

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Mary McGuire and Buck Havelind help JJ Design jewelry get in to the holiday spirit by stringing white lights on the Montana Avenue shop's awning Wednesday.

Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Being laid-off has its rewards

First ones fired are first ones on the job, city ordinance says

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Special to the Daily Press

As the economy improves, hundreds of recently unemployed workers want their jobs back and city officials intend to make sure they get them.

A new ordinance passed Tuesday night by the Santa Monica City Council mandates that large businesses must first attempt to rehire any employees laid off stemming from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and the recession.

"In our community we believe the

economy must work for everyone," said Santa Monica Mayor Mike Feinstein. "Residents, owners and workers alike must have rights."

But businesses reeling from the recession say they should have control over who they hire, not elected officials.

"This ordinance is stunning to me because they are forcing companies to hire in the order they made layoffs, but companies are going to have to refocus their business practices," said Kathryn Dodson, the executive director of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. "Only those businesses know who they are going to need in order to get back on a good economic footing."

See LAYOFFS, page 3

Capitalism failing on the mall, city officials say

City council plans to change the 'face' of Promenade

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Special to the Daily Press

Capitalism isn't working on the Third Street Promenade, so the Santa Monica City Council plans to step in and give restaurants more breathing room on a mall which is choked with chain retail stores.

For the past two years the city has grappled with ways of keeping cash-strapped small businesses and restaurants competitive with nationwide retailers willing to pay exuberant rents for long-

term leases.

The ensuing space crunch and skyrocketing rents has forced locally owned stores and eateries to migrate off the Promenade, changing the face of the community's main commerce mecca, city officials say.

"If it swings too far out of balance not only will the Promenade be hurt but a lot of the rest of the downtown as well," said Santa Monica Mayor Michael Feinstein, "and also the entire city's economy because the Promenade is (our) primary draw."

But local business officials disagree. The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce has voted to oppose the city's efforts to regulate the Promenade.

"Primarily, we are very concerned there are businesses that are not making it along the Promenade and we feel this might scare away any potential businesses that want to move there," said Kathryn Dodson, the chamber's executive director. "The timing (of the moratorium) will be extended and that's problematic by itself, but when you tell businesses you are going to prevent development in this area, they are only going to go someplace else."

In order to clot the hemorrhaging of restaurants on the Promenade, the city voted Tuesday night to not allow leases currently held by restaurants to be changed to retail purposes. This, say city officials, will temporarily put a stop to

further degradation of the mall.

So far the council has only temporarily suspended businesses from changing, but a permanent ordinance could be passed at the next council meeting. A task force consisting of residents, elected officials, city administration and business owners to investigate further regulation will be appointed by the end of December.

"I would prefer this would come from the business owners," said Councilmember Kevin McKeown. "But the city has an interest here because the Promenade is more than a shopping place, it's also the civic heart of the community."

Unlike privately owned shopping malls where a central owner determines the bal-

See MALL, page 3

Rich looking women may be targets for robbers

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

If you look like you have money, chances are you'll be noticed.

That's what happened to a Brentwood woman Monday evening after she walked out of a Montana Avenue boutique and was robbed at gunpoint.

At about 6:30 p.m., a black man,

described as 5 foot, 10 inches tall, in his 20s, approached the victim while she was sitting in her car in the Fireside Plaza parking lot behind Peets Coffee and Wild Oats market between 14th and 15th Streets on Montana Avenue.

The suspect shoved a handgun into her stomach and demanded all of her property. The suspect, wearing a black jacket

and black pants, fled on foot with an undisclosed amount of jewelry. The woman was reportedly with her two children and their nanny.

A sales representative at the fashion boutique where the victim was shopping said she came in immediately after the robbery and called police.

"It was awful," she said, asking for her

and the store not to be identified. "Police said they may have been following her. Like a gang looking for rich people. They were stalking her."

Montana Avenue is to Santa Monica what Rodeo Drive is to Beverly Hills — high-end, swanky stores lining the streets with rich shoppers. It's not really a place

See ROBBERY, page 3

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LAURA CAVANAUGH

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Lay low when others do uproar. Your instinct will be to tell someone off. What purpose do you think that will ultimately fulfill? Decide how to insulate yourself and your work from such situations. Curb another's spending if possible. You can only try. Tonight: Get together with a loved one.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Unexpected developments turn your concentration to a higher-up or boss. You know what you want, but dealing with this person will require all of your Taurean charm, desirability and logic. Don't worry, your common sense is noticed even if they won't admit it. Tonight: Play the night away.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Quiet down and say little, as difficult as that might be for the verbal Gemini. Take in news from others, but also check it out. You might not be getting hard facts. Subtly verify information. Extremes mark work and emotions. Tonight: Vanish with a favorite person.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Unexpected financial developments come your way. Don't let someone's irritation or pushing get to you. Deal with strangers with care, as if you were walking on eggshells. Your interactions dance along the edge. Enjoy yourself with friends, loved ones and co-workers. Tonight: Where the maddening crowds are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Stay in charge when others fall apart. You find someone's behavior a bit touchy or difficult. You don't need to deal with this person, but you choose to do so just the same. A family member tries to make up for a problem. Bathe in their attention. Tonight: Work late.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Your vision of what might be appropriate at work or when organizing a holiday gathering doesn't conform to someone else's ideas. As a result, there could be fireworks. Slow down and realize it might be best to indulge someone. Your gentle ways win the day. Tonight: Enjoy yourself to the max!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Deal on a one-on-one level with those around you. Though a child or a loved one could be creating his share of uproar, proceed in a caring and direct manner. Use your creativity to find agreeable solutions for all those involved. Money proves to be a bone of contention. Tonight: Treat a dear friend. Indulge and delight this person.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Your family presents many options. Carry this sense of creativity and energy into your day. Perhaps you don't realize how much you inspire those around you. Someone puts his feelings on the line. Allow yourself to be more vulnerable with this person. Tonight: Defer to another.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ What you hear could be quite a jolt. Work stresses you, and you might not be able to stay focused. Don't swallow your anger. Let someone know just how you feel. Extremes punctuate your efforts when dealing with those around you. Tonight: Pace yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Check your balance and make sure everything in your monetary world is as you believe it to be. Your instincts lead you to make strong financial decisions. Someone else might feel a lot differently than you do. Tap into your creativity when choosing a present for a loved one. Tonight: Go out and enjoy yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ A boss or an authority figure could be surprised by your reaction, or vice versa. Talk about your aspirations together. You might actually be more alike than you realize. Indulge a family member or make a purchase that makes your domestic life cozier. Tonight: Hang in there.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Speak your mind. Express your ideas and perhaps a dream you have kept to yourself. You might experience an unexpected, strong reaction to someone. Pick and choose your words with care. Someone's overtures touch you deeply. Let this person know. Tonight: Where the action is!



WEATHER

Today ... Rain with a high of 57°F. Winds from the South Southeast at 11mph.

Tonight ... Showers with a low of 46°F. Winds from the West Northwest at 6mph.

Tomorrow ... Partly Cloudy High—60°F Low—43°F



QUOTE of the DAY

"It's important to remember that during times like these, there are times like these."

— Paul Harvey

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LOCAL



Mall the main source of commerce for Santa Monica

MALL, from page 1

ance between retail and restaurants, the Promenade operates under the devices of an open market, with landlords leasing to the highest bidder.

"When there is a public-private partnership like we have on the Promenade, exactly where the line is drawn is going to shift over time," said Feinstein. "We intervene only as necessary, but when necessary we will intervene and (now) it is the appropriate time."

But business owners say shoppers are the ones who should make the decision which stores to patronize on the Promenade and not the city.

"The city is trying to predetermine which stores will be successful on the Promenade," Dodson said. "The shoppers who go to those stores should pick which businesses should be successful, but instead of letting the consumers make those selections, the council is trying to do that for us."

In the past, the city enacted regulations when too many restaurants dominated the Promenade and there was scarce retail. Now,

they say, a similar plan needs to be devised to rescue the restaurants.

"The goal, I would think, is to develop policies that achieve and maintain the appropriate uses of the Promenade and the surrounding district, said Councilmember Ken

"The city is trying to predetermine which stores will be successful on the Promenade."

— KATHRYN DODSON
Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce

Genser. "My sense is that there would have to be some regulation to 'incentivize' the property owners to participate in such a district."

Chamber opposes city's effort to re-hire the fired

LAYOFFS, from page 1

Feinstein also said the first employees fired when the economy turned south were those trying to organize local unions. The ordinance is aimed to protect free speech as much as ensure economic justice.

"Here was a case where we were concerned that the 9-11 events were being used to let go or cut pay of workers who had chosen to express their free speech rights and organ-

— have been hit the worst," said Councilman Kevin McKeown. "Business is coming back, and it's coming back faster and stronger than we anticipated, and as it comes back, we just want to make sure employees that were there for years get first dibs on their old jobs."

Dodson said using earnings from last year's robust economy is an unfair benchmark.

"Any company that made \$5 million last year, which was a very good year, will be hurt by this," she said.

Representatives from Loews and Merigot hotels were unavailable for comment, but Loews representatives have previously expressed support of the measure.

Opponents of the measure say even though occupancy rates have returned to near normal levels since September, the hotel rates have remained below market rate.

The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce has voted to oppose the city's ordinance. Chamber officials said the measure will only further injure local businesses trying to recover from the first economic recession in more than a decade.

"There is really no (legal) precedent for this, as the city attorney herself said at the council meeting," Dodson said. "This could hurt the economy and drive away business."

"What I think is happening to the hotels is that the occupancy rates are coming up but not the room rates," said Councilman Ken Genser. "The city's taxes are going to be much lower than usual this year."

Genser said although he was troubled by the legality of the city's new law, he feels it was the proper move.

"There are legitimate questions whether the city has the right to legislate something like this. But when I looked in my gut, I felt these are hardworking people whose lives were turned upside down due to no fault of their own," he said. "My feeling was that we should try to help these people get their jobs back."

"My feeling was that we should try to help these people get their jobs back."

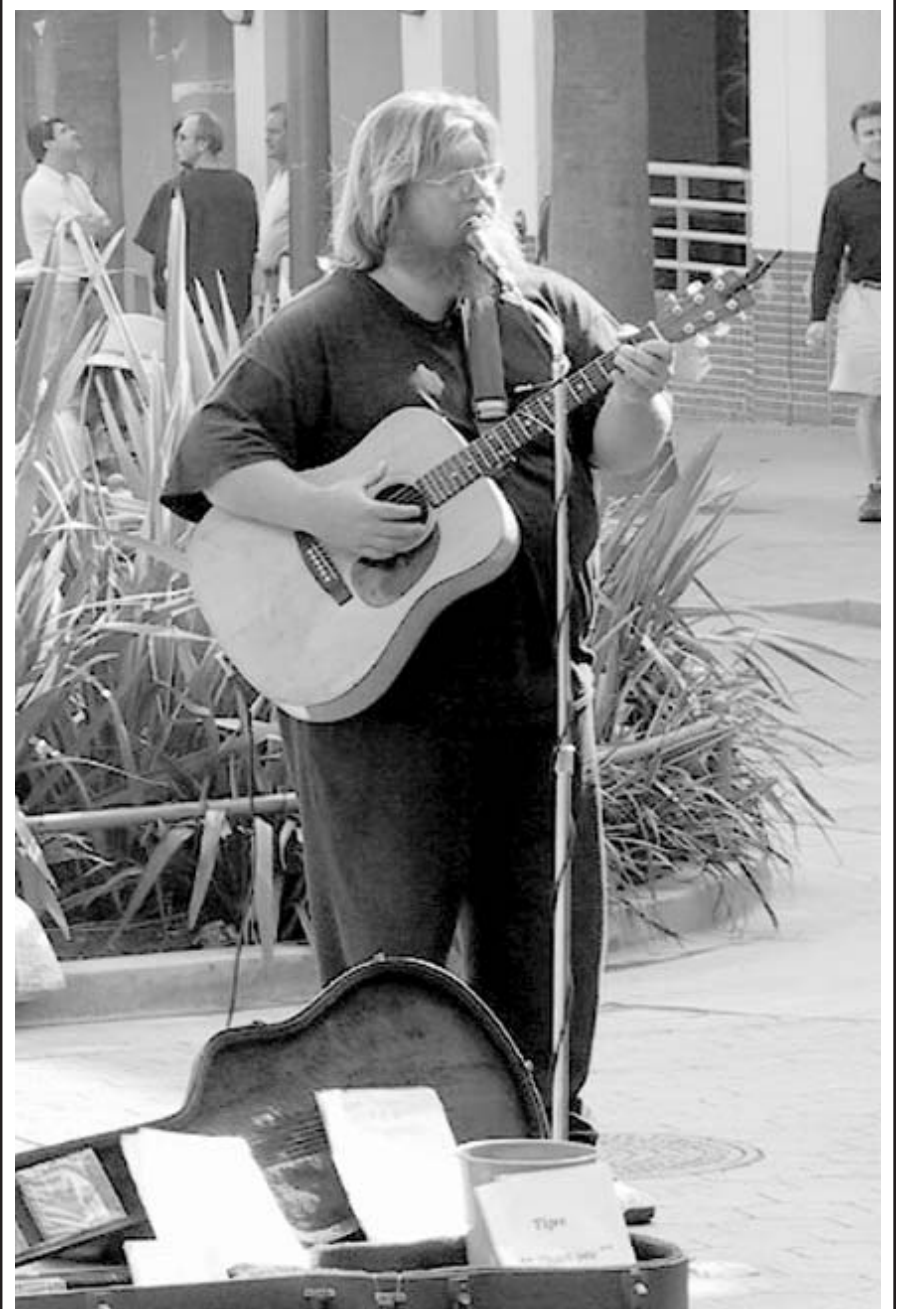
— KEN GENSER
Santa Monica City Councilman

ize in the work place," he said. "In addition to the social justice angles and free speech angles, we want to be seen as a good city to work in and to protect the seasoned and knowledgeable workforce here."

Dodson would not comment on Feinstein's statement except to say, "I have seen no facts whatsoever about that."

Businesses that generate revenues in excess of \$5 million a year and cut large numbers of workers after the attacks must first send a letter to the last known address of past employees inviting them back to work before they hire anyone new. If no response is made after 10 business days, new employees may be hired.

"Primarily those employees at hotels and restaurants — the ones dependent on tourism



Dan Dunn/Daily Press

A singer performs on the Third Street Promenade one recent afternoon.

Montana shoppers on alert

ROBBERY, from page 1

where armed robberies occur every day. But now store workers and shoppers must have their guards up.

The parking lot where the robbery occurred is well lit and has parking attendants stationed there until 5 p.m. The boutique staffer said she has asked the property owners to put even more lights in the back of the store, as well as asking the parking attendants to stay longer into the night, as a result of the robbery.

"Women need to dress low key. They see a rich lady with all kinds of jewelry on and nice clothes, they are going to notice her," the boutique worker said. "They look in the rich places, not the poor places."



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

The parking lot where the armed robbery occurred Monday.

Looking for the Daily Press?

The Santa Monica Daily Press is a free newspaper that is circulated throughout all six commercial zones within the Santa Monica city limits.

Hundreds of copies can be found in news racks at these local businesses:

Santa Monica Boulevard Locations:

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- Coin Laundry
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STATE



Associated Press

Actress-model Rebecca Gayheart, former "Beverly Hills 90210" star, wipes a tear from her eye as she stands with her attorney Harlan Braun during a court hearing Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2001, in Los Angeles. Gayheart who pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor count of vehicular manslaughter in the death of a nine-year-old boy she struck with her car in June, was sentenced to three years of probation and a \$1,000 fine. Her driver's license was also suspended, and she will be required to produce an education video.

AIDS activists arrested for harrassing reporters

By the Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Police arrested two AIDS activists Wednesday for allegedly stalking and threatening newspaper reporters and Public Health Department workers.

David Pasquarelli, 34, and Michael Petrelis, 42, were arrested on suspicion of conspiracy, stalking, terrorist threats and annoying electronic communications, according to San Francisco police.

Newspaper employees said the men made dozens of obscene and threatening phone calls earlier this month to their homes and at work. A bomb threat also was made to the San Francisco Chronicle's offices.

Judge James Robertson II issued a temporary restraining order against Pasquarelli and Petrelis two weeks ago after they allegedly made threatening telephone calls to editors and reporters at the Chronicle.

The two were taken into custody Wednesday after appearing in court to respond to that temporary restraining order.

In addition to the other charges, police Lt. Henry Hunter said Pasquarelli was charged with violating the restraining order.

Lawyers for the Chronicle said the activists apparently were angry about two stories published last month in the newspaper.

One was based on a study by the University of California at San Francisco documenting the increase in unsafe sex practices among gay men in San Francisco. The other focused on statistics from the city's Department of Public Health showing increases in the rates of syphilis among the city's gay and bisexual men.

Police say the men also threatened reporters at the Bay Area Reporter and workers at the health department.

Pasquarelli is a member of the AIDS dissident group ACT UP-San Francisco, which repeatedly has clashed with mainstream AIDS organizations over its belief that HIV does not cause AIDS.

Smokers snuffed at LA parks

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Smoking could be banned in many areas of city parks.

A City Council committee on Tuesday recommended Councilwoman Jan Perry's proposal to ban smoking in areas where large crowds and children gather, such as athletic facilities, large picnic areas and playgrounds.

"This sort of behavior or activity can be a source of litter and pollution. I am also very concerned about role-modeling and causing children to be in situations where they may pick up something and

become sick or burned," Perry said.

The measure was aimed specifically at areas where there are large gatherings of people and children, such as athletic events. Smoking would still be allowed in other areas, such as at individual benches and picnic tables.

The council's Arts, Health and Humanities Committee passed the measure with little debate and no public opposition, sending the proposal to the full council for consideration at a later date.

The city has nearly 400 parks spanning 15,500 acres.

INTERNATIONAL



Tenth Mountain Division build forces in desert

BY KATHY GANNON

Associated Press Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban's supreme leader radioed his commanders Wednesday and called on them to fight to the death against Americans in southern Afghanistan, where U.S. Marines were building up their forces at a desert base.

In Washington, U.S. officials said a small group of soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division has assembled outside the northern Afghan city of Mazar-e-Sharif to serve as a quick-reaction force in the event of renewed Taliban resistance. The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the deployment comprised no more than two dozen soldiers. One official said the numbers might be increased.

The 10th Mountain Division had about 1,000 of its soldiers providing security at an air base across the border in southern Uzbekistan for several weeks, the officials said.

Also in the north, anti-Taliban forces began clearing the bodies of hundreds of fighters loyal to Osama bin Laden killed during a three-day prison uprising near Mazar-e-Sharif.

U.S. officials confirmed that CIA officer Johnny M. Spann was killed in the uprising — the first American combat death of the war against terrorism.

The Pentagon said Wednesday that U.S. airstrikes damaged a compound near the Taliban's last stronghold, Kandahar, believed used by senior figures from the Taliban or bin Laden's al-Qaida movement. It was unclear if any were killed.

Pentagon spokeswoman Victoria Clarke said a "confluence of intelligence" indicated that senior Taliban leaders were in the building, including supreme leader Mullah Mohammed Omar, but "we do not have any sense Omar was there."

However, the Pakistan-based South Asian Dispatch Agency quoted a Taliban spokesman, Mullah Abdul Wahab Khairkhwah, as saying Omar was "not too far" from the site when the attack occurred late Tuesday.

The agency quoted an unidentified Taliban official as

saying Omar was whisked away at the last moment when militia counterintelligence noted the presence of two men suspected of working for the Americans.

"I think Tuesday was the last day for these two men," the official was quoted as saying.

On Wednesday, the Taliban's supreme leader told his commanders to hold fast.

"Stick to your positions and fight to the death," Taliban official Hafiz Majidullah quoted Omar as saying. "We are ready to face these Americans. We are happy that they have landed here and we will teach them a lesson."

At the Pentagon, Rear Adm. John Stufflebeem acknowledged that top Taliban leaders were still issuing orders, but said describing them as "still firmly in control would be an overstatement."

"Stick to your positions and fight to the death."

— MULLAH MOHAMMED OMAR
Taliban supreme leader

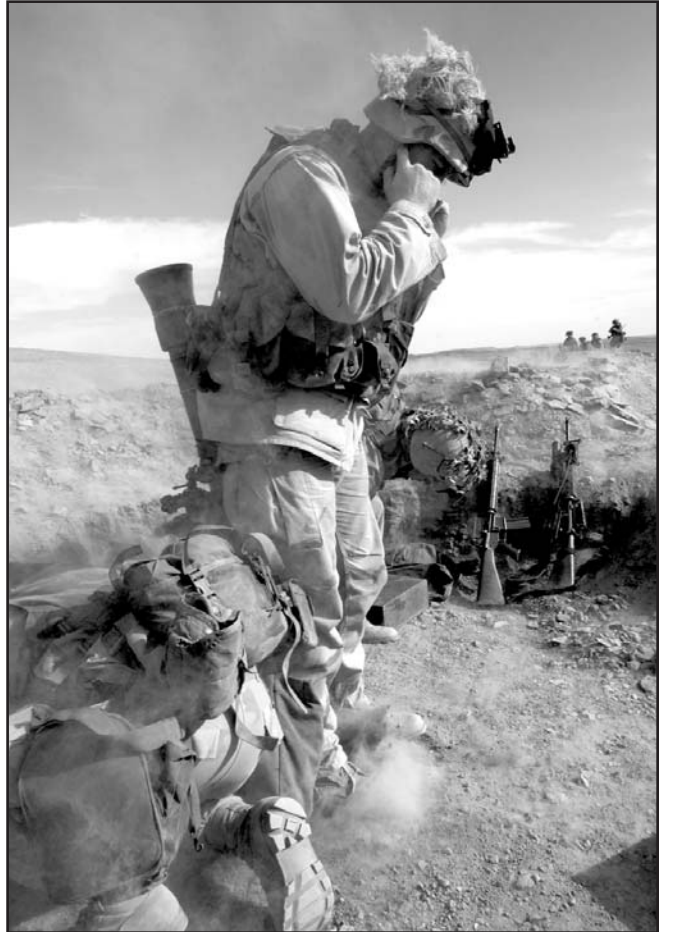
"I think they have much less control than they have had in the past because they have much less access, again, to some of these intermediate leaders and to those forces," he said Wednesday.

In the south, the Taliban leadership is trying to rally support as Pashtun tribal leaders seek to convince lower-ranking militia members to abandon the movement.

However, efforts to lure away Taliban support have been slow, in part because of tribal rivalry in the region of Afghanistan where the Islamic movement was organized in the early 1990s.

In the southern border town of Spinboldak, Taliban negotiators broke off talks Wednesday with Pashtun tribesmen about a possible surrender there after the non-Taliban negotiators refused to guarantee the safety of Arabs loyal to bin Laden.

"We're waiting for another invitation from the Taliban for resuming talks since we don't want a war," tribal official Mohammed Anwar said. "If they don't resume talks, then we will have to take the town by force."



Jim Hollander/Associated Press

A U.S. Marine cover his ears, another crouches, left, while a third, unseen, fires an 81mm mortar round from the perimeter of the Marines forward base in southern Afghanistan on Wednesday.

Bush, Aznar leave extradition differences unresolved

BY RON FOURNIER

AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — President Bush and Spain's prime minister set aside their differences Wednesday about U.S. military tribunals for terrorist trials, focusing instead on joint efforts to battle Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network.

On a day of wartime diplomacy, Bush also said the military conflict in Afghanistan has hurt international efforts to feed starving Afghan civilians. "We have difficulties reaching the needy," the president said during a White House meeting with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

He met separately with Annan and Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar as Afghan factions gathered in Germany for negotiations aimed at crafting a new multi-ethnic Afghanistan government to replace the Taliban.

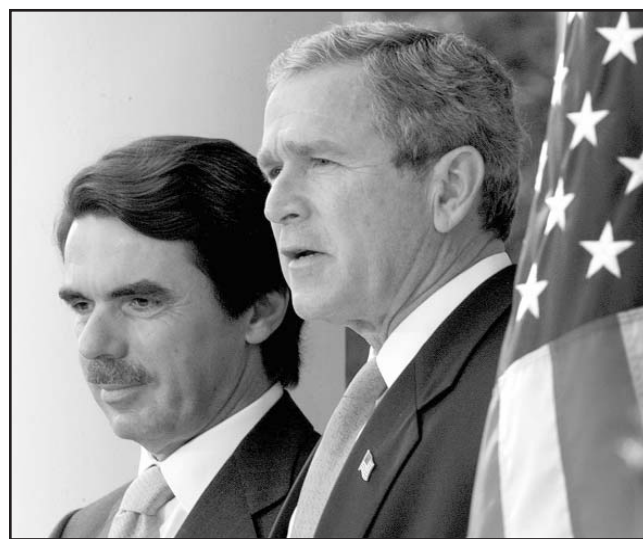
"So far, they are off to a good start," Annan told Bush in the Roosevelt Room, across the hall from the Oval Office. "I hope they will be able to settle the establishment of the government before they leave Bonn."

But even as Annan spoke, the northern alliance rejected a proposal for an international force to keep security in post-Taliban Afghanistan. The issue of security is key to U.S.-led efforts to replace the Taliban with a stable, diverse government.

In a Rose Garden appearance, Bush praised Aznar's government for the arrest of eight people suspected of helping to prepare for the Sept. 11 suicide attacks. In addition, six Algerian suspects were arrested in Spain on Sept. 26 suspected of membership in the bin Laden-financed Salafist Group for Call and Combat.

Aznar said Spain "will support all the United States' efforts" to fight terrorism.

But he did not say what the Madrid government would do if the Bush administration asked to try the suspects —



Doug Mills/Associated Press

President Bush talks to reporters in the Rose garden with Prime Minister of Spain Jose Maria Aznar following their meeting in the Oval Office on Wednesday.

either in American civilian courts or before military tribunals recently authorized by Bush. Both Democratic and Republican lawmakers have questioned how the tribunals, designed for non-citizens accused of terrorism, would affect civil liberties.

Thus far, Aznar's government has expressed opposition to extradition partly because it opposes Bush's tribunals.

"If and when the United States requests that extradition, we will study the issue," Aznar told reporters. "Any action taken on the extradition issue will be taken with full respect of Spanish and United States law."

European nations, following policy written into the European Convention on Human Rights, routinely resist

extradition for people who could face the death penalty. The United States, in order to gain extradition, normally grants assurances that people won't be executed.

Bush, a staunch supporter of the death penalty, has not formally requested the extradition of the 14 suspects. He did not raise the extradition issue or mention the tribunals in private talks with Aznar, according to White House aides.

They said Bush saw no reason to risk being turned down by Aznar, because the Justice Department has not yet determined whether extradition is necessary.

White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said the argument for extradition would be bolstered if there was evidence that the suspects committed a crime against Americans or fled the country after a crime.

Several of those in custody are believed to have given the suicide hijackers logistical support.

Spain has offered the United States use of its air space and military bases for the Afghanistan campaign. The government has committed 13 transport planes, including half the Spanish Air Force's Hercules C-130s, to take humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.

Earlier, Bush and Annan pledged to press efforts to get food to needy Afghans. "The fundamental question is, in an environment that is not very secure, how do we get the food to the people?" Bush said.

He said Afghans were starving before the Sept. 11 attacks. "Obviously, the war has aggravated the situation," he said.

In a speech to a farming group, Bush renewed his pledge to hold accountable any country that aids or harbors terrorists. On Monday, Bush added to that list any country that develops weapons of mass destruction for terrorists. The remarks were viewed as a warning to Iraq and other nations.

Fleischer said Bush stood by Monday's statement.

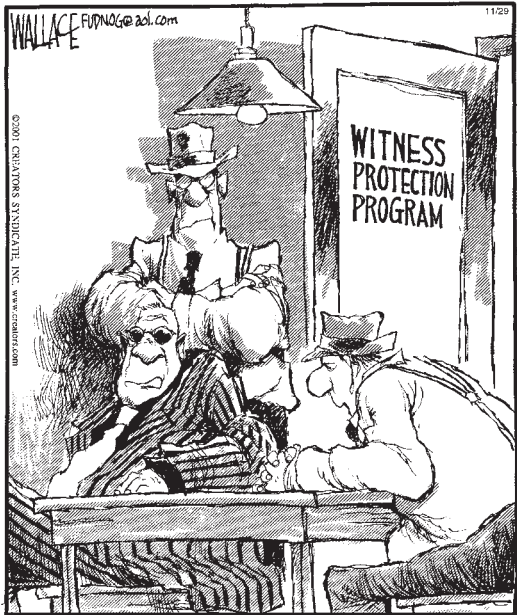


COMICS

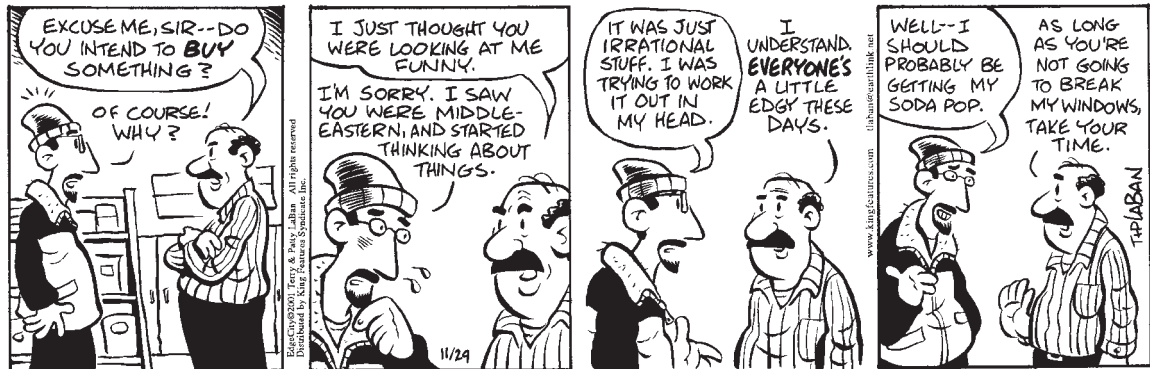
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- ACROSS
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 - 6 Aspect
 - 11 Green hue
 - 12 Angle's kin
 - 13 Walked back and forth
 - 14 Improve
 - 15 Prepares for prayer
 - 17 Dict. abbr.
 - 19 Fall veggie
 - 20 Mom's order
 - 23 Less distant
 - 25 "Look —" ("Misty" line)
 - 26 "Lost Horizon" author
 - 28 Cash register section
 - 29 Looking with anger
 - 30 Battleship letters
 - 31 Fancy planter
 - 32 Airport sight
 - 33 Ancient Greece
 - 35 Order
 - 38 Breaks, in a way
 - 41 Door-holder's phrase
 - 42 Fencing needs
 - 43 Beam creator
- 44 Editors' places
- DOWN
- 1 Music category
 - 2 In the style of
 - 3 "Super Freak" singer
 - 4 Tied
 - 5 Late flights
 - 6 Sacred song
 - 7 Radio users
 - 8 Firefighter's tool
 - 9 Heir, at times
 - 10 Football player
 - 16 Noted aviator
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 - 21 Love, Roman-style
 - 22 Belief
 - 24 Legal matter
 - 25 Everyone
 - 27 Lit
 - 31 Complete
 - 33 Pinnacle
 - 34 Superman accessory
 - 35 Wing "Traffic" grp.
 - 37 "— a girl!"
 - 39 Mouse-spotting cry
 - 40 Draft org.

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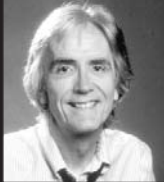
Yesterday's answer

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11-29

STUMPED?

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

The litigious society

• Dionne French filed a lawsuit in federal court in New Mexico in October over a 1998 incident, charging the Santa Fe Southern Railway and a conductor and brakeman with negligence in not stopping a train in time to avoid hitting her. French, who was homeless at the time and living near Santa Fe, admitted that she was lying on the tracks asleep, and with a brown blanket over her, but said the railroad still had the obligation to detect her presence and stop.

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BACK PAGE

ODDS & ENDS

Son of Cuomo needs geography lesson

By the Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — It looks like Andrew Cuomo, son of former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, could use some geography lessons before he gets too far along in his own run for governor.

In a Thanksgiving card to supporters, the former federal housing secretary had a list of almost six dozen things his three young daughters were thankful for. The list included "the Anthony Road winery on the shore of Lake Geneva" and "honoring Grandpa Bobby (Kennedy) with the Colonie County Dems."

The winery, as lovers of Finger Lakes wines might know, overlooks Seneca Lake. There is no Lake Geneva in the Finger Lakes, although the city of Geneva is located at the north end of Seneca Lake.

Also, none of New York's 62 counties is named Colonie. There is a town of Colonie near Albany where Democrats recently honored the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, the father of Andrew Cuomo's wife, Kerry.

Cuomo spokesman Peter Ragone blamed production errors for the mistakes.

State GOP Chairman Alexander Treadwell offered another explanation: "Andrew Cuomo obviously spent too much time in Washington." He said he was sending Cuomo a map of New York state for Christmas.

Line to public officials ripped off

By the Associated Press

KENNETT, Mo. — A lot of calls to the state office building in this southeast Missouri town have gone unanswered.

Someone stole all the phones.

Phones were also stolen over the weekend from state office buildings in the southern Missouri towns of Sikeston and West Plains.

Kennett police said 85 phones were stolen from the Division of Family Services, 30 from the Division of Workforce Development, and 20 from the Division of Aging. The stolen phones are valued at more than \$37,000.

Replacement phones were expected to arrive this week.

Police said a witness at a nearby restaurant reported seeing two men loading boxes into a white truck parked at the state building.

In West Plains, 113 phones were stolen, in the third phone theft from that state office building. In Sikeston, 19 phones were stolen.

Xmas light problems push man over the edge

By the Associated Press

VANCOUVER, Wash. — James Craig Wilson planned to spend the afternoon decorating for the holidays.

Instead, upset by mishaps with his outdoor Christmas lights, he grabbed his .45-caliber pistol and began firing into the ground behind his suburban home.

He ended up in the Clark County Jail on Sunday for investigation of reckless endangerment.

Wilson, 47, told sheriff's deputies he started getting angry when he found the lights were tangled. His wife had balled them up and tossed them in the garage after last Christmas, he said.

As he tried to unroll the string of lights in his driveway, his daughter returned home and drove over the lights.

Wilson told his wife not to be alarmed while he shot off some rounds in the back yard to let off steam. He sent his daughter across the street to tell a reserve deputy who lives there that no one had been hurt.

Soon after, five deputies arrived and arrested him.

"I thought discharging my gun would help me discharge my anger," Wilson said. "I guess I'm going to lose my concealed weapons permit."

Pastor Terry was wearing a robe

By the Associated Press

BEND, Ore. — Pastor Terry Webb never had a problem with his name until another Terri Webb decided to wear nothing but a pair of red boots to a court hearing earlier this month.

Terri Sue Webb, 26, was arrested last summer for riding her bicycle nude through downtown Bend. At an early November court hearing, she removed her clothes in front of the judge and was arrested for contempt of court.

Within a few days, 36-year-old Terry Layne Webb, a pastor at the Calvary of Cascades Church, was getting phone calls from amused fans as far away as Virginia and Canada.

Some wanted to know where Terri Webb lived. Some left messages supportive of Webb's freedom to be naked in public. All were disappointed when they realized they called the wrong person, Pastor Webb said.

"We don't have any idea who she is or any interest in getting these people in contact with her," he said.



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