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Deanna Maran remembered



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Above: Amika Maran reflects on the loss of her sister while the Santa Monica High School band plays a rendition of 'Ave Maria' during the teen's memorial on Monday.
Below: Deanna Maran's classmates console each other while remembering their friend, who was stabbed more than a week ago.



BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

"The night was a big blur. Looking back is like fast forwarding a scary movie," said a friend of Deanna Maran, who spoke publicly for the first time since her high school classmate was murdered 11 days ago.

Friends reflected, mourned and said good-bye to the 15-year-old sophomore, along with hundreds of others at the Greek theater at Santa Monica High School Monday. It was there that Maran was an honor student, a member of the choir, and played on the track, volleyball and water polo teams.

"Your smile and your cute little dimple brightened up our days."

— Firehouse co-worker

Maran was fatally stabbed at a party in West Los Angeles after she fought with a 15-year-old who was "trashing the house." Maran didn't like the teen's behavior and told her so. Unfortunately, Maran's principles and values resulted in her death. The 15-year-old's sister, identified as Katrina Sarkissian, came to the party and allegedly stabbed Maran. Maran's friends drove her to the hospital but it was too late. She died just after midnight.

Fellow student and friend Tim Livingston carried Maran, soaked in blood, to the car. Livingston shared his thoughts about the fateful night through a poem he wrote in an attempt to make sense of his friend's death.

"So many times, I have played this night in my head, but the next thing I knew you were dead ..."

Maran was remembered as a person who was much wiser than her age would suggest. Her attitude toward life remained positive and loving towards others, friends said.

"She loved life and made everyone else love life, too," said friend Kiyoshi Houston. "She always wanted things to be cool and that's what she was trying to do that night she died ... I still cannot believe that something so tragic could have happened to someone that wonderful. Deanna, you have imprinted yourself on us."

The teen, also affectionately known as "Lala," wasn't afraid to stand up for what she believed in and called people on their behavior when it was warranted. She was a strong girl, full of zest, courage and tenacity, say her friends, teachers and family. Even more, she understood the meaning of being kind to others. And she put her beliefs into practice according to the two dozen friends and teachers who spoke at the memorial.

Ms. Everett, an educator at Maran's former school, John Adams Middle School, said she asked other teachers to reflect on Maran as a student. They spoke about her "bubbly personality, her ability to bring diverse groups together, her energy and enthusiasm, her sense of humor, her natural talent as a school leader and her accomplishments as an athlete."

"I think it is so interesting to

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I am from ...

I am from the smell of lumpia,
Cooking in the kitchen.
I am from the sound of my mom,
Getting all our names mixed up.
"Boo-la-chi-Amika!"

I am from the sound of us kids,
Laughing while playing tag in
Joslyn Park

The sound of screaming in Julian's pool.
The sound of Nerf® guns going off
While playing gladiators in Julian's backyard.

I am from Saturday morning cartoons with
Batman Beyond and Max Steele
I am from movie nights on Wednesdays
With my sister Boopsie watching
16 candles, Ferris Buellar's Day off,
Dirty Dancing and Flash Dance
Over and over again.

I am from a family of girls who look
Like boys, with also one boy who looks
Like a girl.

I am from a family with high expectations,
Amika: a director of Teach For America
Chichi: the landscape architect
Boopsie: the business owner
Ilja: the engineer.
And me ...

I am from a hardworking family
Who works together on the
Properties we own in
Long Beach and Santa Monica.

I am from a line of high achieving sisters.
I am from a well to do family
Who have become successful
Easily on their own.

But yet I'm the only one
Who still doesn't know
What she is going to do.

I am from ...

by Deanna Maran
January 23, 2001



Too many places to shop, not enough to eat

City thinks character of Promenade is threatened

By Daily Press Staff

The Third Street Promenade may be leaving visitors hungry, city officials believe.

Despite years of planning to make the Third Street Promenade everything to everyone, city officials now think there may be too much retail and not enough places to eat.

The Santa Monica City Council is expected tonight to adopt an emergency ordinance that will place a moratorium on all development, expansion, consolidation and changes in use of commercial properties on the Third Street Promenade.

The proposed ordinance would last 45 days, which would give city officials time to "study ways to ensure the character of the outside mall remains intact and has the best possible mix of retail, restaurants and entertainment."

That would most likely happen through the regulation of certain types of uses on the mall. To discourage more retailers from coming in, the city could limit the number of square feet in an area devoted to a particular use. Or it could control the amount of street frontage devoted to particular uses.

However, several people blame landlords on the Third Street Promenade as responsible for the mall's woes. As property owners continue to jack up the rents, more and more local businesses — including restaurants — are forced out. The result is that the mall is losing its character because the only businesses that can afford to pay higher rents are the cor-

See MALL, page 3

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- Sunshines
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- IHOP
- Carl's Jr.
- Chevron
- DK's Donuts and Bakery
- Union 76
- King Liquors
- 7-11
- US Bank
- Buon Café
- Quiznos
- St. John's Hospital
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HOROSCOPES

Aries, talk money but pay your bills first

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Change tactics and focus, especially if you didn't succeed in bringing another over to your way of thinking yesterday. Speak the universal language of money, and finally you'll make headway. As a result others support you in a decision. Separate money and emotions. Tonight: Pay bills first.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ The moon moves into your sign today, encouraging drama and persistence. Make the most out of the next few days, when your word rules. Nice, huh? Approach a boss with care, because this person tends to confuse the issue, at least when you present an idea. Tonight: Take your bows. You're the lead player.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Use the early hours to dot your I's and cross your T's. In the afternoon, pull back and do called-for research. You might also need time to evaluate a project before you launch into it. Know that you don't need to make a decision immediately. Tonight: Do something just for you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Your sense of responsibility directs you toward the correct choices. You know what you want. The time has come to get off your duff! Go for what you desire. Don't cater to someone who often makes demands. A meeting develops into fun. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ At work deal with information that comes from behind the scenes. Check out a source before you present tips as fact. Stay on top of problems by handling them directly. High energy mixed with a strong course of action makes you a natural leader. Tonight: Mix some work with play.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Consider reading up on a key interest or a work-related specialty. You might want to sign up for a seminar. Discussions in the morning become more fruitful if you have a talk on a one-on-one level. Make sure all important agreements are written and signed. Tonight: Put on some favorite music.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Work with others. Return calls and use any free time to catch up on e-mail and news. A special friend seeks you out to find an answer or to resolve a problem. Make it your pleasure to help this person out. Check out insurance policies. Don't allow a detail to slip. Tonight: Dinner for two.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Dig into work and don't let someone distract you. Creativity and spending mix together and could lead to a problem. Define your expenses for the next month and follow your budget. Consider putting in for some overtime, if you can. Tonight: Accept someone's invitation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Keep your goals in mind and don't kiss good energy goodbye. You might accomplish a lot if you so choose. By the afternoon, you might be ready to focus on work or some other project. Others delight in your lightness, but they appreciate your efforts at work. Tonight: Work as late as need be.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Deal head-on with those in your immediate circle. Real estate and personal matters flourish in the morning. By afternoon, your mind wants to explore other realms. There is no time like the present. Allow your imagination to charge your work. Tonight: The ever-frisky Goat.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Say all you want right now, but don't expect everything to be said and done. In fact, you might have to do this conversation over again in a few days. Spend the afternoon completing work and taking time to handle a key personal matter. Tonight: Mosey on home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Work with others. Return calls and use any free time to catch up on e-mail and news. A special friend seeks you out to find an answer or to resolve a problem. Make it your pleasure to help this person out. Check out insurance policies. Don't allow a detail to slip. Tonight: Dinner for two.

WEATHER

Today ... Sunny with a high of 61°F. Winds from the North Northeast at 8mph.

Tonight .... Clear with a low of 43°F. Winds from the Northeast at 4mph.

Wednesday .... Partly Cloudy. High—61°F Low—45°F

QUOTE of the DAY

"Life is either a daring adventure or nothing."

— Helen Keller

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Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Above: Hundreds gathered at Santa Monica High School Monday for 15-year-old Deanna Maran's memorial. The teen was fatally stabbed 11 days ago at a party in West Los Angeles.
Below: Friend and classmate Tim Livingston, spoke about the pain of losing one of his best friends. He was one of the students who drove Maran to Santa Monica Hospital, where she died.



"We all know her ... the tan, the teeth, the thick black hair, the grin ... her approach was simple and unassuming but she carried herself with confidence. Lala was the energy source."

Non-violence the message at Maran Samohi memorial

MARAN, from page 1

know that everyone had such vivid memories of her," she said. She added that the message drilled into John Adams students was "KRR," which translates into "kindness, respect and responsibility." It obviously rubbed off on Maran.

"It probably sounded silly at the time, maybe even trite. But I think about the events that brought us here today and all of the lessons we could have taught you. Perhaps the KRR lesson was the most important lesson of all," she said.

The overriding message throughout the two-hour memorial was non-violence.

"The first step toward non-violence is kindness and just acting like a human being," said Maran's sister, Amika. "Of all the stories I have heard about my sister they say, 'I loved your sister, she was special.' Why is that special? Why is treating each other as human beings special?

"It was her instinct to make you feel better. The first step to non-violence is being kind to each other. It's that simple."
— AMIKA MARAN
Deanna Maran's sister

"It was her instinct to make you feel better," she continued. "The first step to non-violence is being kind to each other. It's that simple."

Maran was a small girl who had a propensity to eat, her friends joked. She had a bright future ahead of her. Maran's friends admired her ability to maintain a 4.0 grade point average, hold down a job as a hostess at the Firehouse, and remain a member of so many student activities. And finally, she found the time to play on three team sports.

"Out of everything I know of her, she would have changed the world," said a volleyball teammate.

"She got good grades and was an athlete," said one of her best friends. "I was failing in school and was always getting myself in trouble. To live half of what she would have become would be a great achievement in my life."

It's clear that Maran's spirit and zest for life will be carried throughout her classmates' lives.

"We all know her ... the tan, the teeth, the thick black hair, the grin ... her approach was simple and unassuming but she carried herself with confidence," said a water polo teammate. "Lala was the energy source."

Maran's closest friends remembered all of the joys of adolescence with her — going to the beach, sun tanning on the roof, learning how to surf, rollerblading, shopping for clothes, eating Krispy Kreme doughnuts, In & Out hamburgers, the International House of Pancakes and many more.

A co-worker at the Firehouse said her beauty went further than just her looks, which were noticed by many male customers. Many were sadly informed that someone so beautiful could only be 15 years old, he joked.

"Lala was gorgeous inside and out," he said. "Your smile and your cute little dimple brightened up our days."

The only thing that her friends can take away from their tragic loss is to learn compassion by practicing goodwill toward others.

Said one friend: "What a price to pay for a lesson."

City officials fearful of mall losing its soul

MALL, from page 1

porate chain retail stores. Planning Commission Chairman Kelly Olsen told the city council two weeks ago that the real problem on the Promenade is the landlords and that they must address their role in keeping it a vital place for the community.

In 1996, the city established a 10-year plan to control growth of retail outlets on the Promenade. However, the actual growth of retail has outstripped the planned growth and the 10-year projection has already been met. The boom in retail growth, ironically, has threatened what officials have worked so hard to protect, city staff say.

Five restaurants have closed up in the past two years and several more are nearing the end of their leases while at the same time, retail outlets are growing and displacing them. What's more, sidewalk dining is declining as more retailers consume more street frontage. The Third Street Promenade has about 530,000 square feet of retail and more is on the way.

"The Promenade becomes less and less the unique, outdoor community entertainment center and more and more like a standard outdoor mall," city staff wrote to the council.

The city council meets at 6:45 p.m. in council chambers at city hall. The meeting is aired live on City TV and simulcast on KCRW (89.9 FM) beginning at 8 p.m.

Death of alleged stabber may not be known for months

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

The circumstances surrounding the death of the 17-year-old girl who allegedly killed Santa Monica High School student Deanna Maran Nov. 17 may not be clear for months.

The teenager arrested for Maran's murder, Katrina Sarkissian, died while in police custody the day after Maran was stabbed to death at a party in West Los Angeles. The Los Angeles Coroner's Department said Sarkissian's autopsy report may not be ready for eight weeks, pending lab results. Although Sarkissian's body was examined on Nov. 21, toxicology reports and tissue samples have been sent outside of the coroner's office.

"It could take a couple of months," said an examiner at the coroner's office. "At the age of 17, they are going to be very thorough."

Sarkissian's sister, an unidentified 15-year-old, has not been charged with Maran's murder, although police are investigating her role into the popular sophmore's death.

Witnesses say that about 10:30 p.m. on that fateful Saturday, Maran, who was standing in the street in front of the house where the party was held, fought with the 15-year-old suspect. Partygoers broke up the fight, but another one ensued shortly after with Sarkissian. Maran, 15, was subsequently stabbed with an unknown weapon, according to police. Instead of calling for an ambulance, Maran's friends drove her to Santa Monica Hospital where she was pronounced dead at 12:15 a.m. Sunday.

Sarkissian and the 15-year-old were arrested about 2 p.m. Sunday. But after collapsing during questioning, Sarkissian was rushed to UCLA Medical Center and died at 5:26 p.m., police said.

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STATE

Coast Guard keeps watch on nation's busiest port complex

BY SIMON AVERY
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — The U.S. Coast Guard unveiled a new port security program Monday that trains reservists to board cruise ships and commercial vessels on the high seas in search of terrorists.

The program is part of an extensive effort by the Coast Guard to stretch its resources and protect the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, which combined are the nation's largest, handling $170 billion of commerce each year.

The so-called sea marshal security teams are also in action in San Diego and San Francisco as pilot programs for possible use in other parts of the nation.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, the Coast Guard has taken the lead among a number of agencies and started boarding all cruise ships several miles off the coast of California.

Armed officers make sure the crew is in control of the ship and check passenger lists for suspected terrorists.

"Cruise ships are a target," said Lt. Carlos Mercado of the Coast Guard's marine safety office in Los Angeles. "We try to think like terrorists. If you hit, you want the most bang for your buck, and inside the harbor is where you'd get it."

The marshals also conduct random checks on what the Coast Guard considers "high interest vessels," those flying flags from nations such as Libya, Iran and China.

More than 5,500 commercial vessels and several hundred cruise ships a year dock at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, making the new security measures labor intensive.

The Coast Guard has engaged the help of more than half a dozen other agencies ranging from the Immigration and Naturalization Service to the Department of Fish and Game.

On Monday, some of the 80 Coast Guard reservists called up since Sept. 11 completed their final training to become sea marshals, practicing their boarding techniques on an old Navy vessel.

In addition to trying to head off disaster before it reaches port, the Coast Guard is working with divers from the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles Port Police to inspect the hulls of random ships inside the harbor for bombs.

During Monday's exercise, divers checked the hulls of two cruise ships — the Serenade and the Ecstasy — in the port of Los Angeles while vessels from the Coast Guard cordoned off the area.

With visibility in the polluted and silt-filled harbor restricted to less than 10 feet, it can take nearly two hours to sweep a hull, said Capt. Ralph Tracy of the Port of Los Angeles Police Department.

"It's like diving in an ink well," he said.

One scenario officials are concerned about is a cell of terrorists storing explosives under a pier and then transferring them to a cruise ship once it has docked nearby.

"If this cruise ship blew up right now, we'd have to close down this port for days," Mercado said. "You're talking millions, billions of dollars of loses."

The sea marshals and other new security measures are likely to continue indefinitely.

"We're looking at the new normal," said Capt. John Holmes, commanding officer of the Coast Guard marine safety office in Los Angeles.

But the added responsibilities are starting to take their toll. Coast Guard staff members routinely work 14 hours a day, and regular duties are being off-loaded onto other agencies.

Los Angeles Bay Watch lifeguards, for instance, are picking up much of the Coast Guard's search and rescue efforts.

"Our crews are fatigued," Mercado said. "We're trying to do more with less and it's hard."

Agents seized a record 244 tons of drugs in California

By the Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Despite a brief decline after the Sept. 11 attacks, the Customs Service seized a record 244 tons of narcotics along the U.S.-Mexico border in California over the past year.

The total for the state's two border counties was 19 percent higher by weight compared to the previous year, said Customs spokesman Vince Bond.

Agents confiscated 488,606 pounds of marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine in the border region during fiscal year 2001, which ended Sept. 30. The drugs were seized both at border crossings and in special air and sea operations.

Marijuana accounted for the bulk of the confiscated drugs at 419,292 pounds, followed by cocaine at 67,799 pounds. Authorities don't know the reason for the year-to-year increase. It could be caused by increased flows of illegal drugs, better enforcement or a combination, Bond said.

During the two weeks after the attacks, drug seizures plummeted more than 80 percent at California border crossings as agents searched every car entering the United States. Authorities speculated that smugglers were temporarily delaying shipments to avoid heightened security.

"Without the events of Sept. 11, it may have been over 500,000 pounds," Bond said of the year's total.

The 244 tons does not include drugs seized by the Border Patrol between the ports of entry along the border or seizures by the Drug Enforcement Administration, local police or other agencies.

Along the entire U.S-Mexico border, seizures of illegal drugs increased by 19 percent to more than 1.3 million pounds. Nationwide, the agency confiscated 1.7 million pounds during the fiscal year.

NATIONAL

Cloning company faces stiff competition

BY PAUL ELIAS
AP Biotechnology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A testament to the aggressiveness of chief executive Michael West, Advanced Cell Technology garnered a whirlwind of publicity with its claim to be the first to clone a human embryo.

The accomplishment is preliminary, though, and by no means guarantees success in a tough business climate. Competitors claim patents and exclusive commercial rights to cloning and the production of human embryonic stem cells — the ultimate goal of Advanced Cell.

Political opposition is formidable as well. A House bill criminalizing human cloning awaits debate in the Senate and President Bush on Monday called Advanced Cell's work "bad public policy and morally wrong."

In an interview Monday, West defended his decision to announce the tentative breakthrough.

"We didn't have any ulterior motives. We simply wanted to advance science and medicine," West said. "I have a sense of urgency, because people are dying."

Stem cells are thought to be the raw materials of life because they grow into the 200 different adult cells that make up the human body. Scientists hope they can coax human embryonic stem cells to grow into replacement cells to heal the sick and ailing.

But some supporters of stem cell research said West's announcement Sunday in the relatively unknown online journal, e-biomed: The Journal of Regenerative Medicine, may set back progress since it lacked sufficient scientific data.

It wasn't clear whether the embryos Advanced Cell cloned would be capable of growing into a human being. The embryos died even before any stem cells were produced.

Glenn McGee, a University of Pennsylvania bioethicist, resigned from Advanced Cell Technology's ethics advisory board last year because he said West wasn't being public enough with his research. Now, McGee says West made the opposite mistake — too much publicity without any substance.

"This guy is the worst nightmare of it all," McGee said. He suggested West made the announcement prematurely in part to stake a claim to human cloning as its exclusive intellectual property — a charge West denied.

Two competitors working with embryonic stem cells — Geron Inc. and Cythera — also complained that West went public prematurely.

"It's not very significant or really great news," said Lutz Giebel, Cythera's chief financial officer. "It's been known for quite some time that you could do this and get a one or two cell division."

The U.S. Patent Office has rejected previous requests for patents involving human cloning.

Nonetheless, Advanced Cell did receive a patent for technology involving non-human mammals in May. West claims that patent also gives the company exclusive rights to profit from cloning human embryos to obtain "inner cell mass cells," precursors to embryonic stem cells that are formed in the earliest days of pregnancy.

If the tiny Worcester, Mass., company survives the political and scientific challenges ahead, it hopes to invoke this patent as it battles other intellectual property claims.

Bomb-sniffing dogs are better than machines

BY MICHAEL P. REGAN
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — You simply can't send a machine to do a dog's work.

Despite millions spent on sophisticated explosive-detection machines, experts agree that a dog's snout is still the best equipment for finding bombs in large buildings or airplanes.

Aviation officials gathering at a security technology conference this week in Atlantic City, N.J., will compare the merits of high-tech ion-mobility spectrometers — already in use as bomb- and drug detectors — with the advantages of dogs.

Even those with a vested interest in the technology say dogs are better under many circumstances.

"A dog's nose is probably the most sensitive piece of equipment going. They're enormously accurate," said Brook Miller, vice president of Barringer Technologies, one of the companies that will exhibit spectrometry scanners at the Federal Aviation Administration-sponsored Aviation Security Technology Symposium.

The conference will focus on a variety of security technology, from X-ray imagers to cameras that broadcast real-time surveillance video from inside airliners to the ground.

Much of the agenda involves the merits of spectrometry scanners, which can detect microscopic residue of explosives or drugs on baggage or passengers' clothing, documents or skin. The machines — along with X-ray and magnetic-imaging equipment — are likely to play an important role for airports that need to comply with new aviation security legislation.

During the detection process, particles are swabbed from suspicious areas or sucked directly into the machines. The particles are vaporized and the resulting ions are examined to see whether they resemble chemicals used in bombs or narcotics.

Paul Eisenbraun, vice president of Ion Track Instruments, said his company is under contract with the FAA to produce its desktop Itemiser scanners, already used in 76 airports. He said the agency is pushing for more of the machines. Ion Track's handheld scanner, called the VaporTracer2, is awaiting FAA certification, Eisenbraun said.

Devices like these and Barringer's Ionscan can identify particles as small as one-billionth or one-trillionth of a gram, putting them in the same league as a good bomb-sniffing dog.

Companies at the forefront of trace-detection technology find themselves in competition with Labrador retrievers, German shepherds and Belgian Malinois.

Even though new aviation legislation requires bomb-detecting machines to be installed at all large U.S. airports by the end of 2002, the FAA has no plans to retire its dogs. This year, the FAA had 188 canine teams working full time at 39 major airports across the country, said FAA spokesman Paul Takemoto. The agency plans to add teams to 25 more airports in 2002 and 16 more in 2003, Takemoto said.

Proponents of scanners say dogs have several drawbacks.

Dogs can work only a few hours before getting tired. They need to be cared for and cleaned up after. And while a trained dog comes cheaper — $10,000, versus $20,000 to $40,000 for a detector — it does not take a skilled handler to operate the devices.

Woman convicted in death of son wins custody of her baby

BY SUSAN SKILES LUKE
Associated Press Writer

JERSEYVILLE, Ill. — A decade ago, Sheryl Hardy was sent to prison in Florida for the murder of her 2-year-old son, who had been shoved headfirst into a toilet for soiling his pants — a death so shocking it prompted an overhaul of the state's child-protection laws.

Now, over the objections of prosecutors and Illinois' child-welfare agency, Hardy has been given a second chance.

An Illinois judge has awarded her custody of her 9-month-old son, who had been in foster care because of his mother's murder conviction.

"This may be one of those rare cases where a parent has been able to progress from a point of total inability to parent and protect a child to a point of competence," Judge Thomas Russell wrote in his Nov. 16 decision.

Hardy, 33, said she lit a cigarette and watched as her then-husband, Thomas Coe, shoved his stepson's head into the toilet like a plunger in Lakeland, Fla., in 1989. She and Coe then beat the boy with couch cushions. Bradley died the next day of head injuries.

Hardy served nine years in prison and now says she wants to start over in her hometown 50 miles north of St. Louis with her new husband and their son. She says she can be a good parent and wants the opportunity to try.

The lead detective in Bradley's death says she doesn't deserve another chance.

"She's an evil person, a murderess," says Paul Schaill of the Fort Meade, Fla., police department. "This baby is going to end up dead, too."

Illinois prosecutor Mary Kirbach says she will appeal but declined to discuss the case.

The state's child-welfare agency also recommended Hardy not get custody of the boy. Martha Allen, the agency's chief of staff, says she can remember no other time that a parent convicted in the death of a child won custody of another child.

Hardy declined to discuss the case recently, saying only that her new son is "doing great, now that he's back with me." She then shut her front door on a reporter as she said, "I just want to live my life."

Hardy claims she was sexually and emotionally abused as she grew up in this poor rural town of 7,500. She says Bradley was conceived when she was raped. She moved to Florida after he was born.

There, she met Coe, who was living in his truck at the time. The two abandoned 4-month-old Bradley at a mall. He was placed in foster care, and Hardy and Coe married and had a daughter of their own.

Nearly two years later, when Hardy learned Bradley's foster parents wanted to adopt him, she sought and received custody. Sixty-six days after Bradley arrived at the Coes' secluded trailer home, he was dead.

Coe was convicted of first-degree murder and is serving a life sentence.

Random House announces new vice chairman Phyllis Grann

BY HILLEL ITALIE
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Claiming one of the industry's most powerful executives, Random House Inc. announced Monday it had hired Phyllis Grann, who in her long career at Penguin Putnam Inc. helped establish such best-selling authors as Tom Clancy and Amy Tan.

In a survey published last summer by Book Magazine, Grann was cited as one of the 10 most influential people in the industry. But she resigned as president and chief executive of Penguin in September, saying it was "time to start a second act."

She later admitted to a "difference of business philosophies" with Penguin's parent company, the London-based Pearson Group PLC.

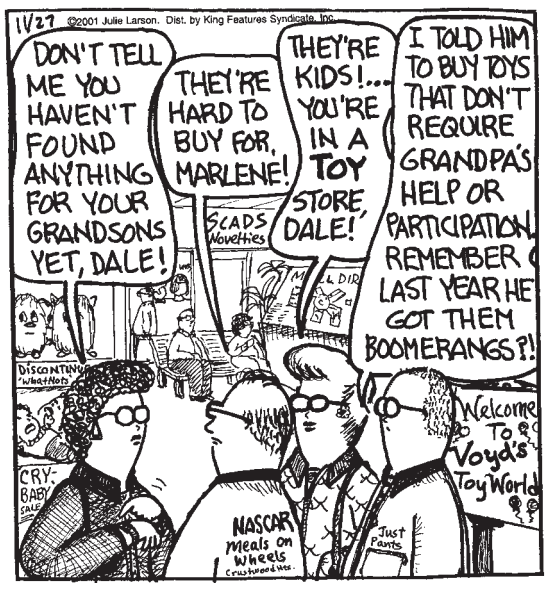
Starting in January, she will hold the newly created position of vice chairman at Random House, reporting to Peter Olson, chairman and chief executive of Random House.

Random House is the country's largest trade publisher, followed by Penguin Putnam.

Grann, 62, is a London native who started in publishing in 1958 as the secretary for Nelson Doubleday of Doubleday & Company. She joined Putnam Berkley in 1976 and became chair and CEO of the company in 1991. Putnam Berkley merged with Penguin USA five years later.

COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection®

By Russ Wallace



"He's too vain to wear a hearing aid."

edge City

by TERRY & PATTY LABAN

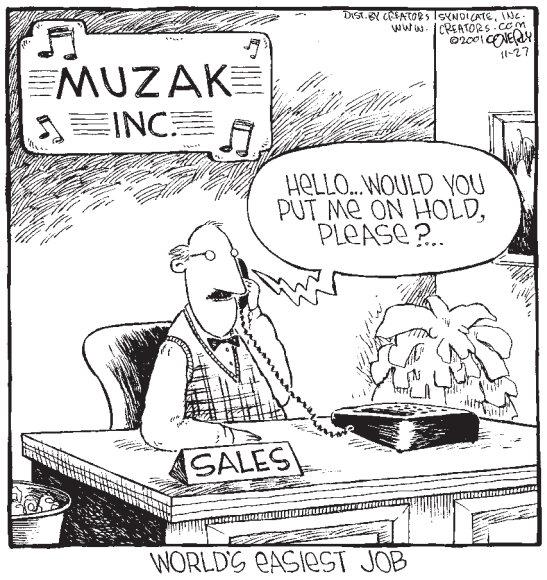
Reality Check®

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CROSSWORD

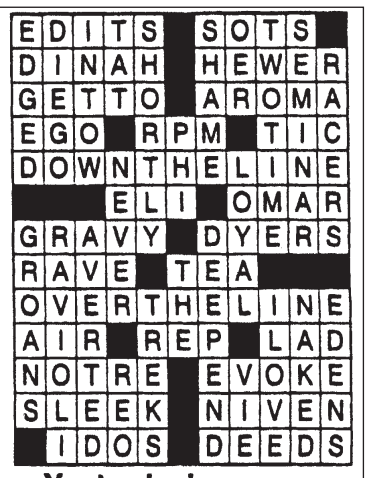
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

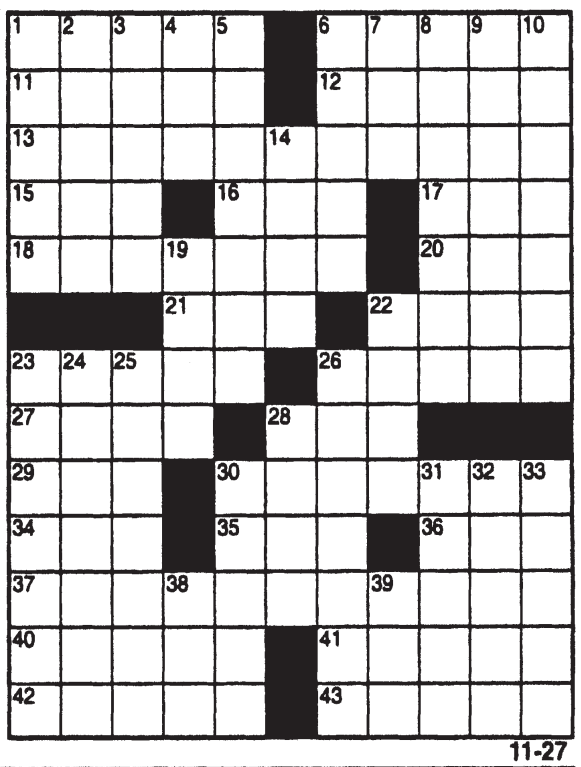
1 Taj —
6 Nuisances
11 Wed in secret
12 Drive
13 New York area
15 Genesis name
16 Old French coin
17 Decimal base
18 Do a museum job
20 Neither Dem. nor Rep.
21 Low bill
22 Display nervousness
23 Sounds of surprise
26 Farm machine
27 Ceremony
28 Belfry denizen
29 Mine find
30 Possibly
34 Hold title to
35 Before today
36 Regret
37 Mathematical array
40 Turn aside
41 Brown shade
42 Strikes out
43 Moves carefully

DOWN

1 Poet's concern
2 Vibrant
3 Dwellings
4 Mimic
5 School units
6 Resentment
7 Flightless bird
8 Three-dimensional
9 Roman dramatist
10 Slim
14 In need of liniment
19 Drink too much
22 Way
23 Did a stable job
24 Radio carrier
25 Baseball's Casey
26 Overly ornamental
28 Pleads
30 Agreements
31 Mecca residents
32 Blender setting
33 Visionaries
38 Dudgeon
39 Actress Thurman

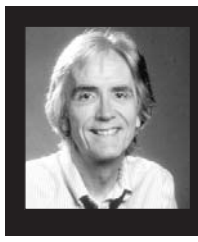


Yesterday's answer



11-27

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

People just beggin' for it

• According to police in Brockton, Mass., among suspected DUI driver Edward T. Petit's first words to officers after fatally hitting a 24-year-old woman in June were that he was just bragging to his buddy a few minutes earlier that he could "drink him under the table any day." And in September, inmate Timothy Mize, 43, was beaten up by cellmates in jail in Enid, Okla., after he started bragging about his crime of molesting a 15-year-old girl. And on being informed that Canada had chosen a secluded rural retreat for next year's Group of Eight summit, possibly because the area's grizzly bear population would discourage the usual protestors, Alberta activist Alan Keane said the protestors would be out in force, anyway, because grizzly bears "are our friends."

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BACK PAGE

California rest-stops in disrepair; gas and chicken to the rescue

BY MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Unless someone really has to go, most drivers zip past interstate rest areas without a second thought.

Why stop if there's no gas, no burgers, no sweet icy drinks?

California lawmakers want to change that by putting some sizzle and fizz in those Spartan rest areas.

Federal law now prohibits commercial activity at interstate rest stops. But acting at the request of state transportation officials, Rep. Jerry Lewis, R-Redlands, is pushing a pilot program that would allow gas stations and burger joints to open at a handful of rest areas in California.

"Many of California's rest stops are in such disrepair that drivers avoid them as unsanitary and unsafe," Lewis said. "I believe the state should do what it can to fix this problem, and this pilot program should show whether it is feasible to turn these duties over to private vendors in exchange for doing some business there."

Floy Anderson is one motorist who avoids the stops.

"I don't stop at those things even if my kids need to go to the bathroom," Anderson said as she contemplated a Thanksgiving weekend drive to Death Valley. "I'm afraid someone would be there ... to do us harm."

The move by Lewis rankles truck stop owner Jim Caldwell, who wants to keep competition off the interstates. He recently pumped $5.5 million into his Giant Truck Stops business at Castaic on Interstate 5, north of Los Angeles.

"It will be hard to compete against a state-picked business that would have a monopoly at favorable rates," he said.

The National Association of Truck Stop Owners, which represents more than 1,100 businesses, has mobilized to keep the nation's interstates gas- and burger-free.

"I don't stop at those things even if my kids need to go to the bathroom. I'm afraid someone would be there ... to do us harm."

— FLOY ANDERSON
Motorist

Association President W. Dewey Clower pointed to a University of Maryland study showing businesses at interchanges would lose two-thirds of sales if they faced competition from such "ultra-convenient" rest areas.

The nation's interstate system, conceived during the Eisenhower administration, is a network of toll-free roads built with federal money. Except on older roads incorporated into the system, services are confined to exits.

On the nation's turnpikes and other toll roads, different rules apply. On holiday weekends, cars, trucks and buses jam the limited roadside food and gas outlets at rest stops that thrive on what is essentially a captive audience.

"There's no competition. You've got one choice," said Rep. JoAnn Emerson, R-Mo., who opposes the proposal by Lewis.

Emerson fears rural communities that depend on business from travelers who exit interstates for services would be hurt by commercialized rest areas.

Even a pilot program in California "is a threat to those communities' economic stability" because it would open the door to similar development in other states, she said.

The House and Senate each passed a version of the legislation. Negotiators, including Emerson, are working to resolve differences in the bills. In the meantime, Lewis, a high-ranking member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, is trying to insert his proposal in the annual transportation spending bill.

The truck stop association has criticized him for trying to put a policy change into a spending bill — technically against House rules — without subjecting it to the normal legislative process of hearings and debate.

Jim Specht, a spokesman for Lewis, said the congressman generally opposes policy riders on spending bills. But the appropriations bill is the only transportation legislation expected for some time, and Lewis felt it was important to address the rest stop issue as soon as possible, Specht said.

Lewis stressed that he would choose rest areas in the most remote areas, far away from existing businesses.

"In no case are there plans to create a competitor with private truck stops, which offer a wide range of amenities not available at the usual gas station or fast food outlet," Lewis said.

His proposal would open no more than 10 areas to commercial development for no more than 10 years. It would also require clean, well-lit and safe restrooms at no charge to the public, according to a letter to Lewis from California Assembly Speaker Robert M. Hertzberg, who backs the project.

Those assurances are not good enough for Caldwell, who tries to lure travelers to his Castaic operation with Internet access, showers, gas, diesel fuel and Popeye's chicken.

"It doesn't really matter which rest areas the state chooses," Caldwell said. "Our competition for truck business is in a radius of 500 miles."



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