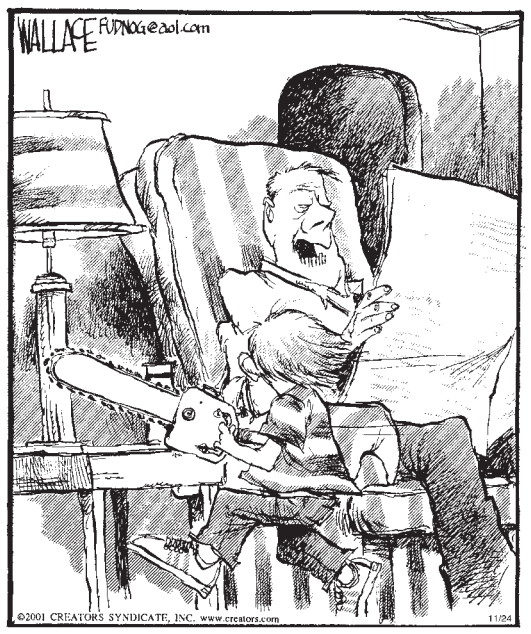
COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection®

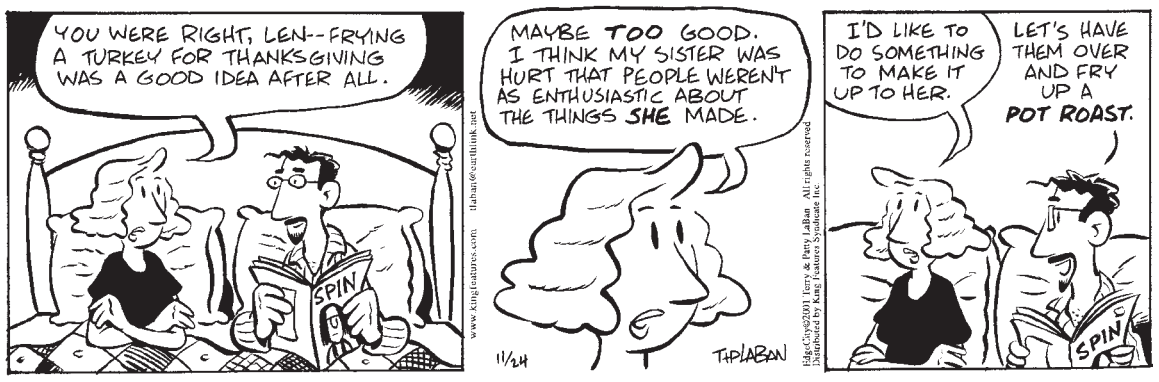
By Russ Wallace



"*Brett*! ... What do you mean running through the house with something that dangerous? *Walk! Walk!*"

edge City

by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



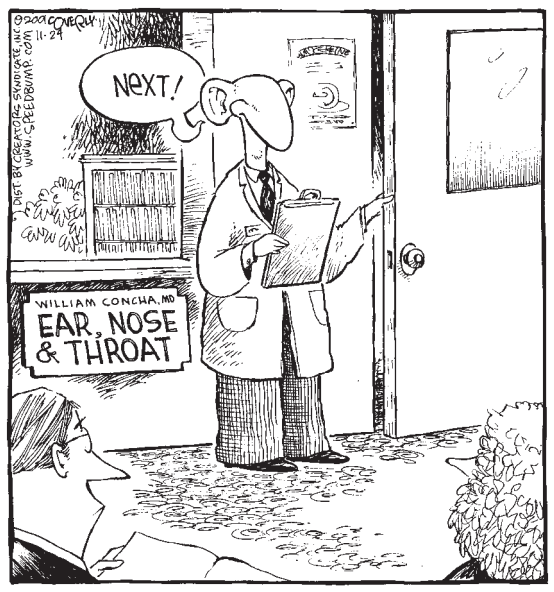
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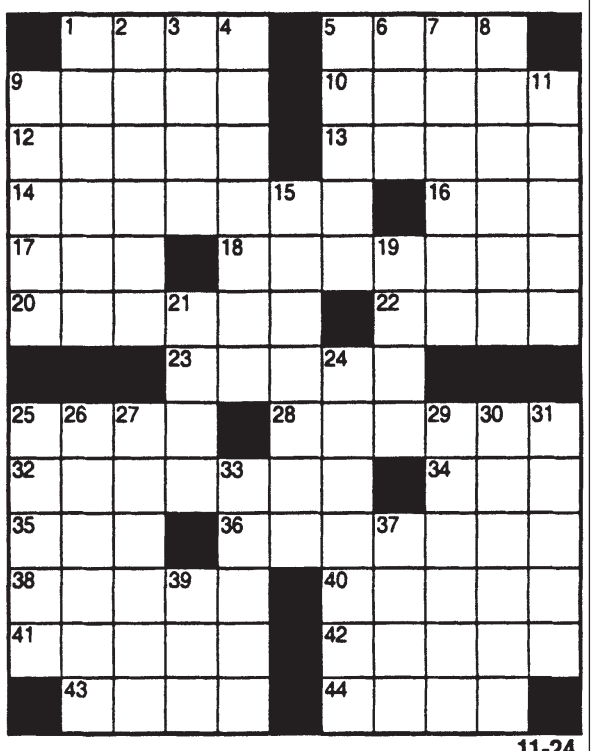
1 Polio vaccine pioneer
5 Bread buy
9 Swimmer O'Neill
10 Inventor Howe
12 Uplift
13 "Rigoletto" composer
14 Book extras
16 Storage site
17 Casual top
18 Alfalfa group
20 Beginnings
22 Omelet base
23 Sicilian spouter
25 High cards
28 French caps
32 Batter's goal
34 Summer sign
35 Circle part
36 Part of the plan
38 Old wrap
40 Director Kurosawa
41 Had aspirations
42 Flooring materials, in Britain
43 Favorites
44 Lewd look

DOWN

1 Abrupt
2 Stage comments
3 Longest sentence
4 Convention highlight
5 Actor Burton
6 Corrida cry
7 Car feature
8 Going dim
9 Old alliance
11 Warbles
15 Trash spot
19 Bike part
21 Simplicity
24 Tennis return that's barely over
25 Disconcert
26 Old fast food server
27 Computer key
29 Galahad's mother
30 Complete fear
31 Fizzy drinks
33 Wrestler's repertoire
37 Tom Joad, for one
39 Sopping

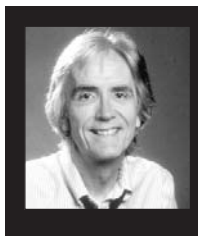
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Yesterday's answer



11-24

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



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Near-blind woman gets driver's license

• Emma Ness of Fargo, N.D., passed her driver's license-renewal eye test in September despite the fact that she is so severely vision-impaired that her nurse must drive her around. Ness, 79, said she had 75 percent blockage in one eye, 25 percent in the other, and sees spots in the middle of road signs, according to a report in the Fargo Forum, but she bet the nurse that clerks would renew her license, anyway, and they did. ("We're only human," said a state transportation official.) (In October, a 34-year-old legally blind man, who did not have a license, died when he accidentally smashed his car into the back of a tractor-trailer in Lenoir, N.C.)

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BACK PAGE

Coughing up an answer not so easy on millionaire

By the Associated Press

LONDON — Three people have been arrested on suspicion of cheating on the British version of the TV game show "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire."

Maj. Charles Ingram and his wife, Diana, were arrested at their home west of London. Detectives interviewed them, released them on bail Thursday and ordered them to return to a central London police station in December.

A 51-year-old man, arrested Thursday in Cardiff, Wales, was released on bail to return for questioning in February. He was not identified.

None of the three has been charged, a Scotland Yard spokeswoman said Friday. They were questioned over an allegation of conspiracy to defraud and their homes were searched, she added.

Ingram, 38, told reporters at his home that he could not comment.

"All I can say is that this is the first opportunity we've had to put our side of the story over. The time will come when we can talk freely," he said.

A police inquiry began in September into an episode of the popular show in which Ingram won 1 million pounds, or $1.41 million.

The episode was not broadcast, and Ingram's check was withheld because of the suspected cheating. News reports suggested that someone in the audience relayed to him correct answers to questions by coughing.

Diana Ingram, 37, and the major's brother-in-law, Adrian Pollock, had both previously won 32,000 pounds, or $45,000, on the game show. She later wrote a book titled "Win a Million," based on a theory she and her brother had used to succeed.

After the inquiry was announced, Ingram held a news conference and denied wrongdoing.

"He is stunned, bewildered and devastated at the action that has been taken and feels that the effects leave his career in the Army and livelihood in tatters," said a statement released at the time by his lawyers.

Celador Productions, which makes the show for Independent Television, said the company did not wish to comment on the arrests.

"Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" was created in Britain and became an instant evening television hit. Versions of the show have spread to several countries, including the United States, where Regis Philbin is the host. A U.S. theme park also is in the works.

Ski resorts coax a few runs into action for holiday

BY TOM GARDNER
Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. — Sierra ski resorts used a little snow and a lot of snowmaking to open a handful of runs in time for the holiday weekend as they anticipated the week's second storm on Saturday.

Heavenly became the second resort to open, offering its Patsy run on Friday. Spokeswoman Kristen Aggers said snowmaking was underway on three other runs.

Kirkwood Mountain Resort was among the areas scheduled to open on Saturday with three lifts and 6-15 inches of snow.

"If the forecast is correct, projecting perhaps two feet or more by Sunday, we could have most, if not the entire mountain open in the next few days," said President Tim Cohee.

The National Weather Service posted a winter storm warning in the Sierra for Saturday.

"If the forecast is correct, projecting perhaps two feet or more by Sunday, we could have most, if not the entire mountain open in the next few days."

— TIM COHEE
President of Kirkwood Mountain Resort

Early rain was expected to change to snow between 6,000 and 6,500 feet with falling temperatures in the afternoon. Up to a foot of snow was forecast for Saturday with another foot possible Saturday night above 6,000 feet before tapering off on Sunday.

The chance of 1-3 inches of snow in the western valleys from Reno south to Minden could make getting to the resorts a challenge.

Another downside of the storm for the ski areas was a forecast of nasty winds in the 40-50 mph range at the higher — and snowier — elevations.

Squaw Valley planned to open five lifts on Saturday and Alpine Meadows will offer one lift with a 12-18-inch base of natural and machine-made snow.

Sugar Bowl Ski Resort on Donner Summit will have two runs for skiers and snowboarders on Sunday.

All resorts are offering reduced prices in the $25-$30 range for adults.

Sierra-at-Tahoe, Soda Springs, Northstar-at-Tahoe, Royal Gorge and Sugar Bowl also were looking at opening this weekend.



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