

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Santa Monica may buy \$5.7 million property

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica officials could purchase a \$5.7 million building to house a local homeless services provider.

The 22,000 square-foot building is located at 1753 Cloverfield Blvd., in the heart of the city's industrial zone. It could be used for a variety of different services, city officials said.

One idea considered is using the building as a new location for the Ocean Park Community Center — a city-funded local provider of services to the homeless.

"The city does believe deeply in the continuum of care for the recipients of these social services and OPCC is a very important link in providing that care," said the city's economic development manager, Mark Richter, who negotiates real estate deals for the city.

City officials also may use the new building for additional community meeting space and a possible station along the proposed Exposition Light Rail line.

"The property is in close proximity to the Exposition right of way," Richter said. "It's near where hopefully there will be a light rail or transit corridor that we'll see sometime in our lifetime."



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

This vacant building on Cloverfield Boulevard could become the public's if the Santa Monica City Council decides to buy it.

The building is owned by Andrew Lessman, who for many years ran a vitamin distribution operation out of the building. Since the vitamin company moved out last year, the building has remained vacant.

Charles DeSantis, the real estate agent hired to sell the building, said there has been "a lot of activity" and interest in buying the building. Lessman has set the asking price at \$5.7 million.

See PROPERTY, page 5

Kiwanis gives thanks



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

Patty Tazi, executive director of the Santa Monica Police Activities League and a Kiwanis member, holds a box containing the essentials of a Thanksgiving dinner, while Kiwanis members Judi Barker and Dave Rosenberg put similar packages in a car that made deliveries Tuesday evening. This year, the Kiwanis Club gave 20 Thanksgiving dinner packages to families in need throughout the city.

Local police look at possible link in three armed robberies

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Three armed robberies last week in which the victims were women sitting in their cars have police investigating if the crimes are linked.

On Thursday, three women were separately robbed at gunpoint within a two-hour period — all by a man who is described to be about 20 years old, black, clean shaven, 5'9" tall and about 160 pounds.

The robberies began at 6:45 p.m. when Santa Monica police were called to Sixth Street and Ashland Avenue by a woman who said she was robbed of her lap top computer and carrying case when she was sitting in her parked vehicle.

She told police that as she was working on her computer, a man approached the driver's side of the vehicle, produced a handgun and demanded her lap top. Another man, described as look-

ing similar to the first suspect, came to the passenger side, where he grabbed the carrying case as she gave up the computer to the man brandishing the gun.

They fled on foot, according to police.

At 8:05 p.m., a woman reported that she was held at gunpoint and her purse stolen by a man she describes the same as in the first robbery. SMPD officers responded to the call on the 1100

See ROBBERIES, page 5

Food for Thanksgiving thought: The mind dominates appetite

BY MALCOLM RITTER
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK — Sometime Thursday, your brain will probably be besieged by contradictory demands.

Your better judgment will tell you NO NO NO. Your surroundings will tell you YES YES YES. A nerve reaching in from your gut will insist NO NO NO. Signals from your mouth will make some brain circuits cry YES YES YES.

And in the end, your brain will make

an executive decision and probably order your mouth to say:

"Pie? Sure, I'd love some."

Putting on a Thanksgiving feast is complicated enough, but it's nothing compared to how your body decides how much of it to eat.

Scientists have learned a lot in the past few years about what controls appetite. In a nation where many people eat too much, such discoveries often hit the front pages because they might lead to better weight-loss drugs. This year alone

brought widely reported evidence that one natural hormone boosts appetite and another dampens it, for example.

Such research also sheds light on that Thanksgiving Day war of impulses in your brain.

Your eagerness to eat on that day — or any other day — is an "exquisite interaction between our psychology and our biology and our environment," says Barbara Rolls, nutrition professor at Penn State University.

It all starts long before anyone buys the turkey.

Everybody needs to eat, of course, but eat too much and you get too fat. So your body has a regulatory system that works over the long haul for controlling how much fat you carry.

As many Americans can attest, it doesn't always work. But in fact, scientists say, in general it works very well at matching the number of calories you eat to the

See HUNGRY?, page 9

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♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Focus on work and completing the job, especially if you have any intention of getting out of work on time. Others seem to dump more and more on you. A loved one's gesture makes your day. Do whatever you can to pitch in. Tonight: Put your feet up.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You might be more playful than many. Make an effort toward a loved one or friend, whether it is inviting him or her to a Thanksgiving dinner or participating in his or her life in some other fashion. A partner could be overwhelmed. Tonight: Pitch in.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You might decide to work from home, if possible. Understand that your efforts at work and at home help everyone. Understand when to stop and do for yourself. An errand develops into a major social event. Know when to say "enough." Tonight: Close to home.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Your efforts return in multiples. Understand that not everyone expresses his or her affection the same way. Lighten up when dealing with others. Be more direct in your dealings. Explain what is really on your mind. Tonight: Visit while others stuff the turkey!

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Financial dealings take precedence, especially with a domestic matter. Indulge yourself by reaching out for those around you. Your high energy helps a friend air out a new viewpoint. A friend makes a statement that might sound unusually aggressive. Tonight: Your treat.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Express your diligence in a manner that makes a difference. Your smile wins friends. Reach out for those around you, especially if a friend might not have plans for Thanksgiving. Express your unusual thoughtfulness. Tonight: As you like it.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Recognize your limits when dealing with someone who might make you a bit uncomfortable. Get past an obstacle through revealing more of what's on your mind. You're now in the position to release an emotional obstruction in your life. Tonight: Rest up.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Aim for more of what you want from someone else. Friends surround you in your immediate circle. Reach out to a friend who might have been off-kilter or out-of-skew. Believe in yourself. You can do it. Tonight: Where your friends are.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You have the best of intentions, though you might overreact to someone's demands. Know when to put a halt to spending. Get life to conform a bit more to your needs for a change. Tonight: Bring family and friends together as early as now!

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Pressure builds in a somewhat unprecedented manner. You can and will be able to make inroads with someone at a distance whom you really care about. You can make a difference where others cannot. Loosen up. Tonight: Hop in the car. Time to visit.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ A partner needs and wants more communication, which perhaps you need. Extremes modify a situation. You might opt to do a double take. Carefully consider options that surround a friendship. You might decide to make separate plans. Tonight: Say "yes" to a friend.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Others seek you out. Ask for more support if you need it. Pressure builds, encouraging you to head in a new direction. Realize your limits with care involving a boss or a parent. You might need to back down in order to get the results you desire. Tonight: Go along with the program.



QUOTE of the DAY

**"Many a man owes his success to his first wife
and his second wife to his success."**

— Jim Backus

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

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com

EDITOR

Carolyn Sackariason sack@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER

Andrew H. Fixmer andy@smdp.com

NIGHT EDITOR

Patrick McDonald PRMcDonald@aol.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Del Pastrana del@smdp.com

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Alejandro C. Cantarero alex@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Angela Downen angela@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Paula Christensen paula@smdp.com

MEDIA CONSULTANT

William Pattnosh william@smdp.com

MEDIA CONSULTANT

Freida Woody freida@smdp.com

MEDIA CONSULTANT

Ryan Ingram ryan@smdp.com

CIRCULATION MANAGER

Kiutzu Cruz kiutzu@smdp.com

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com

STAFF MASCOT

Maya Furukawa ross@smdp.com

LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Party at the pier on Sunday

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Pier's famous and historic carousel will re-open this weekend, just in time to celebrate the holidays.

A major grand re-opening party complete with holiday activities is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 1 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Loof Hippodrome Carousel Building at the pier.

Hundreds of children and their families are expected to attend the opening to take part in making holiday crafts, visiting Santa, listening to holiday stories and riding the newly refurbished vintage carousel. The carousel has been closed for two months while it was being overhauled.

At 2 p.m., the first 100 riders receive a free gift as part of the carousel's inaugural run. From 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., crafts, a visit from Santa and holiday stories in English and Spanish will be offered. At 5 p.m., a special performance by the Jazzappella Carolers will occur with the lighting of the pier. All events are free to the public, including carousel rides all day.

For more information, call (310) 458-8900 or visit www.santamonicipier.org.

Corsair wins award in excellence

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College's Corsair newspaper has won 20 awards, including top honors for general excellence and several first-place awards in the Journalism Association of Community Colleges' Southern California competition.

The awards reflect achievements of the staff under spring semester editor Sina Araghi and current editor Stephen Hoffman. The faculty advisor is Barbara Baird.

In the mail-in category (from the spring semester staff), first-place awards went to the staff for general excellence and inside page design; Wayne Lawrence for feature photo; Marie King for photo essay; and Roxanne Roy for investigative news story. Second- and third-place awards and honorable mentions went to Lawrence, David Alex Leslie, Daniel Stone, Joan Cimino, Gail Seely and John Luskin.

In the on-the-spot competition (the current Corsair staff), Daniel Stone won a first-place award for editorial cartoon. Other awards went to Alex Quel, Angie Botoulas, Nehemiah Slaughter, Mark Sandstrom, David Alex Leslie, Ryan Cliver and Ellen Lokajaya.

Venice documentary to air in Santa Monica

By Daily Press staff

A new documentary, "VENICE: LOST AND FOUND," will air for one week in a Santa Monica theater.

The 58-minute film, which opens Dec. 13, tells the story of California's most famous surf city through interviews with past and current residents, including actors Dennis Hopper and Gregory Hines, musician Ray Manzarek of the Doors, director Tony Bill, artists Robbie Conal and Billy Al Bengston and Councilwoman Ruth Gallanter.

Venice is home to a colorful cast of characters, actors and activists, body builders and graffiti artists, hippies and the homeless, merchants and musicians, surfers and eccentrics. But Venice is also home to some important moments in history: Charlie Chaplain's "Little Tramp" came to life during a film shoot in Venice. Jim Morrison and Ray Manzarek decided to start a band called "The Doors" in Venice. Andy Warhol had his first LA art show in Venice. Like the city that surrounds it, Venice is far from harmonious. However, in Venice both conflict and creativity seem to spark from a common fire — a passion for diversity and self-expression.

The documentary tells the story of Venice, from the dream of tobacco tycoon Abbott Kinney (who created Venice and her canals to replicate her namesake) to the Beat poets who moved in when Kinney's dream crumbled, to today's eclectic mix of rich, poor and everything in between.

A combination of historical photographs, archival and new footage portray the unique history, art, architecture, literature, music, social issues and play that define Venice, the most popular tourist destination in California, second only to Disneyland.

Producer and director, Brad Bemis, a native of Los Angeles, has lived in Venice for the past 11 years.

The film will air at Laemmle's Monica 4-Plex, located at 1332 Second St.



surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

It promises to be a rippable Thanksgiving as we start to see more South Bay waves today thanks to a pumping west-northwest swell.

P.V. and Porto hit chest- to head-high late today as swell ramps up. Better exposures up the coast hit a foot or two overhead, and Ventura should be cranking.

Increased size is expected Thursday as swell fills in and peaks. Surf will gain a foot or so over today's heights.

We expect decent size in at Venice despite some water pollution, and better shape and conditions at El Porto.

Surfrider is improving slightly, but it's still a mess, so stay out of the water anywhere near Malibu Pier.



Today's Tides:

High-	4:21 a.m.	3.98'
Low-	9:25 a.m.	2.95'
High-	2:30 p.m.	4.18'
Low-	9:55 p.m.	0.34'

Location	Wednesday	Thursday	Water Quality
County Line	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Zuma	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-2'/Poor	1-3'/Fair	C
Topanga	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	B
Breakwater	2-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	B
El Porto	2-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	B

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The Q Line

Over the weekend, a Christmas winterland was unveiled at the Third Street Promenade, with hopes that the decorations would lure gift-seeking consumers into the various shops. Just like everywhere else in this country, merchants are hoping for a big holiday season to top off an unsettling economic year.

So this week, Q-line wants to know: "To give local merchants a much-

needed shot in the arm, will you make a point of shopping in Santa Monica? Why or why not?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less; it might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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OPINION

LETTERS

Answer homelessness honestly

Editor:

I totally support Charles Springer's one-dollar plan to fix homelessness in Santa Monica (Nov. 25, 2002). By his calculation, his plan would cost the city \$1,056,000 — that is about a third of what the TAXPAYERS (remember us? We're the ones footing the bill) are currently paying for homeless services in Santa Monica. His proposal sounds like a much better deal.

Now, Mr. Springer, you seem to be a bright, articulate person, so I have a few questions for you. Could you please explain to me why it is, that after spending millions of dollars on homeless services, we keep getting more and more homeless people in Santa Monica? I am glad to see that in your one-dollar plan, you propose some uses for the money. I commend your efforts to offer a solution. You are suggesting, however, that our current efforts at helping the homeless are ineffective because the wrong services are being offered. Could it also be, though, that the homeless people aren't interested in the service currently being offered other than the easy ones like getting food, a shower and bed once in a while? Now, Mr. Springer, be honest (if not with your readers but at least with yourself), if you woke up tomorrow and all the services you asked for in your article were available, would you use them? Is the lack of proper services the only problem here? Now, be honest.

Tom Fuller
Santa Monica

Mad and ready for war

Editor:

Regarding the column "Edge of the West: Peace ... bring it" (Nov. 19, 2002).

Ron Scott Smith, I am appalled at your myopic and forgetful address to the Hip Hop nation. You want "somebody to get mad" in the name of peace? Isn't that what the USA is doing? Let's ignore the debate of the means to an end and move right along to some grander issues.

1) How can you call this war unprovoked? Where were you 9/11? We were attacked on our home soil. Is New York too far away from your home to understand that?

2) Your confounding contention that "If there is no attack (on Iraq), there will be no counter-attack (from Bin Laden et al) tipped me off to your misunderstanding of the situation in the Middle East and of the Islamic fundamentalist agenda. The Islamic fundamentalists are building an arsenal of weapons to destroy what they believe to be the poisoner of the world, American culture. They will attack us whether we attack them or not (remember 9/11?). They feel that it is their duty to rid the world of

Western influence. Bin Laden's biggest mistake is that he executed his attack before the whole Islamic fundamentalist movement was ready to fight the fight. Now we are alerted to the fact that they will attack our civilians. We have a choice: We can fight them when they have a small arsenal (now) or we can wait until they have a bigger, more threatening arsenal (later). Which situation would lead to a more dangerous and "spectacular" attack on the U.S.?

You want someone to get mad? I'm mad. I'm mad that apathetic Americans have already forgotten that our country was attacked. I'm mad that as a 27 year old, I can reminisce about feeling safe throughout childhood but knowing now that other countries have started to attack us on our home turf.

And I'm also mad, that there are proliferators of peace without any understanding of what it takes to achieve peace. I want peace too, and I know what ugly challenges I have to face to get it. War ... bring it.

"The republic was not established by cowards, and cowards will not preserve it."
— Elmer Davis.

Zev Suissa
Santa Monica

The roots of the historic initiative

Editor:

Tom Cleys' letter, which can only be described as a temper tantrum, chastised your newspaper for lack of balance, and the fact that his interview was not printed in full. This letter purports to enlighten your readership on the background of the historical preservation movement in this City. Mr. Cleys would have you believe that the residents of 18th Street rose up as one in opposition to the demolition of old homes and "approached the Landmarks Commission ... wanting to know if there was anything that they could do about it." This is just nonsense! All anyone has to do is to drive down 18th Street between Montana and San Vicente to see the many, many "No Historic Districts" signs. The signs tell you all that you need to know. As 20-year residents, sponsors of the initiative, and "worker bees" in the movement, my wife and I have talked with and/or visited with every homeowner. We know the overwhelming majority of homeowners who favor the initiative, and the handful of those who do not. The majority of homeowners, and other fair-minded residents in Santa Monica, will rise up to support this measure. Make no mistake. See you on Dec. 10, or at the polls, Tom!

Phil Grunland
Santa Monica

Reasons to be thankful — the Santa Monica version

As we sit down to our tofu and free-range turkey meals this holiday season, it's important to remember why we beach-dwellers are so fortunate to live in our little corner of the world, and to appreciate what we have.

I'm thankful that as I watched Monday Night Football last week, broadcast from snow-covered Mile High Stadium in Denver, the only thing I could complain about were those pesky Santa Ana winds.

I'm thankful that we finally have a Department of Homeland Security — now I can finally sleep. (Can someone please tell me how a massive restructuring of a federal bureaucracy, without hiring or firing anyone, the most drastic change resulting from which is that we now have one more white guy to call "Mr. Secretary," can make us safer?)

I'm thankful for our men and women in uniform, even if I disagree with the orders that they may be given.

I'm thankful that Santa Monica voters had a bounty of talented city council, school board and college board candidates from whom to choose, and that each of these political aspirants ran

clean, issue-based campaigns, even if their supporters, at times, did not.

I'm thankful that election season is over.

I would be thankful if stores would hold off on Christmas decorating and Christmas music until after Thanksgiving, but they don't, so I'm not.

I'm thankful for year-round yoga classes on the beach.

I'm thankful for fresh strawberries and corn at the farmer's markets well into December.

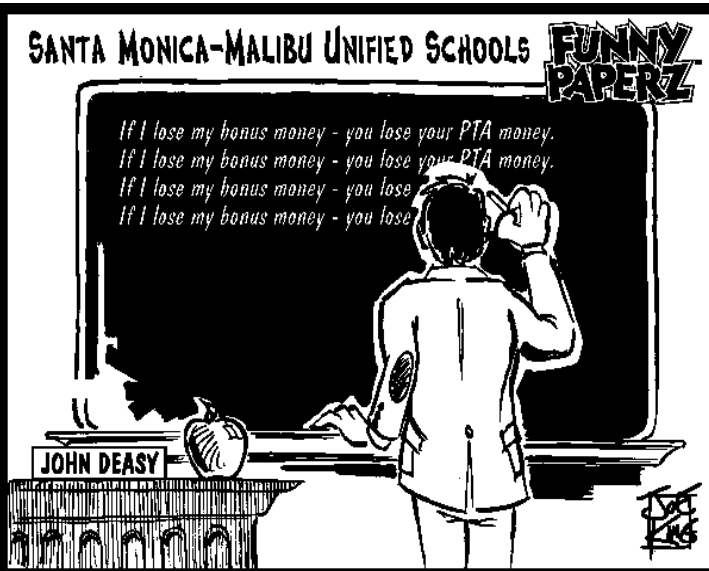
And finally, my favorite reason to be thankful during the Thanksgiving holiday:

All those people who move out here to be in "The Biz," you know, those people who move out here and get their hair bleached and visit (ahem) plastic surgeons and who complain about how fake L.A. is; all those people who drive out here in their non-smog-tested, out-of-state cars, and then complain about how bad L.A. traffic is. You know, those people.

I'm thankful that they all go back home this weekend.

(Evelyn Jerome is a native of the Los Angeles area, a Santa Monica homeowner and resident.)

**Guest
Commentary**
By Evelyn Jerome



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LOCAL



Five armed robberies occur locally in one day

ROBBERIES, from page 1

block of 16th Street. The victim told police that she was talking on her cell phone in her parked car when the suspect approached the driver's side of the vehicle, displayed the gun and demanded her cell phone and purse. The victim handed over the purse, but not the phone. The suspect fled on foot. The victim estimates there was \$10 in the purse and miscellaneous identification.

Thirteen blocks away at 8:55 p.m., a woman reported to police that as she was getting into her vehicle, a man described similarly to the suspect in the other two robberies, stole her and her passenger's purses and cell phones.

The man approached the victim at her car on the 2400 block of 16th Street where he brandished a handgun and took off in a older-model four-door white Volvo with the victims' brown leather bag, a purse and two cell phones, police said.

"Those three detectives are looking at to see if there's a link," said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega.

There were two other armed robberies on Thursday that appear unrelated.

The first occurred on the Third Street Promenade between Santa Monica Boulevard and Broadway Avenue in the middle of the day.

At 12:30 p.m., police responded to call from the victim who said an hour before, he was approached by a suspect who threatened him with a broken glass bottle. The suspect, described as a white male in his 20s, about 5' 9" tall with black hair, demanded the victim's wallet. The victim

emptied the contents of his pockets on the ground, which amounted to about \$40. The suspect grabbed the money and took off on foot. The victim chased him until he lost sight of the suspect.

At about midnight on Thursday, police arrested a man after he was positively identified as one of two men who robbed an attendant at gunpoint in the parking structure between Santa Monica Boulevard and Broadway Avenue on Fourth Street.

Police arrested Lamont Chad Dinkins, 24, of Long Beach, after he was pulled over by police at a gas station at Lincoln Boulevard and Pico Boulevard because his car fit the description of the one that pulled up to the attendant in the parking garage.

The attendant positively identified Dinkins as the one who allegedly drove the car up to the booth while a second suspect demanded the cash from the register. The second suspect, who held the attendant at gunpoint and then fled on foot, was not in the car when police pulled Dinkins over.

When SMPD arrived at the parking garage at 11:47 p.m., the attendant said he had been robbed. SMPD then broadcast the description of the suspects and the car to other officers on patrol. A SMPD officer located at Lincoln Boulevard and Colorado Avenue followed the white Buick sedan a few blocks before pulling Dinkins over.

Dinkins was arrested and booked into the Santa Monica Jail for armed robbery. His bail is set at \$50,000. SMPD investigators are working on possible leads to the other suspect's identity, Fabrega said.

Critics say new building not optimal for homeless

PROPERTY, from page 1

"It seems to work for them," DeSantis said. "So the question remains can they make it work and achieve what the city wants to achieve. At this point, it's up to the city to come forth and complete the transaction."

Even though the city is projected to have multi-million dollar budget deficits, money for the purchase would not likely affect the city's finances because it would not be taken from the city's general fund, officials said.

Officials said they envision using a mix of social service and transportation grants, along with the city's redevelopment money, to pay for the project.

OPCC must vacate the building it leases from the city on the Big Blue Bus campus near the corner of Sixth Street and Colorado Avenue during the bus operator's expansion project, which is scheduled to begin next year.

However, concerns have been raised about moving OPCC out of downtown Santa Monica, where most of the city's homeless population lives. The location also would make it more difficult for the homeless to access services designed to lift them off the streets, some critics have said.

Others have criticized the building being used for community space because its located near a busy off-ramp of the

Santa Monica Freeway, and a busy intersection that makes access difficult.

Critics also say the building may not be up to handling all the functions the community would like to use it for.

"The city does believe deeply in the continuum of care for the recipients of these social services and OPCC is a very important link in providing that care."

— MARK RICHTER
City Economic Development Manager

"It doesn't hurt the city to look at it," said Councilman Herb Katz. "It's a property that isn't selling quickly, and it has parking issues. It can't fit a lot of parking, which is a real problem in my eyes."

"But let's see what they will come up with," he added. "But I'll ask those tough questions when the issue arises, like on parking and traffic and all those areas."

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The Q Line



STATE



Steven K. Doi/Associated Press

A California Highway Patrol officer and tow truck personnel lean into the wind as they walk around a blown over tractor-trailer on the 210 Freeway in Fontana, Calif. on Monday.

Winds rake area knocking out power, stoking small fires

BY CHRISTINA ALMEIDA
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Winds gusted to 50 mph across California for a second day Tuesday, causing power outages from the San Francisco Bay area to San Diego and spreading dozens of small fires in the Sierra Nevada.

Thousands of residents woke up without electricity in Los Angeles, Oakland and parts of San Diego County, while downed power lines and debris created challenges for motorists.

"It was blowing like a railroad train at three this morning," said Steve Miller, 51, a resident of the San Fernando Valley, where a large power outage darkened 50,000 homes and other buildings.

About 6,000 customers of San Diego Gas & Electric lost power when winds knocked down lines near Lakeside, east of San Diego.

High winds were also blamed for toppling lines that cut service to as many as 11,000 Pacific Gas & Electric Co. customers in the San Francisco Bay area overnight.

John Quigley, who has been living in a 400-year-old oak tree in the Los Angeles suburb of Santa Clarita for nearly a month to protest plans to cut it down, said the strong winds almost convinced him to relinquish his perch.

"Let's just say I said a few prayers," Quigley said from his seat in the branches, where he was secured with three safety lines and a climbing harness. "Think being on a ship in the middle of the sea."

The fierce northeast winds, called the Santa Ana in Southern California, also fanned a 10-acre fire that damaged one home in Monrovia, east of Los Angeles.

Weather officials said the winds blowing across Southern California toward the sea were caused by a mixture of low pressure off the coast and a strong high pressure area over the Great Basin.

Despite the dangers, not everyone ran for cover. Mark Litman, 52, a native of Chicago said he loves the wind.

"I had the top down in my black Trans-Am as I was driving around this morning," said the San Fernando Valley resident.

In Hollywood, the wind knocked over a 25-foot-long tent at a Christmas tree lot that was being set up.

"We woke up to this tent that had fallen over and it snapped a couple of light poles," said Jeff Landis, 42, of Landis Family Trees.

In West Hollywood, a large billboard advertising beer toppled onto the roof of a flower shop along the Sunset Strip. No injuries were reported.

"There's branches and dust and debris flying all over the place."

— OFFICER RICK QUINTERO
California Highway Patrol

The winds knocked over several big-rigs in San Bernardino County.

"There's branches and dust and debris flying all over the place," said California Highway Patrol Officer Rick Quintero.

In Northern California, the wind hampered the fight against dozens of wildfires in the Sierra Nevada that spread from logging debris piles set ablaze more than two weeks ago.

Firefighters had hoped to contain the fires 22 miles northeast of Nevada City by Monday night but failed because of the high wind and dry vegetation.

"The tops of trees have been blowing out — one of which almost hit a firefighter today," said Don Will, the U.S. Forest Service's incident commander.

The Granite fire had burned more than 300 acres. Farther south, Eldorado National Forest officials said the Plum fire had burned more than 500 acres two miles south of Riverton, south of Highway 50.

In Calaveras County, the Sourgrass Complex fire — actually three separate blazes spread from debris piles — had burned nearly 300 acres.

The wind was making it difficult for firefighters to get a fire line around the blaze.

STATE



Skid row sweeps raise tensions, spark debate

BY PAUL WILBORN
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — After 21 years living amid the tent encampments and trash piles of downtown, friends call Tyrone Taylor the "Mayor of Skid Row."

These days, the mayor is not happy. On two afternoons last week, police officers, accompanied by correction officials and federal agents, made an estimated 200 arrests on Skid Row.

They said they were targeting parole and probation violators hiding amid the homeless. But Taylor and others fear police are moving to take them off the streets.

"They are stopping us at random," Taylor said as he pushed his shopping cart along the street Sunday. "They searched me. I'm not on parole. I'm not on drugs."

The crackdown came just days after a consortium of downtown business and development groups, along with two city council members, called for initiatives to combat homelessness downtown. Officials estimate there are between 3,000 and 5,000 people on Skid Row.

Taylor hasn't counted, but he's seen more people sharing his streets, where the morning sun cooks the mix of excrement, urine and rotting food into a bittersweet stench.

"This isn't doing any good," he said of the sweeps. "People here need housing. They need jobs."

Los Angeles Police Capt. Charlie Beck said the raids were designed to get criminals off the streets. City officials say there

are no plans to relocate the homeless.

After a week of sweeps, tensions are running high. At one outdoor soup kitchen Sunday, a bloody brawl broke out.

**"You can feel the tension.
The cops have disrupted the
normal life down here."**

— BARRY LASKEY
Resident

Barry Laskey, 40, who grew up in South Pasadena, was in a crowd along Towne Avenue waiting for a ticket to eat at sidewalk soup kitchen when violence erupted. Blacks fought Hispanics and one man ended up with a gash across his head.

"You can feel the tension," Laskey said, backing away from the fight. "The cops have disrupted the normal life down here."

Laskey said he's seen fewer tents and fewer drug deals in recent days — putting some people on edge.

"The cops are making it hard on the drug dealers, and that's upsetting people," he said.

Donald Miller, 44, who lives in a residential hotel, said the police sweeps could be a good thing.

"A lot of what you see down here is just a party," Miller said. "It's hard to say what is the right solution, but this is a start."

San Diego agrees to restart red-light camera program

By The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The City Council has agreed to resume a modified version of San Diego's red-light camera program, which was suspended in June 2001 over complaints it was unfair.

The council voted 9-0 on Monday to install cameras at up to 15 intersections to catch motorists driving through red lights.

In one key change, there will be two cameras, rather than one, at the selected intersections: One camera will capture the vehicle driving through the intersection and another will show the light was red.

Some intersections that had cameras before will no longer have them because they cannot accommodate two cameras, Assistant police Chief William Maheu said.

The city also will pay an annual flat fee of \$81,000 per intersection to Affiliated Computer Services to operate the cameras. Previously, the contractor, Lockheed

Martin IMS, had received \$70 of each fine and critics complained that deal compromised the company's objectivity.

Complaints about the original program, which was launched in 1998, prompted a judge to rule that the city had given too much control of the program to Lockheed Martin. The court tossed out nearly 300 citations.

The new program will begin in April. For the first 30 days, suspected violators will receive warnings instead of citations.

The fines will rise from \$271 previously to \$324, due to legislation approved by Gov. Gray Davis in September.

City Councilman Jim Madaff said safety, not profit, is the city's goal. "My hope is that we don't turn a profit, but that we cut down on the number of red-light runners," he said.

Santa Monica is considering installing red light cameras at various intersections throughout the city.

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Santa Monica Daily Press



STATE

Environmental group ranks Western ski resorts' impact

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Ski resorts in the California-Nevada region had the best average environmental scores of any Western ski region, an environmental coalition said Monday.

Colorado-New Mexico and Oregon-Washington were a close second and third in the coalition's ranking. Utah was fourth and the Idaho-Montana-Wyoming region ranked fifth and last in environmental friendliness.

It's the first time the Ski Areas Citizens' Coalition compared ski regions, though the group has issued an annual report card on the environmental practices of 70 individual ski resorts since 1997.

Skiers can encourage good environmental practices and hold poor-scoring areas accountable by taking the rankings into account as they decide where to ski, said Joan Clayburgh, executive director of California's Sierra Nevada Alliance, one of the coalition members.

The National Ski Areas Association has its own "sustainable slopes" program and feels the coalition's ranking is vague and biased, said spokeswoman Keri Hone.

"Their scorecard is difficult for any resort to score positive," she said, because it deducts for activities resorts consider essential to remain open.

While individual resorts' grades ranged from A to F, no region received an exemplary nor failing grade from the coalition. The California-Nevada region had an overall B grade, Idaho-Montana-Wyoming received a D, while the remainder had C grades.

The coalition's Web site lists the top 10 and the worst 10 resorts based on 10 criteria, including expansion or new development on undisturbed land; impact on wetlands, roadless areas and other environmen-

tally sensitive areas; increased snowmaking and its corresponding drain on energy and water; and efforts for water quality protection, energy and water conservation efforts and vehicle emissions reduction.

While the California-Nevada region had the highest average grades, Colorado's Aspen Mountain and nearby Buttermilk tied for the best grade individually. Nearby Vail Ski Resort, which has been aggressively expanding, had the lowest grade nationwide.

"Their scorecard is difficult for any resort to score positive."

— KERI HONE
The National Ski Areas Association

Similarly, in the Sierra Nevada, Northstar-at-Tahoe had the lowest score because it is expanding its skiable terrain and developing 900 acres.

The coalition encourages downhill skiing as a way to get more than 6 million Americans outdoors in a concentrated and controlled activity. However, the presence of any resort affects the environment.

"Ski runs are essentially permanent clear cuts on steep slopes," said Paul McFarland of California's Friends of the Inyo. "Some resorts have a 'develop-at-all-costs' attitude" while others try to minimize the impact.

The Colorado-based coalition's Ben Doon questioned why ski resorts have kept expanding, with government permission, while the number of skier days has remained relatively stable for more than 20 years. Much of the expansion is on public land, since 90 percent of all Western ski areas are in national forests.

'Surf City' says good-bye to Santa Claus program

By The Associated Press

HUNTINGTON BEACH — Santa and surf went hand in hand here during the holidays.

Now only the surf remains after city officials canceled their Rent-a-Santa program, citing a budget shortfall.

The program allowed residents to hire a Santa for \$20 for a 15-minute visit to offices, homes, senior centers and children's programs.

"I've had Santa visit my own kids. But with all the retirements in community services (department) we've had, we didn't have anyone to oversee it this year," said Jim Engle, the city's acting community-services director and Rent-a-Santa founder said.

Engle started the program in 1985.

Huntington Beach budgeted \$12,000 a year for the program, which employed up to eight temporary Santas during the holidays.

A Rent-a-Santa earned \$8.25 for every 15-minute visit. Each Santa also had his own driver, dressed as an elf, who earned \$8.25 an hour plus mileage.

Cities across Orange County have offered similar programs for years. San

Juan Capistrano has offered "Santa Makes House Calls" for 20 years, and charges \$45 for a 15-minute visit within city limits.

Yorba Linda rents out Santa for \$25 for a 15-minute visit, and charges \$40 for Christmas Eve visits. But unlike the Huntington Beach program, the Yorba Linda program is self-supporting with Santas receiving about 80 percent of the cost.

Garden Grove offered a Santa program for about a decade before ending the program five years ago because of difficulty finding qualified Santas, said city spokesman Paul Brenckick.

But Engle vowed to resurrect the Huntington Beach Santas next year.

"This is a program that's near and dear to me," he said.

Truck driver Paul Beale has worked as a Rent-a-Santa in Huntington Beach for years. He even grew a beard for the role.

He said the program would be missed by residents.

"I remember one Christmas party for physically and mentally challenged adults," he said. "They took photos with Santa, and I'll tell you, I came out of there feeling 10 feet tall."

NATIONAL



A Ritz cracker can eventually push you over the edge

HUNGRY?, from page 1

number you burn off over the course of a week or more.

In Western cultures, on average, people put on a half-pound to a pound per year over much of their adult lives, which translates to an excess intake of just 10 to 20 calories a day, Drs. David Cummings and Michael Schwartz of the University of Washington in Seattle note in a forthcoming review of the biology of obesity.

That excess is about the equivalent of a Ritz cracker a day.

Of course, some people put on more weight and others less. But the Ritz cracker example illustrates a remarkably precise regulation of body weight, considering how variable people's diets and activities are from day to day, Schwartz says.

How does the body achieve that? So far scientists have identified two hormones, insulin and especially leptin, that tell the brain how much fat you're carrying. (Leptin, made by fat cells and discovered only in 1994, raised hopes of being a powerful weight-loss drug until studies in people proved disappointing.)

Leptin and insulin appear to influence how sensitive the brain is to the body's satiety signals, Schwartz said. If you've put on fat, their levels go up, making it easier for the brain to hear your body's signals to stop eating, so you eat less, he said. If you're underweight, low levels have the opposite effect.

Unfortunately for most of us, this system appears much better at keeping us from losing weight than gaining it. That's probably because it evolved at a time when famine could appear anytime. In that environment, weight gainers are rewarded with survival, while "the finicky guys are dead," Cummings said.

So this long-term system is already humming when the Thanksgiving party gets under way, and all sorts of short-term hunger signals go to work.

Much — maybe most — of your hunger to start eating and keep eating a particular meal comes from psychological cues rather than any biological signal that your body needs energy right away, scientists say.

"When you and I sit down to eat, it isn't because our blood sugar is low or

because some hormone is too low or too high," says Stephen Woods, director of the obesity research center at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center.

"It's because it's convenient. It's a break between assignments, or it's because it's a time of day that we feel comfortable eating. We've been rewarded and had good meals at this time in the past. Or because somebody prepared a meal for us at that time."

That's not all, especially at a ritualistic meal like Thanksgiving's. Just being in a convivial crowd makes you eat more. You want to please the cook. You revel in happy memories of past feasts. People urge you to take another helping, perhaps to justify their own.

The tradition to pig out is hard to resist, especially if a few drinks have undermined your restraint.

As with any meal, huge portions encourage you to eat more. And the variety in the foods does the same thing, because people can tire of one kind of food but remain ready to eat another, Rolls said. She recalled a 14-course pasta meal in Italy. Everybody got sick of pasta, but then they readily dived into dessert.

More generally, tasty foods make brain cells release chemicals that make you feel rewarded and may suppress feelings of being full, said researcher Bart Hoebel of Princeton University. Result: you eat more.

"When you and I sit down to eat, it isn't because our blood sugar is low or because some hormone is too low or too high. It's because it's convenient."

— STEPHEN WOODS

University of Cincinnati Medical Center
obesity research center, director

Then there's the hormone ghrelin (pronounced "GREL-lin"). Discovered only two years ago, it is produced mostly by the stomach. Its bloodstream levels start rising a couple hours before each meal and peak about the time you finally pick up a fork, apparently spurring you to eat, Cummings said.

Even this biological signal might be turned on by psychological factors, Schwartz said, although Cummings said new, unpublished research argues against that.

A fluctuation in blood sugar levels has also been proposed as a hunger signal, but scientists disagree on whether that's true in everyday life.

As you eat and eat, your body mounts a campaign

to get you to stop.

Tiny structures in your stomach sense that this organ is stretching, and send a message — basically "AAAIEEEE" — to the nearby vagus nerve, which extends up to your brainstem. The vagus nerve is also hearing from a hormone called cholecystokinin, or CCK, that pours out of the small intestine to say, "Stop eating." At least half a dozen substances from the intestine reinforce the message, Cummings said.

One messenger from the gut made news last summer: PYY3-36, a hormone that enters the bloodstream and goes to the brain. It was found to make people eat about one-third less than usual over 24 hours when injected into

volunteers.

With all these satiety signals banging on the pipes, you'd think the brain upstairs would get the message pretty quick.

But in your heart, you know better.

These signals pressure the brain to stop the meal, "but they're not absolute," Woods said.

"It doesn't matter how many satiety factors we've got. When they roll out the pumpkin pie on Thanksgiving, I'm going to get hungry, particularly if they put whipped cream on it."

Even with ordinary meals, the deck is often stacked against the body's satiety messages, said obesity expert Dr. F. Xavier Pi-Sunyer of the St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center in New York.

American meals tend to be so brief — around 10 minutes — that it's not clear the signals have enough time to restrain somebody who's wolfing down two cheeseburgers, a shake and a sack of potato chips, he said.

Nonetheless, we do stop eating eventually. The signals grow strong enough to

restrain us, Pi-Sunyer said, and people follow their habits for whatever portion sizes have satisfied them in the past.

While scientists say they have plenty to learn about how the body controls eating, they're optimistic that their findings are revealing targets for drugs that can help people lose weight.

For example, since obese people already have high levels of the appetite-quelling hormone leptin, scientists can look for drugs that will make their brains pay attention. Or they could try to meddle with the chemical messages in the brain that promote or suppress eating. And ghrelin, PYY3-36 and similar bodily signals are obvious leads.

"We're just in our infancy in trying to define what's out there to curb our appetite," said researcher Sarah Leibo-witz of Rockefeller University in New York.

In the meantime, Schwartz sees hope for resisting that Ritz-cracker-a-day pressure to gain weight slowly over the years.

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NATIONAL

Wellstone memorial was political theater almost from start

BY PATRICK HOWE
Associated Press Writer

ST. PAUL, Minn. — In hindsight, their first mistake may have been holding a memorial service in a big basketball arena.

Under a bank of Jumbotron screens. Live on C-Span.

The Oct. 29 service held for Sen. Paul Wellstone after he was killed in a plane crash turned into a raucous political pep rally that turned off many voters. Some analysts say it not only led to the defeat of

Wellstone stand-in Walter Mondale but also may have contributed to the Democrats' setbacks nationally.

In studying the anatomy of a debacle, many critics have focused on the blunted speech of Wellstone's close friend Rick Kahn. But the event was designed from the start to be boisterous and, yes, political.

"The problem was the labeling," said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, dean of the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. "The mis-

take was in labeling this as a memorial instead of a celebration of the lives of these individuals, which is what it was."

She said people tuned in expecting a funeral and instead got a rally.

Others said that holding the event in a sports arena that seats nearly 15,000 all but predetermined the tone.

"To expect that 15- or 20,000 Wellstone supporters would be quiet as pictures of Trent Lott and others flashed on the screen was too much to expect," said Steve Smith, director of the Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government and Public Policy at Washington University in St. Louis.

The crowd's booing of Lott was difficult to hear on television but obvious to reporters there. The event was featured prominently on the national news, and conservative pundits seized on the spectacle.

"The problem here was that this was an event controlled by a family that was grieving and a campaign staff that was no longer in the campaign," Smith said. "So, there were errors in judgment."

Wellstone campaign manager Jeff Blodgett apologized for the event the next morning but declined to revisit it in a recent interview, saying: "We've paid the price for the memorial many times over. We're moving on."

The event almost happened in an entirely different way.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a source familiar with the planning meeting the day after Wellstone died said the small group considered holding the service in a more somber setting such as a cathedral. But that idea was rejected for a variety of reasons.

One reason was that the senator was Jewish. But organizers also believed that any tribute to Wellstone had to reflect the populist bent of the man. Thus the big arena. To those paying close attention, the intent of the memorial was clear in the advertised theme: "Stand up, keep fighting."

During the event, Wellstone's wife, daughter and three campaign staffers were

given tearful eulogies. But when Kahn, chosen by sons Mark and David to speak of their father, took the podium, he almost immediately changed the tone.

"We are begging you to help us win this election for Paul Wellstone," he told the crowd. "We can redeem the sacrifice of his life if you help us win this election for Paul Wellstone." Kahn also singled out some Republican lawmakers in the crowd to ask them to honor Wellstone by supporting a Democrat for his seat.

Mark Wellstone spoke later and started a finger-jabbing chant of "We will win!" When the video monitors in the arena focused on Mondale, then Wellstone's presumed replacement, the crowd began chanting, "Fritz!"

Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe recently told a group of editorial writers that the big-screen close-ups were the biggest mistake of the event, which he said could have cost Democrats nationwide.

Afterward, the event's organizers were in shock, one person present said, and some immediately realized it was a public relations disaster.

Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura, a political independent, said the very next morning that he was so disgusted he walked out. Republican challenger Norm Coleman was essentially given a fresh start.

"Up until the event, the Coleman people were scared out of their minds," said GOP strategist Sarah Janacek.

Neither Kahn nor the Wellstone brothers would comment for this story. But Kahn said in a radio interview the week after the election he intended his speech to be a personal expression of grief. He said he had no regrets: "I didn't say anything bad at all, and I wouldn't. It's not in my heart."

Mark Penn, who conducts polls for former President Clinton, told Time magazine he found 49 percent of voters thought the service made them less likely to vote for a Democrat. About 67 percent of independent voters felt that way, and overall 68 percent of voters had heard about the service.

Terrorism insurance bill becomes law

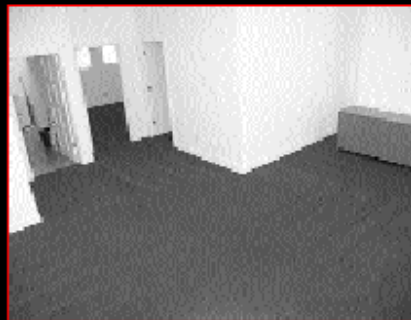


J. Scott Applewhite/Associated Press

President Bush, joined by Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., left, greets guests after signing the terrorism insurance bill into law during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House on Tuesday. Terrorism insurance had been a top priority for the president since shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks. Bush had argued that affordable insurance to cover terrorism for large construction projects was costing the economy thousands of jobs.

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INTERNATIONAL



High-tech U.N. teams gear up for first inspections

BY CHARLES J. HANLEY

AP Special Correspondent

BAGHDAD, Iraq — International arms inspectors, “fully conscious” of their responsibility, are ready to fan out over Iraq with the latest detection gear in search of mobile labs, underground factories or other signs the Iraqis are still committed to the deadliest of weapons, top inspectors said Tuesday.

The U.N. team mounts its first field missions Wednesday in what is expected to be months of difficult, detailed inspections of hundreds of Iraqi sites. Its first targets will be installations inspected and “neutralized” in the 1990s.

The future of peace in the Middle East may hinge on the outcome of the search. The United States, steadily reinforcing its military in the region, has warned it will disarm Iraq by force if the inspections fail.

In Washington, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said President Bush “hopes the inspectors will take their responsibilities very seriously, and he knows they will, to find out whether Iraq has indeed disarmed. And the president thinks this is a healthy process.”

If Iraq does not cooperate, Fleischer said, “the president has said he has a policy of zero tolerance, and Saddam Hussein will have to figure out exactly what zero tolerance means.”

The monitors are back after a four-year break under a new mandate from the U.N. Security Council to test the Baghdad government’s contention that it has no arsenals of weapons of mass destruction, or programs to build them.

Earlier teams of U.N. experts, in seven years’ work ending in 1998, destroyed large amounts of chemical and biological armaments and longer-range missiles forbidden to Iraq by U.N. resolutions after the Gulf War, in which an Iraqi invasion force was driven from Kuwait. The inspectors also dismantled Iraq’s nuclear weapons program before it could build a bomb.

Chief U.N. inspector Hans Blix says, however, it’s “an open question” whether the Iraqis retained some weapons — especially chemical. British and U.S. leaders say they’re sure Iraq has such arms, and suspect it also is rebuilding production programs.

Blix said journalists would not be permitted at sites during inspections. However, the Iraqis, anxious to prove their claim of no banned weapons, planned to take a group of journalists to Wednesday’s inspection, although

it was unclear whether they would be kept outside the site.

A working group of 17 inspectors landed in Baghdad on Monday, the first contingent of some 100 who will be operating in Iraq at any one time by year’s end. More than 300 experts are available on the rosters of the two U.N. inspecting agencies — the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, or IAEA, and Blix’s New York-based U.N. Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, or UNMOVIC.

The two local operational chiefs met with reporters in Baghdad on Tuesday, and said they have clear — if secret — game plans for the months ahead.

“We are fully conscious of the responsibility we have on our shoulders,” said Jacques Baute of the nuclear watchdog agency.

Demetrius Perricos, the UNMOVIC team leader, was asked whether the arms monitors will look for suspected truck-borne biological weapons laboratories. A recent U.S. intelligence report said an Iraqi document indicated Baghdad “was interested in developing mobile fermentation units” for biological weapons.

This is “not something we find incredible,” Perricos said.

“We have some plans,” he said. He noted inspectors have the right to stop suspect vehicles on Iraqi roads, but he wouldn’t discuss the plans further.

As for possible buried storage or production sites, “we have a strategy for underground facilities” using ground-penetrating radar, Perricos said.

Building a nuclear bomb requires a huge infrastructure, and the IAEA inspectors of the 1990s were able to find and destroy that Iraqi technology. Now, said agency

spokeswoman Melissa Fleming, “we’ll be looking for signs of renewed nuclear activity in any way, shape or form.”

The U.N. inspectors are to report to the Security Council by late January on their initial round of inspections, including whether the Iraqis have been fully cooperative.

The council has warned of “serious consequences” for Iraq if the Baghdad government is found in major violation of the U.N. disarmament demands. Bush has threatened military action against Iraq in that case, with or without U.N. sanction.

Iraq must submit a declaration by Dec. 8 detailing any such weapons programs, as well as nuclear, chemical or biological programs it claims have peaceful purposes. The Iraqis complain that this is too sweeping, encompassing even plastic slippers produced by its petrochemical industry.

If the inspectors eventually certify that Iraq has cooperated fully with their disarmament work, U.N. resolutions provide for the lifting of international economic sanctions imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait in 1990.

The inspections were suspended in 1998 amid disputes over U.N. access to Iraqi sites and Iraqi complaints of American spying via the U.N. operation.

The U.N. teams say they now are interested in up to 900 Iraqi sites. They’re expected to focus first on sites surveyed in the 1990s, to check on cameras and other equipment left behind to monitor activity. Later, they’re expected to branch out to new sites — for example, suspected storage places for chemical weapons U.S. intelligence alleges are still held by Iraq.

Flights grounded as French air traffic controllers strike in protest

BY JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press Writer

PARIS — A strike by French air traffic controllers forced the cancellation of hundreds of flights in and out of France on Tuesday, creating havoc for travelers across Europe during a nationwide walkout by civil servants.

The air traffic controllers joined bus, subway and train drivers, hospital workers, and electricity and telephone utility staff in the strike over pay, retirement benefits and the French government’s privatization plans.

The protests were the biggest labor challenge yet for the 5-month-old government of center-right Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin, which has made a priority of selling off the state’s stake in many French companies to raise cash.

Flights in France and Europe were hardest hit by the strike, officials said. Long-haul flights to destinations such as the United States, Asia and Africa were much less affected, the Paris airports authority said.

The authority said around 80 percent of flights — or a total of more than 1,000 — were canceled at Paris’

we can.”

Fox signaled that impatience, telling U.S. and Mexican delegates assembled at his presidential compound that it was “high time” for the two countries to address the migration issue at a senior level. Previously, Fox has complained the U.S. focus has been dominated by border security at the expense of measures that would treat Mexican migrants with greater dignity.

He said the two countries now have a “window of opportunity” to advance their common agenda that includes giving legal status to U.S.-based Mexican aliens and to expand a small temporary worker program now in place.

The two countries appeared headed for a serious negotiation on migration last year but the process was derailed by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Bush showed little flexibility on migration in his remarks, declining to offer new proposals. “Our cabinet officials continue to work together on creative new policies so that migration is legal, orderly and safe,” he said.

Despite the disagreements, the tone of remarks by Fox and Bush overall was positive. Fox praised Bush’s leadership in persuading Congress to remove legislative

Orly and Charles de Gaulle airports. The strike began Monday evening and was expected to continue until 6 a.m. Wednesday.

Italian carrier Alitalia said three out of four of its daily 90 flights between France and Italy were canceled. Hungary’s national airline, Malev, canceled 10 flights into or out of Paris, and Scandinavian Airlines canceled 27 flights linking Paris and the French Riviera town of Nice to Oslo, Copenhagen and Stockholm.

Spain’s national aviation authority said about 130 flights between Spain and France were canceled and use of French airspace by flights that didn’t land in France also was hindered.

At Frankfurt airport, continental Europe’s busiest, the walkout caused the cancellation of 72 flights, an airport spokesman said.

Disruptions for travelers in France weren’t limited to the skies.

Bottlenecks formed on platforms in many Paris subway stations in the morning rush hour. Commuters in the cities of Toulouse, Bordeaux and Marseille also faced sharp service cutbacks in buses and subways.

statutes on drug trafficking that irritated Mexico.

Bush spoke warmly of Fox’s leadership and restated his view that the United States “has no more important relationship in the world than the one we have with Mexico.”

Besides Powell, the visiting American VIPs were Attorney General John Ashcroft, Education Secretary Rod Paige, Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, Interior Secretary Gail Norton, Labor Secretary Elaine Chao and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Whitman.

They came here for a meeting of the U.S.-Mexico Binational Commission, a cabinet-level body that has met 19 times since 1981.

In his remarks, Fox warned that additional Mexicans may be forced to flee for the border unless the two countries take steps to ease the impact on Mexico of the Jan. 1, 2003, elimination of tariffs on most farm products. That move was mandated under the North American Free Trade Agreement.

He said its impact could be aggravated by subsidies American farmers are receiving under legislation that took effect earlier this year.

Fox: Migrants pose no terrorist threat to U.S.

BY GEORGE GEDDA

Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY, Mexico — Mexican President Vicente Fox, insisting that Mexicans in the United States pose no terror threat, called for high-level discussions to give legal status to at least some of the more than 4 million undocumented Mexicans living north of the border.

President Bush, in a videotaped message to a cabinet-level meeting of the two countries, agreed that work on migration should continue but did not suggest that an agreement was high on his agenda.

Fox told the meeting it was important to establish a migration framework that “clearly distinguishes between those who arrive in that country to work and those who could represent a threat.”

While the Bush administration has refrained from asserting that Mexicans represent a terrorist threat, the security measures it has adopted generally have not made distinctions between nationalities.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, who is heading the U.S. delegation here, made this point to reporters during Monday’s flight from Washington.

“We have to deal with the whole issue of people coming to our country from elsewhere, and that is taking a lot of time, a lot of effort, a lot of energy,” he said.

He acknowledged Fox’s impatience with the slow progress and promised “to work as hard and as fast as



SPORTS

IOC to go ahead with vote on expelling sports for 2008

BY STEPHEN WILSON

AP Sports Writer

MEXICO CITY — A vote on cutting baseball, softball and modern pentathlon from the 2008 Olympics will be taken this week, after all.

Despite pressure from some members to postpone the decision or make it apply to the games of 2012, the International Olympic Committee executive board said the vote would proceed as scheduled Friday.

The IOC board also said Tuesday that, from now on, the sports program will be thoroughly reviewed every four years after each edition of the games — meaning all sports will have to prove they deserve to stay.

On Friday, leaders of the three endangered sports will be given 10 minutes each to make their case to the full IOC general assembly. The 117 members will then vote by secret ballot, one sport at a time.

A simple majority is required to delete a sport.

It appears unlikely the delegates will vote any of the sports out. And IOC director general Francois Carrard said Tuesday the executive board believes there is nothing much wrong with the current sports program.

"The Olympic program as a whole has generally well stood the test of the years

"The Olympic program as a whole has generally well stood the test of the years and in itself is a good program."

— FRANCOIS CARRARD
IOC director general

and in itself is a good program," he said.

The IOC program commission recommended in August that the three sports be dropped, starting with the 2008 Beijing Games. It said golf and rugby should be added.

This week's vote had been thrown into doubt, however, by a rule in the Olympic Charter suggesting the sports program can't be changed less than seven years before the games. The Beijing Olympics are six years away.

But lawyers from the Court of Arbitration for Sport told the IOC there were no legal obstacles to cutting sports for 2008.

Many members have pushed for the vote to be put off until next year for further study. But Carrard said the sports had sufficient time over three months to lobby their case and had made constructive proposals in response to the program commission's report.

"The executive board considers due process has been granted and exercised in this case," Carrard said.

The board rejected one proposal in the program report — that, in future, only the board should decide whether to add or delete sports. The board ruled this should remain a "fundamental and core right" of the full membership.

In a change from past practice, the executive board is not taking a position on the sports proposals or making any recommendation to the assembly.

"The board considers the decisions are so fundamental and so important that each member should be in a position to vote without any pressure," Carrard said.

The decision was led by IOC president Jacques Rogge, who succeeded Juan Antonio Samaranch last year. While Samaranch would have worked to push through his own agenda, Rogge is stepping back and leaving the decision to the

members.

"He said it's important the members feel it's their privilege, it's their right," Carrard said. "We're in a totally new situation. This is the way the president wants it, to take the proposals straight to the floor."

Carrard said it was possible that delegates could raise objections and seek to put off the vote.

"The session has wide powers," he said. "There may be proposals from the floor. Essentially the session is the master."

Friday's vote will affect the chances of golf or rugby being added. Any vote on adding sports is scheduled for next July's IOC assembly in Prague, Czech Republic. But a sport will be added only if another is dropped.

In another development, the IOC board accepted changes to the format of the three-day equestrian event for the 2004 Athens Games. The event is among those proposed for exclusion starting in 2008.

Under pressure to make changes, the international equestrian federation proposed a reduced format that includes cutting part of the cross-country program.

Under the new program, the dressage and jumping disciplines will be maintained but the steeplechase, road and track elements of the cross country will disappear. Only the cross-country obstacle course will be kept.

Celebratory moment



James A. Finley/Associated Press

San Jose Sharks' Marco Sturm (19) celebrates after scoring against the St. Louis Blues during the second period on Monday in St. Louis, as Blues' Al MacInnis, right, skates off.

Angels enjoying title perks while focusing on 2003

By The Associated Press

ANAHEIM — The offseason is whizzing by for the World Series champion Anaheim Angels, who can't wait to start defending the first title in the franchise's 42-year history.

"The goal is to win it again. That's all we're here to do," Series MVP Troy Glaus said at Monday night's premiere screening of the 2002 World Series video. "People get remembered for championships, and that's what we want to do. We got one, so let's try to get two."

AL Manager of the Year Mike Scioscia molded the Angels into an unselfish team that put winning ahead of personal achievements. And when the players report to spring training in February, they will have a swagger that wasn't there the year before.

"I've always felt that until you do something, you always have that doubt that you can do it. But now we've done everything you can do, so I think that the confidence level will be much higher next year," said second baseman Adam Kennedy, the ALCS MVP. "But we definitely won't be comfortable. Last year was great, but we want to do it again."

General manager Bill Stoneman has decisions to make about his bullpen.

Left-hander Scott Schoeneweis is adamant about starting again, and lefty Al

Levine was left off the postseason roster in favor of rookie Francisco Rodriguez — whose first four big league victories came in October.

"I'm sure it'll be tough to knock Frankie off the 25-man roster," Stoneman said. "He's got a leg up on a lot of people as a result of what he showed us at the end of the season and in the postseason. But we go to spring training to sort those things out. There is never a promise that a job is permanent."

Stoneman has no plans to trade Schoeneweis.

"Performance-wise, he did much better out of the bullpen than he did as a starter and fit into the team well. So I don't anticipate moving him," Stoneman said. "Hey, if Schoney will be as unhappy in '03 as he was for the second half of '02, I'll take it."

The World Series video, which went on sale Tuesday in VHS and DVD, is 1 hour and 39 minutes long. But the time flew by for Glaus, Kennedy, reliever Brendan Donnelly and closer Troy Percival, who viewed it for the first time Monday night at the Downtown Disney complex.

"You get so caught up in staying focused during the World Series and not getting too excited. So you need to watch it on video to appreciate what you've really done. It's pretty special," said Kennedy, who put the Angels into the Series with three home runs in the ALCS clincher.

Lakers activate Madsen, Walker on injured list

By The Associated Press

EL SEGUNDO — The Los Angeles Lakers activated forward Mark Madsen on Tuesday and made room for him on their roster by placing forward/center Samaki Walker on the injured list.

Madsen was placed on the injured list Oct. 28 because of a strained left hamstring and missed the Lakers' first 14 games of the season.

Walker strained his lower back during Sunday night's 111-99 victory over Milwaukee. The six-year veteran is averaging 8.1 points, 8.3 rebounds and 1.5 blocked shots in 14 games.

DID YOU KNOW?:

The record for the most Olympic medals ever won is held by Soviet gymnast Larissa Latynina. Competing in three Olympics, between 1956 and 1964, she won 18 medals.

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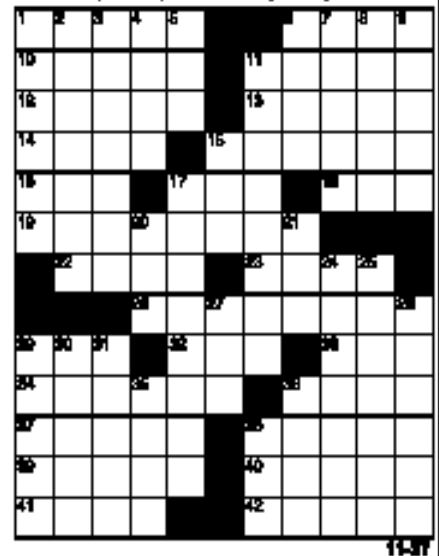
- ACROSS**
- 1 Baja bye-bye
 - 6 "Non-sense"
 - 10 Hill of comedy
 - 11 Writer Levi
 - 12 Rod of tennis
 - 13 Inert gas
 - 14 Keats works
 - 15 Like books for drivers
 - 16 Flowing need
 - 17 Truck part
 - 18 Homer's neighbor
 - 19 Gave too many stars to
 - 22 Harvest
 - 23 Friend of Rachel
 - 26 Moved like birds
 - 29 Hound hand
 - 32 Oolong, e.g.
 - 33 Vulgar
 - 34 Turkish peak
 - 35 Stand
 - 37 Kingly
 - 38 Asian land
 - 39 Misnomer feature
 - 40 Clear
 - 41 Opposite of avoc
 - 42 Ship poles
- DOWN**
- 1 Like spring gardens
 - 2 Radio no-no
 - 3 Opposite
 - 4 Small billie
 - 5 Lab. neighbor
 - 6 Homer's son
 - 7 Church fixture
 - 8 Sliding
 - 9 Sharpened
 - 11 Aussie city
 - 15 Stable bit
 - 17 Big letters
 - 20 Eve's male
 - 21 Dennis Quaid thriller
 - 24 Zebra feature
 - 25 Natural seasoning
 - 27 Abain
 - 28 Live

TANKS	CAPER
UBOAT	ASONE
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EVE	LEE TAE
REBALEB	IRA
LED	PEBB
CATER	PUREE
AVEC	DAR
RON	PETROCK
ACT	AGE LEI
CAPITOLHILL	
ADIOS	LEVEL
SONNY	ARABB

Yesterday's answer

- 20 Eve's male
- 21 Dennis Quaid thriller
- 24 Zebra feature
- 25 Natural seasoning
- 27 Abain
- 28 Live
- 29 Urban space
- 30 Concert alla
- 31 Kid's transport
- 32 "Doggone"
- 33 Singer
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Office that gave visas to 9-11 hijackers awarded for 'outstanding performance'

In October, the State Department awarded a \$15,000 "outstanding performance" bonus to the head of the office that permitted 13 of the 19 Sept. 11 hijackers to enter the country via expedited U.S. visas. Mary Ryan, who retired in September after a 36-year tenure (reportedly eased out after she defended her "visa express" program even after Sept. 11), received the award specifically for the 12-month period beginning April 2001. The express program, which was spearheaded by the U.S. Consul General in Riyadh, Thomas Furey (who also got a bonus), allowed Saudi nationals to apply over the Internet without ever being seen by a U.S. official.

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Classified Advertising Conditions :REGULAR RATE: \$2.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. **PREMIUMS:** First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. **TYPOS:** Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. **DEADLINES:** 4:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 4:00 p.m. **PAYMENT:** All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. **CORRESPONDENCE:** To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310)458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. 202. **OTHER RATES:** For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310)458-7737.

CLASSIFIEDS



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THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE. Swedish, Accupressure, Deep-tissue, Sports Massage, Reflexology. For apt call Tracy at (310)435-0657.

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

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

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Personals

FINANCIAL SECURE 70 seeking 50 plus, petite, secure lady for companion, travel, hiking, homelife. (310)452-3131.

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Calendar

Wednesday, November 27, 2002

movies

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

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
The Ring (PG-13) 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:20. Punch-Drunk Love (R) 11:45, 2:15, 4:50, 7:30, 10:15. Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (PG) 9:30, 12:00, 1:00, 3:30, 4:30, 7:00, 8:00, 10:30. Extreme Ops 11:30, 2:00, 4:45, 7:35, 10:10. Friday After Next (R) 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:25.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Santa Clause 2 (G) 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 9:55. 8 Mile (R) 2:25, 5:10, 8:00, 10:45. Treasure Planet (PG) 12:00, 1:45, 2:30, 4:10, 4:55, 6:40, 7:15, 9:00, 9:40. Die Another Day (PG-13) 1:10, 1:55, 4:15, 5:00, 7:25, 8:10, 10:30, 11:10. Adam Sandler's Eight Crazy Nights (PG-13) 12:10, 2:15, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45.

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

Laemmle Monica
1332 2nd St.
Real Women Have Curves (PG-13) 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00. The Fourth Tenor 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15. The Quiet American (R) 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40. El Cimen del Padre Amaro (R) 1:30, 4:20, 7:15, 10:05.

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
Femme Fatale 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Today

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

Puppetolio! presented by the Santa Monica Puppet & Magic Center. All ages, 3 and up. This musical revue features marionettes, ventriloquism, magic and more. Shows are always followed by a demonstration, Q & A, and a tour of the Puppet workshop and Museum. Saturdays and Sundays at 1pm and 3pm. Wednesdays and Holidays at 1pm. Seats are \$6.50. 1255 2nd Street in Santa Monica. Reservations/Information (310)656-0483. www.puppetmagic.com Santa Monica Public Library presents Preschool Story Time, every Wednesday at 11:15am, 1343 Sixth Street. Stories for children between the ages of three and five who are ready to participate on their own. (310)458-8600

Dodd Art Gallery showing Dafne Nesti "Paintings" and Dodd Jolsapple "New

Works". Nov. 17th through Dec. 16th, 5pm to 8pm, 1650 20th Street, Santa Monica. For more information please call (310) 828-5825.

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

Ongoing support groups for people 55 and older. Current openings in Parents of Adult Children. Wednesdays 2:00 to 3:30. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical

Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Unurban Coffee House presents Poetry and Spoken Word every Wednesday evening. Hosted by Tony Perez. 8pm, 3301 Pico Blvd. (310)315-0056

Thursday

Come practice at SUNSET YOGA, overlooking the Pacific! "Integral Hatha Yoga" every Thursday from 7:15-9pm. Mixed levels. Donations only. Please bring a mat and towel. Located at 1450 Ocean Ave. between Santa Monica Blvd. and Broadway. For more information contact skinnybuddahboy@hotmail.com

Ongoing support groups for people 55 and older. Current openings in Men's Group. Thursdays, 11:15 to 12:45. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

Dharma at the Clubhouse. A weekly

book and multi-media study group, no fee. Applying studies of Buddhism-Dharma into our daily lives. Every Thursday night at the Clubhouse at Douglas Park, 25th & Wilshire. 7:30 to 9pm. Dan (310) 451-4368 www.santa-monicakksg.org

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

O'Briens Irish Pub, 2941 Main St., Santa Monica, pours A Pint of Funny, every Thurs., 8 p.m. FREE! (310)396-4725.

Unurban Coffee House presents Comedy Crunch every Thursday evening. Showtime is 7pm. 3301 Pico Blvd. (310)315-0056

Gotham Hall presents Comedy Night! Featuring professional stand-ups. Every Thursday, 1431 3rd St. Promenade, 8pm. Admission is \$5 + 2 item minimum. 21 and over. (323)525-5254

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

KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

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



BACK PAGE

Millionaire urges billionaire not to invest in Burger King

BY BARRY BEDLAN
Associated Press Writer

OMAHA, Neb. — Millionaire cholesterol fighter Phil Sokolof is urging billionaire investor Warren Buffett to not purchase the Burger King chain, no matter how appetizing the deal may look.

Sokolof, an Omaha businessman who has spent millions of dollars urging people to stay away from fatty food, ran an open-letter ad Tuesday addressing Buffett, who also lives in Omaha.

"Buying a mammoth business whose incredibly high-calorie, horribly high-fat foods lead to obesity, diabetes and heart disease would be unconscionable for a man of your stature," Sokolof wrote.

The ad appeared in the Omaha World-Herald's Tuesday morning editions and Sokolof said he planned to run it again, possible expanding to other publications.

Berkshire Hathaway Inc., the Omaha-based company headed by Buffett, has been mentioned as one of the possible bidders for the Miami-based Burger King, which is being sold by its parent company, Diageo PLC of London.

Buffett's office did not return a call

seeking comment Tuesday. In recent weeks, he and other Berkshire officials have refused to comment on what they described as "only speculation."

Sokolof's ad said buying Burger King would compromise Buffett's integrity and soil the image of Berkshire Hathaway.

"I respect Warren and I know that if he gets a hold of Burger King that he will run with it and it will become even more successful, which means, in essence, more people will die from eating that food," Sokolof said Tuesday.

Burger King's vice president of corporate communications, Rob Doughty, did not immediately return a call seeking comment Tuesday.

Sokolof, 80, had the first of two heart attacks when he was 43, and he now leads the National Heart Savers Association. He said he has spent \$15 million of his wealth, earned by building a company that made products for the drywall industry, in his campaign against cholesterol and fat.

Buffett, one of the country's richest men, created Omaha-based Berkshire Hathaway more than 35 years ago. Buying at low prices into well-known, solid companies, Buffett built it into a

huge conglomerate.

Berkshire Hathaway owns Dairy Queen and holds shares in McDonald's.

While those fast-food holdings also concern Sokolof, he said he thinks Burger King food is even more unhealthy.

McDonald's to be accepting plastic as early as next year

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO — McDonald's wants to make your fast food even faster by letting you put a burger and fries on your credit card.

Card processing equipment will be installed beginning next year, and up to a quarter of McDonald's 13,300 U.S. restaurants should get the technology by the middle of 2003, a spokesman said Tuesday.

"It is ultimately about speed of service," spokesman Bill Whitman said. "The target for service time is 90 seconds or less, and this is going to shave some time off of that."

The move was first reported in The Wall Street Journal.

Introducing credit cards at McDonald's has taken longer than it has for other industries because of concerns that cards could slow service. McDonald's tested numerous cashless options for at least two years.

McDonald's said that with the technology it is installing, a customer should be able to place an order, swipe his or her credit card and get approval in four to five seconds, with no signature needed.

That is about half the time of a cash transaction.

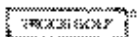
DID YOU KNOW?: Thanksgiving was held twice in 1815.

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