

FREE

# Santa Monica Daily Press

*A newspaper with issues*

## DAILY LOTTERY

### SUPER LOTTO

1 3 12 28 47  
Meganumber: 9  
Jackpot: \$17 Million

### FANTASY 5

10 22 24 29 36

### DAILY 3

Daytime: 2 9 9  
Evening: 5 1 6

### DAILY DERBY

1st: 10 Solid Gold  
2nd: 03 Hot Shot  
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms

RACE TIME: 1:44.67

## NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ North Carolina state Sen. Sam Ellis' bill to change a section of state law that actually gives an enormous right to rapists failed in committee this year, with the result that some rapists may inevitably go free. If a rape victim chooses to carry her baby, and then place it for adoption, state law requires that both parents agree to the adoption in writing, with no exception for babies conceived by rape. Thus, rapists might withhold their consent, thwarting the mother's wishes, unless she agrees not to press charges for the rape. According to a September Raleigh News and Observer story, at least three women have recently been in that situation.

■ The Wall Street Journal reported in September that Spain's El Pais newspaper, in a now-discontinued ad for a 90-day subscription, had run photos of the New York City skyline, before 9/11 and after, with the tag line, "You can do a lot in one day. Just imagine what can happen in three months."

## TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1986, the Iran-Contra affair erupted as President Reagan and Attorney General Edwin Meese revealed that profits from secret arms sales to Iran had been diverted to Nicaraguan rebels.

In 2002, President Bush signed legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security, and appointed Tom Ridge to be its head.

Ten years ago: NATO warplanes buzzed the besieged safe haven of Bihac in northwest Bosnia, but did not carry out airstrikes against rebel Serbs. Sony Corporation co-founder Akio Morita retired as chairman.

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# Thanksgiving dinner handed out early to some

BY KIM WEATHERLEY

Special to the Daily Press

**SMC** — Thousands of less fortunate individuals will enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner today, courtesy of heartfelt donations from a Santa Monica organization.

The Heartfelt Foundation of Santa Monica this past weekend hosted its annual Thanksgiving event at Santa Monica Community College, where 1,200 people — about 300 families — were given a chance to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with the traditional fare.

Olivia Jones, a recipient, plans to spend today with her daughter.

"For so many people, Thanksgiving is important," she said. "You give something to the community, and the community gives back to you. I'm really proud of (this event). So many people came forward, and this is helping a lot. I hope they keep it up. I know sometimes they can't."

The line started to form more than three hours before the gates opened on Saturday. Hundreds of hungry families waited for their Thanksgiving meals, given to them in baskets. Within two hours, the line had wrapped around the block.

Families of three or more received a basket that would feed every member of their family this Thanksgiving. Each basket included a variety of

Thanksgiving fixings, such as tortilla chips and tortillas, potatoes, stuffing, canned goods, rice, fresh-baked bread, donuts, coffee, soup, granola bars, pies, beans, pasta, cereal, cranberry sauce and gift certificates for turkeys.

In each basket was a note from the person who packed it. One in particular read, "Happy Thanksgiving! Wishing you the best from the Louisville class of '007."

Smaller families were given a \$20 gift certificate from a local market.

"A lot of people can't afford a Thanksgiving, and this will really brighten up their lives and make it a special day," said Amelia Bellinger, a Louisville High School volunteer.

The atmosphere resembled a childhood carnival. The parking lot was decorated with balloons and Happy Thanksgiving banners, and dried Indian corn lined the table tops. The event had games such as basketball, football, a bean bag toss, as well as a popcorn machine and two inflatable jumping stations. There were arts and crafts tables, where the children could make construction-paper wreaths, decorations and bookmarks. Removable tattoos, face painting and bubble-making also were available.

Refreshments, including water, cookies, pie, turkey wraps and

See THANKSGIVING DINNER, page 4

## Holy casserole



Jim Tuverson/Special to the Daily Press

Local high school students on Wednesday prepare an early Thanksgiving Day feast at St. Monica Parish. This year was the 25th year St. Monica has dished up free eats in honor of turkey day.

# Mashed potatoes and green bean soda pop

BY ALLISON LINN

AP Business Writer

**SEATTLE** — Today, some people will be drinking their holiday meal.

Jones Soda Co. takes the idea of a liquid diet to a new low. How does Green Bean Casserole Soda strike you? And how about an aggressively buttery-smelling Mashed Potato Soda?

Even the creators of the fizzy concoctions at this small Seattle soda company can hardly stomach the stuff. But last year's unexpected

success of the Turkey & Gravy Soda means another round of bizarre food-flavored soft drinks. As an added bonus — they're calorie-free.

Jones Soda Co. has launched a full meal deal of five Thanksgiving soda flavors, from the bile-colored Green Bean Casserole to the sweet — but slightly sickly — Fruitcake Soda. Last year's Turkey & Gravy is also back on the menu.

If you think it sounds less than appetizing, you're not alone.

See SODAS, page 5

# Building a better holiday turkey through biotechnology

BY PAUL ELIAS

AP Biotechnology Writer

**SAN FRANCISCO** — Most of the turkeys gracing the nation's dinner tables today have been selectively bred for their white meat for so many generations that simply walking can be a problem for many of the big-breasted birds, and sex is no longer possible.

A small research team is hoping to come to the rescue, employ-

ing the latest in biotechnology to chart the genetic map of America's favorite Thanksgiving meal and eventually alleviate the breeding problems.

The idea is to identify specific genes that produce desirable traits such as salmonella resistance, strong leg muscles and, of course, big breasts. That would do away with much of the guesswork involved in traditional breeding methods as farmers try to match

birds that appear to have the sought-after qualities.

"Improved meat quality or disease resistance will probably be the first application resulting from this research," said Kent Reed, a University of Minnesota researcher leading the effort to map the turkey's genome.

Since the human genome was mapped in 2001, the genetic codes of all sorts of creatures have been published in record time and for

much less money than the \$3 billion it cost to catalog human genes.

Still, it's slow going for the turkey. With just \$1 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and two commercial poultry interests, Reed hopes to publish by year's end a guide to roughly 300 turkey genes, and have twice that many by next Thanksgiving.

See TURKEY GENES, page 4

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**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**

★★★ Carefully pick and choose your words, or you could get crazy reactions. Misunderstandings walk hand and hand during today's Full Moon. You also might discover something very special about yourself, if you look at your reactions. Tonight: Visit with friends.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**

★★★★★ You might wake up and decide to participate in Black Friday. In fact, you might do better getting your shopping done early this year. Make a firm budget before you walk out the door. Tonight: Join friends for hot cider and munchies.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**

★★★★★ Your personality melts barriers, though you might not be totally happy with what others say or do. Know one thing: You cannot change him or her. Go with surprises. Get your Christmas cards in the mail. Tonight: A must show.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**

★★★ Take the day off. You're overdue for some R and R. Put a halt to what is happening, and do something for yourself. Get into a project or activity you enjoy. Start writing holiday notes. Don't allow someone to push you. Tonight: Make a long-overdue call.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**

★★★★ You might like what is happening. Don't hang at home; instead, join friends and get into the activity of Black Friday. Happiness surrounds people and crowds. A get-together, even if you decide to throw it, stars during your day. Tonight: Try a new eggnog recipe.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**

★★★★ While others might take today off, responsibilities drop on you, be it at work or at play. Check in with an older friend who might not be up to snuff mentally or emotionally. Take the lead. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**

★★★★ Your job will be to detach and take an overview rather than get into the activities or opinions of others. If you would like, hop in your car and go for a day drive. Don't forget to squeeze in some time just for you. Tonight: Don't do the same old thing.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**

★★★★ Visualize and share ideas with a special friend or loved one. Together you'll come up with some very wild ideas. Just go with the flow. Plan on spending some quality time with an important person. Your relationship thrives. Tonight: You pull the wild card financially.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**

★★★★ You might have strong ideas and plans, but sure enough, you need to bend to someone else's plans. You actually might find the alternate activities more exciting. For once, try a passive role. Others reveal their true selves. Tonight: Follow another's lead.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**

★★★ Invite others over, or do something you enjoy around your home. You might push way too hard to accomplish your work. Unexpected facts might cause you to regroup. Take your time rather than react. Tonight: Put your feet up.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**

★★★★★ Naughty could be your middle name. Loosen up and help others relax. Try not to be the big spender; instead, let someone else assume that role. A relationship could be tested to the max. Tonight: Rock and roll out the door.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**

★★★★ Everyone needs something from you. You might feel like someone is making you into saltwater taffy, as you are pulled in so many directions. Take care of your priorities first. You inadvertently jolt others. Tonight: At home. Keep the answering machine on.

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## LOCAL

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### Bookworms can chew on 'The Kite Runner'

By Daily Press staff

For residents who want to be involved in a citywide reading program for next year, the homework has been assigned.

"The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini is the featured book for Santa Monica Citywide Reads scheduled for April 9 through May 7, 2005.

Sponsored by the city of Santa Monica and the Santa Monica Public Library, Citywide Reads is a community reading program that invites residents and visitors to Santa Monica to read "The Kite Runner" (Riverhead Books, 2003) and to discuss the novel in book clubs held citywide.

Set in Afghanistan and in America, the book traces the unlikely friendship of a wealthy Afghan youth and a servant's son, in a tale that spans three decades, from the final days of Afghanistan's monarchy through the Soviet invasion and the reign of the Taliban to the present day.

"This novel invites readers to peer through a window into Afghanistan before the Russian occupation and imagine what it would be like to grow up during troubled times," said Carol Jago, Santa Monica High School's English department chair and a member of the Citywide Reads Advisory Committee. "The author offers no simple solutions but rather a heartbreaking story of friends caught up in history. After reading this novel, media coverage of the region took on new meaning. Fiction can sometimes teach us every bit as much as news reports."

Hosseini was born in Kabul, Afghanistan, in 1965 and emigrated with his family to California in 1980, where he has been a practicing physician since 1996. "The Kite Runner" is Hosseini's debut novel and is the first Afghan novel to be written in English. Published to much critical acclaim, including designation as the "Best Book of the Year" by the San Francisco Chronicle and recipient of a 2004 Alex Award as an adult book that appeals to teen readers, "The Kite Runner" is currently a best-selling paperback and is available as an audiobook. For more information about the author and the book, visit [www.khaledhosseini.com](http://www.khaledhosseini.com).

Santa Monica Citywide Reads 2005 features free public book discussion groups held in coffeehouses, bookstores, libraries and other venues. Related events, such as lectures and a World Music performance, also are being planned. For information about Citywide Reads, visit [www.smpl.org/cwr](http://www.smpl.org/cwr), or call the Santa Monica Public Library at (310) 458-8600.

#### Get a life

By Daily Press staff

Need to reinvent your life? There's a program designed especially for you.

An ongoing group of men and women 55 years old and older meet to share ideas, look at life in new ways and discover their inner strengths. The group meets every Thursday from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Ave. The group is led by two trained peer counselors. There is a sliding-scale fee, and an interview is required to attend. For intakes and referrals, call (310) 576-2550, ext. 217.

#### Elks show up for kids

By Daily Press staff

Gladstones in Malibu recently hosted a group of boys and girls from the Los Angeles Sheriff's Youth Foundation from Compton, Lennox and San Dimas for a day at the beach. The event featured all-you-can-eat hamburgers, hot dogs, cole slaw, potato salad and ice cream.

The sheriff's foundation provides at-risk youth in the economically disadvantaged neighborhoods of Los Angeles County with safe opportunities to grow and develop.

Bill Casto, Santa Monica Elks chairman, was in charge of obtaining mementos for the children. Maui and Sons, maker of surfboards, presented T-shirts to each of the attendees. There were eight Santa Monica Elks at the event to show support for the foundation.



## SURF REPORT

A healthy-looking low has been crossing over the Bering Sea over the last few days. By Saturday afternoon the long period NW swell (290+300+) generated by that storm will start to move in. The NW'er tops out on Sunday with chest-to shoulder-high waves at well exposed areas and head-high-plus sets at stand-outs. That surf slowly winds down during the first part of next week. Building new NW ground swell due by the middle of the upcoming week.

As to the South Pacific, just minor pulses of S to SW swell scheduled for the rest of this week and first half of next week. The South Pacific has had mainly zonal flow lately with not many waves aimed our way.

**Today the water is:**

**61°**

Write us at [wood@smdp.com](mailto:wood@smdp.com) and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

|           | LOW TIDES |        |         |        | HIGH TIDES |        |         |        |
|-----------|-----------|--------|---------|--------|------------|--------|---------|--------|
|           | Morning   | Height | Evening | Height | Morning    | Height | Evening | Height |
| SATURDAY  | 11:03     | 2.1    | 11:02   | 0.4    | 5:12       | 4.9    | 4:33    | 4.4    |
| SUNDAY    | (12:03    | 1.4)   | 11:43   | 0.7    | 5:46       | 5.3    | 5:42    | 4.3    |
| MONDAY    | N/A       | N/A    | 12:47   | 0.7    | 6:16       | 5.7    | 6:40    | 4.3    |
| TUESDAY   | 12:19     | 1.1    | 1:29    | 0.2    | 6:44       | 6.0    | 7:31    | 4.1    |
| WEDNESDAY | 12:50     | 1.4    | 2:06    | -0.2   | 7:11       | 6.1    | 8:18    | 4.0    |
| THURSDAY  | 1:18      | 1.8    | 2:41    | -0.4   | 7:36       | 6.2    | 9:01    | 3.9    |
| FRIDAY    | 1:45      | 2.1    | 3:16    | -0.5   | 8:02       | 6.2    | 9:43    | 3.7    |

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The **Q**Line

The Santa Monica City Council earlier this month discussed how many street performers should be allowed on the pier at any one time. The discussion turned into a larger debate about the atmosphere on the pier. Some elected officials think the pier should be quieter than it is today, with the idea that it should be a place to reflect and take in the natural beauty surrounding it.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "How do you envision the Santa Monica Pier in the future?"

Call (310) 285-8106 before 5 p.m. on Friday, and we'll print your response in the weekend edition. Please limit comments to less than a minute. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

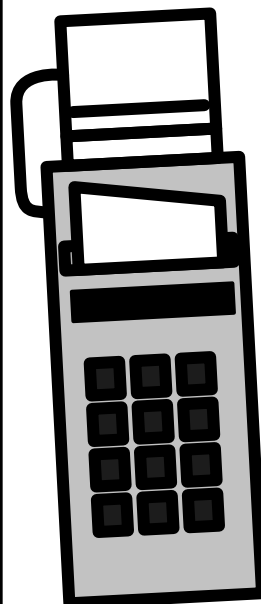
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**CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 2!**

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# Volunteers help serve Thanksgiving baskets to needy families

THANKSGIVING DINNER, from page 1

sloppy joes, were donated by local businesses.

"There are so many families touched," said seven-year volunteer and Heartfelt board member Sonia Trejo. "It's heartwarming and gratifying to be able to do this for people who are less fortunate."

Additional goodies were also given away. Retailer Lambs and Ivy donated several items, including baby bedding, chairs, children's plates, school supplies and teddy bears.

The Heartfelt Foundation is a Santa Monica-based non-profit organization founded in 1979 to assist individuals, families and the community in the greater Los Angeles area, throughout the United States, and around the world through support services, food and supplies, volunteer time and financial aid. The foundation works with local service agencies year-round to help families in need.

"We serve the underserved and provide projects where families, teens and children can learn how to serve," said Patti Rayner, executive director of the Heartfelt Foundation.

The foundation relies on the generosity of individuals and businesses in the community and private grants to continue its efforts. Without the donations, an event like this would cost more than \$20,000, Rayner said.

Since September 11, 2001, the foundation has experienced a 50 percent decrease in funding and is finding itself more dependent than ever on donations, particularly because there are more people in need these days.

Volunteers also are key to the organization's success. The volunteers organize



John Wood/Daily Press

**Hundreds turned out for the Heartfelt Foundation pre-Thanksgiving Day event.**

and participate in several projects throughout the year. More than 200 volunteers from all over Santa Monica worked day and night to prepare for the Thanksgiving event.

"I think it's a wonderful way to show those that are less fortunate that the community does care about them," said volunteer Sylvia Dunbar.

Volunteers came from all over LA, including Lightstorm Entertainment, Show 24, Louisville High School, Students for a Better Tomorrow, Singles Helping Others, Taiwanese-American Professionals, Girl Scouts and Michaels Crafts, which donated hand-made baby blankets for the occasion.

Mission Tortillas, Lambs and Ivy, Sloppy JoJo's, a local bakery and SMC were major contributors for the occasion.

"Santa Monica College is very happy to be a part of this event," said Charlie Yen, the director of events at SMC. "We're a part of this community. I hope this event will encourage the recipients to better their lives and get an education and give back to the community."

# Genome could unlock secret to healthier birds

TURKEY GENES, from page 1

That's far short of the 25,000 genes each gobbler is estimated to possess. The work is moving much slower than with other animal genome efforts, in part because the funding is comparatively paltry and few researchers are giving the turkey much attention.

That's nothing new for the turkey, which sits in the shadow of the chicken in terms of scientific, industrial and government support. It's been all downhill for Meleagris gallopavo, the scientific name for the wild turkey, since Ben Franklin failed in his bid to make it the national bird.

Unfortunately, the turkey's genetic sequence isn't particularly useful in the

development of human medicines or the furthering of basic science, two big priorities when it comes to getting federal money for a genome project.

Also, the industry's \$3 billion in annual U.S. sales can't compare to more popular livestock like the cow, pig and chicken that have had their genetic sequence published with commercial backing.

Still, Reed and a few other scientists labor on, insisting that their work will help an industry solve a health care problem that afflicts many of the 267 million turkeys sold each year. They also hope for breakthroughs for turkeys resulting from the publication of the entire chicken genome earlier this year.

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## STATE



# New T-Day soda flavors repulse, intrigue the palate

SODAS, from page 1

"Oh, man, I can't drink that!" cries out company chief executive Peter van Stolk, after pouring himself a drink of mashed potatoes.

To banish the buttery aftertaste, he recommends a chaser of Cranberry Soda, the only one of the holiday bunch that doesn't make you want to pick up a toothbrush.

Drinking last year's savory Turkey & Gravy was no picnic, either, but that didn't stop people from clamoring for it, pushing bidding on auction site eBay Inc. up to \$63 for a two-bottle set.

This year Jones plans to produce up to 15,000 five-packs of the 12-ounce bottles, which come complete with utensils (a straw and a toothpick). The sodas may not be as satisfying as a real holiday meal, but they can boast being both calorie- and carb-free, not to mention vegan and kosher.

They've been on sale for weeks at some Target Corp. stores throughout the country, and at other retailers, for between \$14.95 and \$16.95, with proceeds benefiting Toys for Tots.

Known for its quirky ads and offbeat bottle designs, Jones traces its roots to a soda distribution operation that began in 1987. But it wasn't until the mid-1990s that the company began its own line of sodas, cultivating a following among skaters, surfers and snowboarders with unusual flavors like blue bubble gum, green apple and watermelon. These days, Jones soda, juice and energy drinks are available nationwide at stores including Target, Albertson's and Safeway.

Five tasters were assigned to the task of perfecting the holiday flavors, although

van Stolk said most other employees ended up trying the sodas sooner or later.

In the early stages, the staff grew deeply divided over mashed potato versus sweet potato: "It was like red versus blue," van Stolk said, referring to the recent presidential election.

In the end, he called it for mashed potato, arguing it was the more familiar food.

Jones isn't the only company to find that people have a certain fascination with foods that make you go "yuck." There's the real-life version of Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Beans, made famous by the Harry Potter books and featuring tastes like Vomit, Booger and Earthworm. And millions of Americans regularly tune in to reality shows to watch contestants eat things like spiders and snails.

Experts say part of the human fascination with such foods is the omnivore's natural tendency to try a varied diet. But there's also a certain group of people who are simply novelty seekers who get a thrill out of more extreme gastronomical adventures, said Virginia Utermohlen, an associate professor of nutritional sciences at Cornell University.

For those people, she said, the thinking is, "So long as I know it's not going to kill me, it might be just interesting."

Barbara Rolls, nutritional sciences professor at Penn State University, said research shows young people are more likely to try new foods, but she speculates it's not just nature.

"It's that bravado factor," she said.

And for some, Rolls added, the risk will have a reward.

"Who knows, maybe it really tastes good," she said.

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# STATE BRIEFS

## Peeper has a rap sheet

By The Associated Press

**RANCHO CUCAMONGA, Calif.** — A Riverside man arrested for allegedly peeping up the skirts of girls at Alta Loma High School is a registered sex offender with a record of previous peeping convictions, authorities said.

Mark Brosman, 41, was arrested Nov. 19 after an Alta Loma High School employee told sheriff’s deputies Brosman pretended to tie his shoe in a school parking lot for a peek up the skirts of at least four students, Sgt. Frank Gonzales said.

Brosman told deputies he was jogging at the school.

“He had no business at the school and he was fully aware of that,” Gonzales said.

In 2002, Brosman was ordered by the court to stay away from children and undergo psychological counseling after he admitted to illicitly videotaping women at a Temecula mall and filming other young girls as they walked home from school.

Brosman pleaded guilty in Riverside County to four misdemeanor counts of annoying or molesting a child and one count of peeping. He was sentenced to 180 days in jail and placed on three years’ probation.

Brosman could be charged with felonies because of his prior convictions, authorities said.

## Club stripped of permit

By The Associated Press

**LONG BEACH, Calif.** — The city pulled the Flamingo Gentleman’s Club entertainment permit for violating rules that ban nude dancing.

The City Council decision Tuesday to revoke the permit was stayed for 45 days, however, to allow the Artesia Boulevard club time to appeal the ruling and possibly challenge the city’s ordinance banning nude dancing.

Councilman Dan Baker was the lone dissenter, saying that taking away Flamingo’s permit could lead to a court challenge against the city’s nudity ban.

“It seems to me that the law is inappropriate and I hope somebody will challenge that law,” Baker said.

The club allegedly violated city law by allowing girls to dance fully disrobed and allowing customers to touch them in private lap dance sessions. The club also allegedly hired 16-year-old girls as dancers, though club management contends the girls used fake documents to get their jobs.

During permit review hearings this year, police vice detectives testified that on several occasions, they observed women dancing topless and naked in violation of the permit. An officer also said he observed two underage girls working as dancers.

Flamingo attorney Larry Diamond told the council he may challenge the city’s ruling as well as the nude dancing ban.

“The court will have the authority to decide if the nude ordinance is constitutional,” Diamond said.

## Prosecutors: Enraged woman shot parents

By The Associated Press

**FONTANA, Calif.** — Prosecutors said Alma Lorene Frakes was so enraged when her 80-year-old father molested her teenage daughter, the woman shot and killed her father and 71-year-old mother.

Superior Court Judge Keith D. Davis on Tuesday said there was enough evidence to order trial for Frakes, 35, on two counts of first-degree murder with enhancement of using a gun in the crimes.

Frakes, jailed with bail set at \$1 million, will be arraigned on Tuesday.

Frakes allegedly became enraged on Sept. 12 when she learned her 14-year-old daughter had been molested by William Frakes, the girl’s grandfather, sheriff’s Detective Derek Pacifico testified.

Frakes allegedly grabbed a .45-caliber handgun and went to her parents’ Bloomington home, returning 45 minutes later and telling her boyfriend, “I’ve taken care of it.”

Three days later, deputies found the bodies of William and Alba Frakes, investigators said.

## Dead ants, dead ants

By The Associated Press

**PALM SPRINGS, Calif.** — In an effort to revive the Coachella Valley’s red imported fire ant battle, pest control officials will ask residents to see if they’re willing to pay an additional \$10 a year in property taxes to get rid of the swarms.

A year ago, budget-strapped California cut \$3 million in state funding disbursed to local governments to fight fire ant invasion. Since 2000, local pest control officials had driven ants from up to 3,000 infested sites.

The Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District is now preparing the survey that will ask residents if they would pay a new tax to cover the cost of driving red imported fire ants from the region. Residents will be mailed the survey in January.

“Nobody wants these ants in their front yard or their back yard,” district manager Don Gomsi said, adding there are new reports of ant swarms in the Coachella Valley.

“I’m seeing ants in places I’ve never seen them before,” he said.

Red imported fire ants came to the United States, likely on ships from South America, and the took root in California in the late 1990s. The ants aggressively defend their mounds by swarming and stinging people or animals who get too close.

Gomsi said the district needs about \$1.2 million a year to revive the local program.

## May the sniffles be with you

By The Associated Press

**SAN BERNARDINO, Calif.** — Worshippers could wind up sharing more than a handshake in church.

With the arrival of flu season and the shortage of flu shots, some churches are taking precautions to reduce the chances that liturgical practices such as using a common communion cup or shaking hands might spread the virus.

Instead of shaking hands during the traditional sign of peace during services, the Diocese of San Bernardino said a simple no-contact nod will do, diocese spokesman the Rev. Howard Lincoln said.

Two years ago, Catholic priests in the diocese began using a sanitizing gel on their hands before serving the Eucharist, Lincoln said.

“Our Eucharistic ministers all use that prior to serving the Eucharist,” Lincoln said by telephone from his Palm Desert parish. “In my parish we have older people who are concerned they can’t get a flu shot.”

Some churches serve communion wine in one chalice or cup shared by everyone. The rim of the cup is wiped with a cloth after each sip.

“There really is nothing that shows that sharing a communion cup has any significant risk to it. There may be some small risk, and most of that centers around viruses such as influenza, strep throat and common colds,” said Llelwyn Grant, a spokesman for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

Safeguards such as wiping the interior and exterior rim of the cup between sips, rotating the cloth and using a clean cloth for each service will minimize the risk of infection, Grant said.

## Taggers ‘McKill’ it

By The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — Members of an animal rights group allegedly responsible for vandalizing fast-food restaurants nationwide smashed windows at a McDonald’s restaurant in the Harbor Gateway area and scrawled “McKiller” on walls with spray paint.

Investigators said the weekend vandalism appeared to be the work of the Animal Liberation Front, which has claimed responsibility for attacks on other fast-food outlets.

“If there is evidence that these people are trying to change societal objectives by the use of force or violence or even property damage, that’s our definition of terrorism,” police Capt. Gary Williams said Tuesday.

The vandalism at the McDonald’s at Carson Street and Denker Avenue occurred about 4:15 a.m. Saturday when the business was closed.

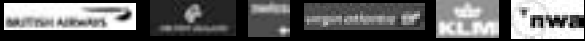
“They threw pieces of brick and concrete at the windows and the drive-through display menu, and they used paint and other markers to spray-paint a variety of messages on there,” Capt. Patrick Gannon said. “They used the initials ALF, which has been known as the Animal Liberation Front, on the exterior walls of the restaurant.”

There were no telephone contacts for the animal rights organization.

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# STATE



## California women's earning power increases

BY TOM VERDIN  
Associated Press Writer

**SAN FRANCISCO** — For every dollar a man earns, working women in California earn 20 cents less, a new study finds.

But the wage gap has closed significantly over the past 30 years, thanks to more women attending college and seeking higher-paying jobs. In 1975, women earned 60 cents for every dollar a man earned.

Yet the discrepancy persists largely because fewer women than men are in higher-paying professions and women take time off from their careers to raise children, the Public Policy Institute of California report said. The study used U.S. Census Bureau data adjusted for inflation.

In 2000, about 12 percent of women were in high-paying professions such as medicine, law or computer science, compared to 20 percent of men. Women who leave the job market to raise children often earn less than their male counterparts when they return to work because they have less experience, the study says.

But even women who do not have children earn slightly less than men. The study found that childless women in California between the ages of 25 and 35 earn about 90 cents for every dollar earned by a man in the same age group.

That figure suggests that women leaving the work force to raise children accounts for much of the overall wage discrepancy, said Deborah Reed, the study's author and an economist with the policy institute.

"The goal was to show there's much more parity when we look at young people who have not yet had children," she said.

But her study also said discrimination

in the workplace could play a role in the comparatively lower wages.

"If discrimination leads women to have lower earnings potential and less career advancement, then it may be a factor in their choosing to take time away from the labor market, perhaps to raise children," the study said.

Women accounted for 45 percent of California's labor force of 18 million this year, dominating lower-paying professions such as receptionists, secretaries, clerks and teacher's aides.

The share of working-age women in the state's labor market is more than 70 percent, compared to just less than 50 percent in the 1960s. Over the same period, their average annual earnings grew by 79 percent to \$31,500.

Women's earnings also account for an increasing share of family income. Median family income grew 42 percent from 1967 to 2002, when it was \$67,200. All other income sources increased by just 13 percent over the same period and actually declined by 9 percent since 1979.

"Women's salaries are definitely improving the economic status of families in California today," Reed said.

By comparison, the income of married men has remained stagnant. Despite the economic boom of the late 1990s, the average income of married men in 2002 was \$46,600, roughly the same as 1979.

The study did not specifically measure the wages for single men.

The share of all California men in high-wage occupations also declined, from 24 percent in 1976 to 20 percent in 2000.

The study suggested that some men may have reduced their work hours or taken lower-paying jobs in less expensive cities to accommodate the careers of their wives.

## Wayward elephant seal pup found in Oakland drainage

By The Associated Press

**OAKLAND, Calif.** — A wayward elephant seal pup that was found in a drainage culvert behind Network Associates Coliseum was released yesterday.

Called "Emmy," after one of the rescuing officers at the scene, the healthy, 11-month-old seal was spotted Tuesday afternoon in a litter-filled creek about two miles from San Francisco Bay.

Cars double-parked for about a block and a half, clogging traffic, while a crowd gathered to watch the 181-pound mammal.

Mark Hoffmann, the fire official who coordinated the capture, said it looked as if the seal was in danger from trash and humans. He called the Marine Mammal

Center in Sausalito and was told to leave it alone.

"My unit wasn't comfortable with leaving it alone," Hoffmann said. "Not only was it causing a disturbance, but there was broken glass, car batteries and shopping carts. The seal was trying to negotiate through all that trash. Besides, some little kid might throw a rock at it."

Within an hour, the Fire Department's heavy rescue unit had secured the seal in a sling and pulled it out with a crane. Marine Mammal Center staff picked it up at the animal control agency and determined it was in excellent health.

A tag indicated the seal was born in January at the Ano Nuevo State Reserve, south of Pescadero. The center planned to release the seal at the Point Reyes National Seashore.

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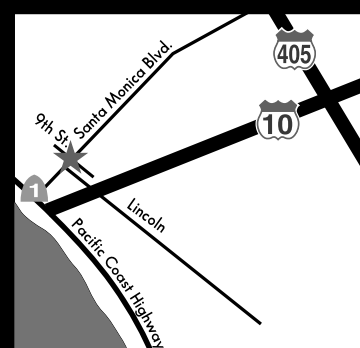
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## NATIONAL

# Shunned snowboarders now coveted by ski industry

BY ERIN GARTNER

Associated Press Writer

**BRECKENRIDGE, Colo.** — Dressed in a yellow T-shirt despite bitter winter temperatures, Jon Raevsky sat atop Breckenridge Ski Resort watching fellow snowboarders ride steel rails instead of snow.

"Everyone here can pretty much throw down," the 19-year-old Raevsky said before he launched downhill, spinning 180 degrees before sliding backward down a long, metal rectangular box. Dozens of other snowriders — skiers and 'boarders — prepped for their own runs.

The terrain park, a playground of halfpipes, curved rails, obstacles and jumps, has become a must-have for many of the almost 500 ski resorts in the United States — and for good reason: Snowboarders, once banned from many resorts, have become valued patrons of the \$12 billion-a-year U.S. ski industry.

"I think they saved the ski industry," Terry Thorpe, 59, a longtime skier from Irvine, Calif., said as he

watched skiers and 'boarders maneuver through the terrain park.

When he began organizing ski trips through a local community college in 1981, all the participants were skiers, Thorpe said. Snowboarders now account for 75 percent of the total.

Snowboarders made up a full 30 percent of all ticket sales at resorts during the 2003-04 season, according to the National Ski Areas Association in Lakewood, Colo. About 6.3 million snowboarders visited resorts during the 2002-03 season, up from 1.8 million 10 years earlier.

Growth has slowed in recent years, with snowboarding hitting a plateau in the Northeast and Rocky Mountain regions. But the NSSA says 60 percent of people under 20 entering snow sports are snowboarders, and resorts are wooing them as they recognize how their customer base has expanded.

"Basically, snowboarding has brought more people to the mountains and introduced more people to snow sports," said Kurt Hoy, editor in chief of TransWorld Snowboarding, which has been covering the sport since 1987.

"It's mostly the age demographic and people who are dedicated to progressive riding on snow — whether it's on skis or snowboards," he said.

Resorts devote hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to build and maintain terrain parks, which were originally developed for snowboarders. Skiers, usually on twin-tipped skis, now frequent the parks in the same numbers as 'boarders, resorts say.

"It's kind of a staple at this point. You have to have at least one to stay up in the industry, to stay competitive with what everyone else is doing," Breckenridge Ski Resort spokeswoman Emily Jacob said.

Raevsky, winded from hiking back up the hill, said he visits the terrain park almost every day. The snowboarders and skiers here are like family, he said, a competitive camaraderie driving them to try new tricks.

"Resorts look at terrain parks as a key component in drawing, keeping and maintaining their younger customer," said Michael Berry, president of the ski areas association. "People go there to hang out, to listen to music. And it's not just snowboarders — twin tipers are

in there, everyone is in there."

That wasn't the case in early 1980s, when resorts first began allowing snowboarders on their hills. Snowboarders were criticized for being reckless, ruining moguls and shearing snow off runs. The mostly young snowboarders chided older skiers for being uptight.

"When we first started building terrain parks, they were for snowboarders and many were snowboarding-only areas. The thought was that moguls were for skiers, and the terrain parks were for riders," said Tim Eastley, Breckenridge's park manager. "That's where a lot of the early animosity came from. Skiers coming into the parks, saying 'hey, we can do this.'"

The resentment has all but disappeared. Teenage skiers and 'boarders ride together in the parks and through moguls on steep runs.

"Snowboarders have helped skiers step it up a bit," said snowboarder Grant Cooley, 21, smiling at friend Harrison Wolfe, a skier.

"Skiing's more technical," Wolfe retorted while the two took a break from the slopes.

Four resorts still ban snowboarders: Taos in New Mexico, Alta and Deer Valley in Utah, and Mad River Glen in Vermont.

"There's always some discussion on whether that's the right thing," Taos spokesman Chris Stagg said. "Our customers tell us that's what they like. I think it's one of those things that sets us apart from other places."

The mentality of other resorts, however, has changed. "One of the big elements is how the industry realized how it had been all too rigid," said Berry, whose trade group represents 325 ski resorts handling 90 percent of skier days in the United States.

"Skiing was very traditional, very Euro-based," he said. "But I think the industry has learned that's not something that's going to position them for the future."

Snowboarding also has attracted older outdoor enthusiasts looking for something new.

"I really enjoy it," yelled 42-year-old Rob Tengler, trying to drown out snowmaking machines while riding a chairlift at Breckenridge. "I've heard it's the fastest growing winter sport and thought I'd try it. Plus, I've heard it's better on your knees."



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## NATIONAL



# Republican Rossi wins recount for governor; new count likely

BY DAVID AMMONS

Associated Press Writer

**OLYMPIA, Wash.** — Republican Dino Rossi on Wednesday won a recount for Washington governor by just 42 votes out of more than 2.8 million cast, but Democrats were expected to order yet another recount.

The statewide machine recount left Rossi clinging to a record-narrow victory over Democratic Attorney General Christine Gregoire. Rossi had also won the regular count, his 261-vote margin just a tiny fraction of 1 percentage point, triggering an automatic recount.

In the final Thanksgiving Eve flurry of vote tallies, Gregoire gained ground on Rossi in Democratic-leaning King County and picked up votes in Kitsap County, completing the 39-county tally in a near tie.

The 42-vote gap is the closest gubernatorial election finish in state history.

Even before the last big surge of ballots was tallied, Democrats had signaled they would seek a hand recount in at least part of the state if Gregoire ended up on the short end.

"We're upbeat. We feel there is an opportunity here to turn this thing around," Gregoire's campaign manager, Tim Zenk, said before the final tally.

Republicans called on Gregoire to concede and not drag the state through a third count that could stretch until Christmas week or longer.

King County gave Gregoire a last-minute lift, but not enough to put her over the top. She gained 593 votes in the final tally, to Rossi's 348, with the 245-vote gain helping her erase most of the advantage he had built up elsewhere.

Observers for both campaigns anxiously awaited results. When they were released early Wednesday afternoon, calculators were quickly put to work to see if the race had flipped to Gregoire.

Across Puget Sound, Kitsap County released unofficial results that showed Gregoire gaining 15 and Rossi

losing 19 votes.

Gregoire, 57, of Olympia, hoping to become only the state's second woman governor, carried eight of the 39 counties, most notably the largest, King, which includes heavily Democratic Seattle. Gregoire, strongly backed by the women's movement, is best known for battling America's tobacco industry.

Rossi, 45, a self-made real estate millionaire and former state Senate budget chairman from the Seattle suburb of Sammamish, was hoping to become the first Republican since 1980 to win the governor's mansion. He ran on a platform of change and job-creation.

The winner succeeds retiring two-term Gov. Gary Locke on Jan. 12. Locke is the country's first Chinese-American governor.

The nation's last unsettled governor's race has drawn the attention of both national parties, including the Bush White House, which dispatched its election experts, and the Democratic Governors' Association, which had offered to help finance a new hand recount of at least part of the state.

Secretary of State Sam Reed, the state's chief elections officer, said he plans to certify the machine recount next Tuesday. The campaigns or their parties have three business days to request a full or partial manual recount at their own expense.

Reed said he'd probably direct that such a recount begin the following Monday, Dec. 6, and that the job could take as long as two weeks.

If a partial recount changes the outcome, state law requires a manual recount in the rest of the state. That would extend the uncertainty past Christmas.

More than 700 previously uncounted ballots were added in King County after election workers, under the close watch of party observers, "enhanced" ballots to reflect voters' intentions. An example would be a ballot on which a voter circled the candidate's name, rather than filling in the oval for an optical scanning machine to read.

# Nevada ad campaign to seek more Hispanic organ donors

BY DAVID KIHARA

The Associated Press

**LAS VEGAS** — An organization is using a federal grant to prepare television and radio ads it hopes will raise awareness in Nevada's Hispanic community about badly needed organ donations.

Beginning in December, Nevada Donor Network will run public service messages on Spanish-speaking television and radio stations in Las Vegas. All of Nevada's transplants take place at the city's University Medical Center and Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center.

The federal Health Resource and Service Administration last month awarded the network a \$250,000 grant to air the commercials from December to August, said Ann Sagel, director of the Nevada Donor Network.

The aim of the 30- and 60-second radio and television ads is to demystify organ donation for Hispanic residents and to show the need and results of donating a kidney or pancreas, Sagel said.

One proposed television commercial features a 10-

year-old character named Miguel, and an emotional appeal for a heart. The boy sits at a computer, engaged in online chat that reveals he is suffering from a life-threatening heart defect. The ad states that many Hispanics nationwide need organ transplants.

A proposed radio spot also features a child with a heart condition who is in need of a transplant, according to the grant proposal.

The Nevada Donor Network will study the effectiveness of the ads by examining attitudes about organ donations in Hispanic communities before and after the advertisements are broadcast. The study also will look at whether the rate of organ donation consent increases.

"We are still waiting to see if these commercials are effective in raising awareness," Sagel said.

Since Jan. 1, 54 people have donated kidneys or pancreases in Nevada, according to Nevada Donor Network. Hispanics represent about one in five on Nevada's kidney waiting list, but account for a little more than one in 10 donors, according to network statistics.

The Nevada Donor Network is working with the Donor Network of Arizona to study and produce the ads.

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### Go Metro To Body Worlds

See Body Worlds, the anatomical exhibition of real human bodies, now through January 23 at the California Science Center in Exposition Park. Many Metro Bus lines serve the Science Center; for exact itineraries, use the Metro Trip Planner at metro.net

### Rapid Service Now Pasadena To Hollywood

The growing network of fast and frequent Metro Rapids will soon be serving the Pasadena-Hollywood area. Beginning late December, new Metro Rapid Line 780 will operate a route along Fairfax Avenue, Hollywood and Colorado boulevards. See metro.net for details.

### More From Metro Westside/Central

A new Metro Rapid line and increased service on more than 20 Metro Bus lines is planned before the end of the year in the Metro Westside/Central Service Sector. Watch for details next month or call 213.922.1200.

### Holiday Travel Plans? Go Metro

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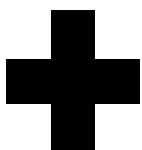


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NATIONAL

Montana to implement unique Indian education

BY SARAH COOKE  
 Associated Press Writer

**GREAT FALLS, Mont.** — It started out as one bookshelf. Thirty years and hundreds of donations later, Longfellow Elementary’s American Indian resource library has become a key tool for students to learn about tribal history and culture — a unique mandate for public schools under the Montana Constitution. Thousands of Native books, videos, newspapers and magazines line the cement block walls of Longfellow’s Indian library. Artifacts like chunky rock hammers and weathered leather dolls, along with miniature teepees made by students, sit atop rows of book shelves. “We’re almost half museum and half library,” said Principal Cal Gilbert, a Chippewa-Cree Indian. “I actually have parents transferring kids into our school just so they can have an education that’s diverse.” But Gilbert knows this school is an exception. Longfellow is one of just a handful of Montana

schools fully complying with a state constitutional mandate unique in America: that all public school students — not just Indians — be taught about the cultural heritage of Indian tribes. The mandate became part of the Montana Constitution in 1972, which a constitutional convention updated it. But in the 32 years since then, critics say, very little has actually been done. The only mandatory Indian education classes for teachers, adopted in 1973, were abandoned before the end of that decade. In 1999, state lawmakers approved the Indian Education for All Act, intended to spell out requirements of the constitutional language. But a lack of money and training, combined with what some describe as years of apathy at the state level, essentially crippled the measure. Now, however, the state Supreme Court may force state lawmakers to act.

Under an October decision that found Montana’s public education funding system unconstitutional, the court also ruled Montana had failed to provide enough money for schools to meet requirements of the Indian education act. Indian lawmakers and education leaders rejoiced. Many had argued for decades the state wasn’t fully complying with the constitutional language and watched in frustration as proposals to help pay for and apply the mandate fell by the wayside. “Nothing really was ever pushed through or implemented,” said Norma Bixby, a state lawmaker from the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation in southeast Montana. “Even though we recommended and recommended, it never happened, so I think the lawsuit is going to help get this constitutional language implemented.” State Superintendent of Public Instruction Linda McCulloch says the constitutional provision is the only one of its kind in the United States. It was meant, in part, to address years of intolerance. After herding most tribes onto reservations, the government sent many of their children to boarding schools to assimilate them into white society. Native dress and language were discouraged, and many students were stripped of their tribal names. Even when boarding schools began to close, Indian students learned little about themselves in public schools through most of the 20th century and often had to repress their Indian identities. “I don’t remember learning anything about who I was as an Indian person,” said Carol Juneau, a state lawmaker and member of the Hidatsa and Mandan tribes who lives on northwest Montana’s Blackfeet reservation. “It probably wasn’t until I was in college that I began to realize I had a right to learn about our history and begin that process.” That growing sense of self-determination was a driving factor behind the constitutional measure. It says the state “recognizes the distinct and unique cultural heritage of the American Indians and is committed in its educational goals to the preservation of their cultural integrity.” Legislation sponsored by Juneau in 1999 was intended to implement it. The purpose was to make Indian students feel more valued and accepted, and to promote understanding of different cultures. By doing so, education officials hoped to close the growing achievement gap between Indian and non-Indian students and cut Indian dropout rates. Indians make up 11 percent of Montana’s public school students. “When racism starts to be eliminated, you’re going to

start to see students performing better, and achievement is going to increase,” McCulloch said. Leo Bird, a Blackfeet science teacher at Browning High School, has seen firsthand the difference Indian education can make. He started incorporating Blackfeet stargazing into his astronomy classes five years ago, taking students to historic sites on the surrounding reservation and teaching them how Indians used the stars to navigate. He also incorporates Greek and Roman teachings but said the Native lessons strike more of a chord. “(The students) have more to tie to than just memorization,” Bird said. “They internalize it because the stories mean something to them.” The classes are now among the school’s most popular, with a waiting list. Bird, like many Indian educators, believes more money for teacher training and curriculum is the key. Many teachers try to follow the law, he said, but don’t have the resources. “Probably 99 percent of our teaching force out there is nonnative so they’re not comfortable teaching what they don’t know,” Gilbert said. McCulloch has asked the governor’s office for \$500,000 to fund the act over the next two years, but the Montana Indian Education Association doesn’t think that’s enough. Bixby expects to ask for several million dollars. She expects opposition. But she’s also buoyed by a rare Democratic takeover of the state Senate and the election of Gov.-elect Brian Schweitzer, the first Democrat to hold the job in 16 years. Bixby thinks both help her chances of success. “It’s been way too long in coming,” she said of the funding. “If we had done this years ago we probably wouldn’t be in this situation today.” Joan Andersen, a Republican legislator and retired teacher, said she feels the state has enough materials on American Indian heritage and culture. She voted against funding Indian education curriculum and professional development when it came before the 2003 Legislature and couldn’t rule out doing so again this session. “I’m not so sure (the curriculum) is going to be used,” Andersen said. “I think teachers are already using a lot of materials and ideas that are very well done and well received.” But some say they need better reporting from districts to even determine what school administrators are doing to comply with the law. “There’s always opposition when it comes to Indian issues, but with the education of our children and of all children in Montana, this really needs to happen,” Bixby said.

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## NATIONAL



# Partying turns deadly as student drinks herself to death

BY ANGIE WAGNER

Associated Press Writer

**FORT COLLINS, Colo.** — By the time the rainy night stretched into early morning, Samantha Spady had been drinking and partying for hours. Earlier it was beer and shots of tequila. Now, inside a fraternity house, she was swilling vanilla vodka straight from the bottle.

The binge had gone on for 11 hours. When it was over, the Colorado State student's blood-alcohol level was more than five times the legal driving limit in Colorado. She was stumbling, unable to even stand on her own.

Two students wrapped the 19-year-old's limp arms around their necks and walked her to a forgotten fraternity room full of extra furniture, old beer bottles and the glow of a black light.

They laid her on a couch, and a few minutes later, Sam blinked her eyes and nodded as the last person left the room.

She just needs to sleep it off, her friends thought.

Sam grew up in Beatrice, Neb., a small town in the southeast corner of the state about 35 miles from Lincoln. There, her father owned a car dealership and everyone knew her.

It was hard not to. Senior class president. Head cheerleader. Honor student. Homecoming queen.

Almost perfect.

On weekends, she and her friends would head to the country to hang out and sometimes drink beer. But Sam never drank to get drunk, said her best friend from high school, Kelleigh Doyle.

More than anything, she wanted to escape her rural life. Fort Collins, with its 127,000 people, was just big enough. She loved this college town, its quaint downtown shops and tree-lined neighborhoods. In the fall, streets fill with amber and chestnut leaves that crackle when students stroll to class in the Colorado chill.

The sophomore business major hadn't really known anyone here, but quickly made new friends. Her mother had always admired that about her, the way people were drawn to her.

Sam had pledged Chi Omega sorority as a freshman, but it took up a lot of time. There were functions to attend and it was hard to balance with schoolwork. She longed for home-cooked meals and her bed at home and by her second semester, had dropped out of Chi Omega.

In her health class journal, she talked about her struggles with the sorority and how she missed her family.

Mirna Guerra hadn't known Sam that long when the two decided to get together Sept. 4, the Saturday before Labor Day and the evening of the big Colorado State-Colorado football game.

Sam picked up Mirna, a freshman, just before 6 p.m. and they went to a house to watch the game. Sam drank a beer, downed two shots of tequila, ate a hot dog and munched on chips and dip. They left two hours later.

They watched the rest of the game at another house, where Sam drank a few beers from a supersize cup. They left around 10:30 p.m.

Friends told police Sam had been out partying the past three nights. It wasn't unusual for her to drink three or four times a week. Sometimes, Sam vomited and later passed out.

"It's what everyone does," said Sam's roommate, Sara Gibson. "Some people party every night."

It's college. Away from parents, often for the first time for any extended period, college students can come and go as they please and are free to experiment with alcohol. Drinking becomes just part of the culture.

Parties come on the fly, and there's never a shortage of kegs to tap. In pubs and bars near campus, drinks are

cheap, and women often get them free. All-you-can-drink nights for \$5 a pop are common. All of it is an invitation for binge drinking, said Henry Wechsler, director of the College Alcohol Studies at the Harvard School of Public Health. And there is no one to tell them "no."

"They're without parental supervision. They're at a period of life when they explore and experiment," he said.

Nationally, 44 percent of college students report binge drinking — five drinks in a row for men, four for women — at least once in the previous two weeks. Half of those students do it more than once a week.

While the percentage of binge drinkers has stayed about the same over the past 11 years, the amount they drink at one sitting has increased, Wechsler said. Members of fraternities and sororities tend to drink more than other students.

Nationally, there are more than 1,400 alcohol-related deaths each year among college students. Most are the result of automobile accidents.

It was raining hard and Sam was having a hard time seeing because of the storm. She hit the median and ended up flattening two tires. Mirna didn't think Sam was drunk.

Upset and unsure of what to do, Sam called her parents. No answer.

It didn't spoil the evening. Sam and Mirna still wanted to find a good party. They soon found one.

For about two hours, they drank and danced to Michael Jackson. Sam downed four or five cups of beer. She may have played drinking games.

"By then, we had started drinking pretty fast," Mirna said.

Still, Sam seemed fine. She and Mirna were having a good time, talking about music they liked and possibly rooming together next year.

Around 2:30 a.m., Sam and Mirna were at the Sigma Pi house, a place she felt comfortable. Sam had lots of friends in the fraternity and had dated a few members. Some considered her a little sister.

"She always made people smile," Sigma Pi President Darren Pettapiece said.

About 25 people were at the fraternity house, hanging out in the hallway or drinking and talking in rooms.

"You could kind of tell she was drunk, but you couldn't tell how drunk," said Matthew Kilby, a student at Colorado Northwestern Community College in Rangely who was at the Sigma Pi house that night.

Gibson, 19, and another one of Sam's roommates were also there, but they left about an hour later. They knew Sam was drunk, but they had seen her worse.

"I was like, come back with me," she said. "She looked me in the face, saying I want to stay."

Another beer later, and Sam and Mirna were hanging out in one of the bedrooms, listening to the group "Dispatch" with other students. By then just a few people were still awake at the Sigma Pi house. Around 4 a.m., Sam and Mirna were doing swigs of Sam's favorite drink — vanilla vodka. They put the bottles to their lips and tilted their heads back, as the room echoed: "Go, go, go!"

Minutes later, Sam was sitting on the front stoop, resting her head on her elbows.

She was unable to stand and fell back. Her head hung down and she didn't respond when friends spoke to her.

"When did you get so drunk?" Mirna asked.

Unresponsive. Incoherent. She should have been taken to a hospital then, said Dr. Charles Lieber, an expert in alcohol metabolism at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. But she wasn't.

Around 5 a.m. Sigma Pi member Baylor Ferrier and a friend helped Sam upstairs and put her on a couch in an unused social room they called "Le Boom Boom."

Baylor had dated Sam the previous semester and says he had seen her worse; he thought she just wanted to sleep.

"It didn't seem like a big deal at all," he said.

Mirna stayed with Sam for a half hour, urging her to walk back to her dorm room with her. She tried to help Sam stand, but Sam swayed and then fell over, so Mirna put her on another couch.

"She was going in and out of it. I would wake her up and clap," Mirna said.

Sam opened her eyes, but couldn't speak well. She nodded her head. She just wants to sleep, Mirna thought. She'll be fine.

But the homecoming queen with the megawatt smile was dying.

She was likely in a coma, Lieber said. Her brain cells asleep, her respiration slowed. If she had gotten medical help, he said, even that late she might have lived. But there was no help in the Sigma Pi storeroom.

Soon after Mirna left, Samantha Spady took her last breath.

As Sunday dawned and the glint of orange crept through the mountains, Sam's cell phone started ringing.

"Sam Bam, you were so drunk last night," Mirna's message began.

Her mother, Patty Spady, called, then waited. She called again. Still no Sam. She tried not to worry, but it was so unlike Sam not to call back.

Sam's roommates tried too, calling Sigma Pi members, asking if anyone had seen her.

At Sam's house near campus, Gibson had a bad feeling.

Almost 13 hours after Sam had been left to sleep off the drunken night, a fraternity member was giving his mother a tour of the house. Beer bottles and cans littered the house. Panties and bras hung from the entryway chandelier; a stripper pole was in one room.

When he opened the door to the social room that had been stuffed with extra couches, he saw Sam's alcohol-poisoned body, clad in jeans and a yellow T-shirt. Her long blonde hair was pulled back. Her knees were on the floor, her face resting on a foam cushion. Her arms were outstretched to each side, almost like she was crawling.

It looked like she was sleeping.

"Hello?" he asked. "Hello?"

He touched her leg. It was cold and stiff.

She had a blood alcohol level of 0.436. The coroner said it probably was higher when she was left there; her body would have continued to metabolize alcohol while she was unconscious.

Since Sam's death, the parties continue, the booze still flows.

But the Sigma Pi house has been shut down. Fraternities have banned alcohol, and alcohol sales are banned inside the football stadium. Nineteen people were cited for alcohol-related offenses as part of the investigation into Sam's death.

"It's not so much that we have a problem," Sigma Pi member Matthew Dunn said. "It's more that we have a few people who make the wrong decision. Sometimes young people don't know how to handle alcohol."

On Colorado campuses alone this fall, there have been four other alcohol-related deaths.

"It's not just the students on that campus. It's not just the faculty. It's not just the bar owners. Everybody in the community has a responsibility for some changes to take place," Patty Spady said.

Mirna Guerra and other friends Sam was with that night still party. But they also remember Sam, and they wonder how she could have drank so much — enough to die — and they didn't know it.

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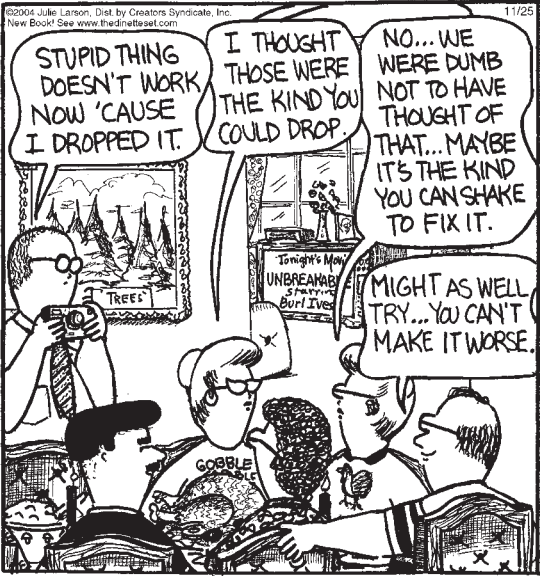
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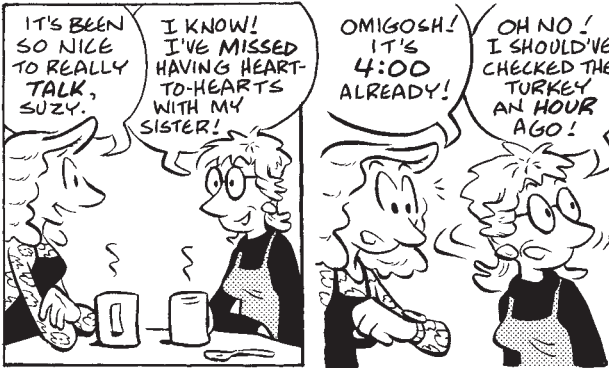


# COMICS

## The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



## edge city by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



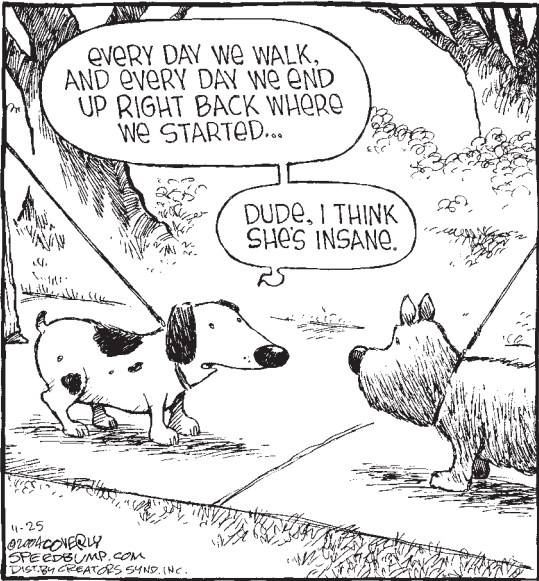
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- ACROSS**
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  - 6 Team
  - 11 Wear down
  - 12 Step on it
  - 13 Fairy-tale creature
  - 14 Mountain group
  - 15 Turned to liquid
  - 17 Zodiac animal
  - 19 Bother
  - 20 Scoundrel
  - 23 Director May
  - 25 Gaucho's weapon
  - 26 Clothing store fixture
  - 28 Times for preparation
  - 29 Join forces
  - 30 Legal matter
  - 31 Stolen
  - 32 Nutrition panel letters
  - 33 40 percent of North America
  - 35 City of South America
  - 38 Derek of the Yankees
  - 41 Send away
- DOWN**
- 42 Last letter
  - 43 Judges
  - 44 Plains grazers
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  - 2 Stray
  - 3 Dorm buddies
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## Yesterday's answer

- 16 New Jersey city
- 17 Allude
- 18 Vibrant
- 20 Hotel postings
- 21 Spoken
- 22 Florida city
- 24 "— been swell!"
- 25 Lingerie item
- 27 Cry to a bum
- 31 Fogs
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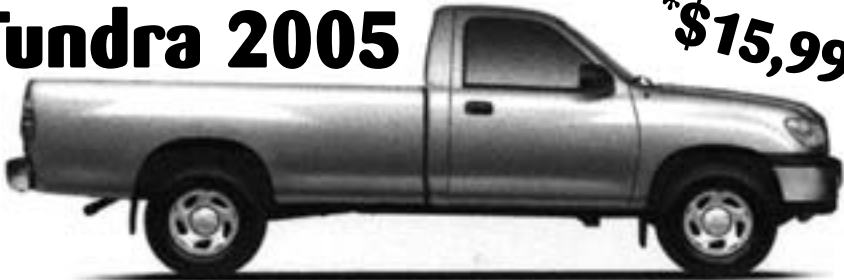
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## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

# Incubus singer tried to carry switchblade onto plane

By The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Incubus' lead singer pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct and was fined \$250 for carrying a switchblade in his bag while trying to board a plane.

Brandon Boyd, 28, said Tuesday he bought the switchblade while he was in Amsterdam and brought it back in his suitcase. Later on, he went camping with his family and brought the blade with him in his toiletry bag and forgot about it.

"I had finally found a use for it: Camping," he said. "I totally forgot about it in my bag."

Boyd was stopped U.S. Airways terminal at LaGuardia Airport when baggage screeners spotted the knife in his carry-on luggage.

Boyd was charged with criminal possession of weapon and was released after four hours in a holding cell. The charges were later reduced.

Incubus, the rock band formed in 1991 in Calabasas, Calif., has produced five albums and achieved chart success with hits such as "Pardon Me" and "Drive," which reached the Billboard Top 10 in 2001. The band has a new album, "Live at Red Rocks," scheduled for released Nov. 23.

**LOS ANGELES** — For relatives and friends of U.S. troops serving in Iraq, "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" was the place to be.

Studio audience members, all with a military connection, were surprised with the gift of a free cruise at a taping Tuesday. The episode of the syndicated talk show, with guest Tom Hanks, aired Wednesday.

A total of 250 seven-day cruises for four, along with taxes and fees, were given in appreciation of troops deployed from three California bases: Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Camp Pendleton and Fort Irwin.

Celebrity Cruises is providing the vacations, available at any time to allow for troops overseas to take part on their return, according to a spokeswoman for the show.

DeGeneres also joined with the USO to send more than 5,000 care packages to the audience's relatives and friends in Iraq. The episode will be repeated on Thanksgiving on the Armed Forces Network.

**SONOMA, Calif.** — A beer garden that usually hosts polka bands may get fined after a raunchy performance by 2 Live Crew.

The Nov. 18 rap concert, which featured explicit lyrics, partially nude lap dancing and simulated sex acts, was attended by undercover agents from the California Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control, The Sonoma Valley Sun reported.

The agency may fine the owners of Little Switzerland, which advertises itself as a 1920s style European beer hall, or suspend its alcohol license, according to investigator Scott Warnock.

The 2 Live Crew was not specifically targeted, Warnock said.

A show scheduled in nearby Guerneville for Nov. 20 was canceled after the Little Switzerland incident.

The beer hall's owners, Antonio and Alina Garcia, were unavailable for comment.

In 1986, 2 Live Crew released its first album and a

Florida record store owner was charged with obscenity for selling it to a 14-year-old girl. He was later acquitted.

The band's legal troubles escalated and 2 Live Crew grew notorious for its sexually explicit lyrics and live performances.

In 1990, a Florida state court declared its third and most successful album, "As Nasty As They Wanna Be," legally obscene. That ruling was later overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court.

**LOS ANGELES** — Hollywood writers have approved a three-year, \$58 million contract with studios, producers and TV networks, union officials said.

Seventy-four percent of more than 2,200 votes were in support of the new deal, which will last through 2007 and is nearly double the amount producers offered six months ago, the Writers Guild of America said.

"Even though what we were able to achieve at the bargaining table fell short of many of our hopes, it is nevertheless a very good deal," said Daniel Petrie Jr., president of the western chapter of the Writers Guild of America.

The contract, approved on Tuesday, was tentatively approved last month. It increases contributions to members' health plan from 7.5 percent to 8.5 percent and is retroactive to Nov. 1.

Herb Sargent, president of the eastern chapter of the Writers Guild of America, said the union will continue to push for several issues, including larger shares from DVD sales.



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