

FREE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2001

Volume 1, Issue 18

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Stopped for the Holidays

SMPD is out to get drunk drivers

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Special to The Daily Press

Surprises are literally everywhere this holiday season, as the Santa Monica Police Department plans to conduct a series of random sobriety checkpoints throughout the city.

The first of four screenings scheduled for December was held Friday night, stopping 606 motorists traveling east-bound on the 600 block of Santa Monica Boulevard between the hours of 7 pm and midnight.

Fifteen SMPD officers formed a line along the boulevard's divider and checked five to six cars at a time. Motorcycle-mounted police were posted at the intersection to chase down any motorists that made traffic violations trying to avoid the checkpoint.

By the end of the night, two individuals were arrested — one for driving under the influence and the other for giving false information to a police officer.

While the primary objective was locating drivers under the influence, police were also looking for expired licenses and those driving without permits entirely.

"In California the outcome isn't necessarily more arrests of drunk drivers. The last time we did this, we only arrested three or four DUI's,"

said Lt. Frank Fabrega, the SMPD Public Information Officer. "It's mostly about general education for the public."

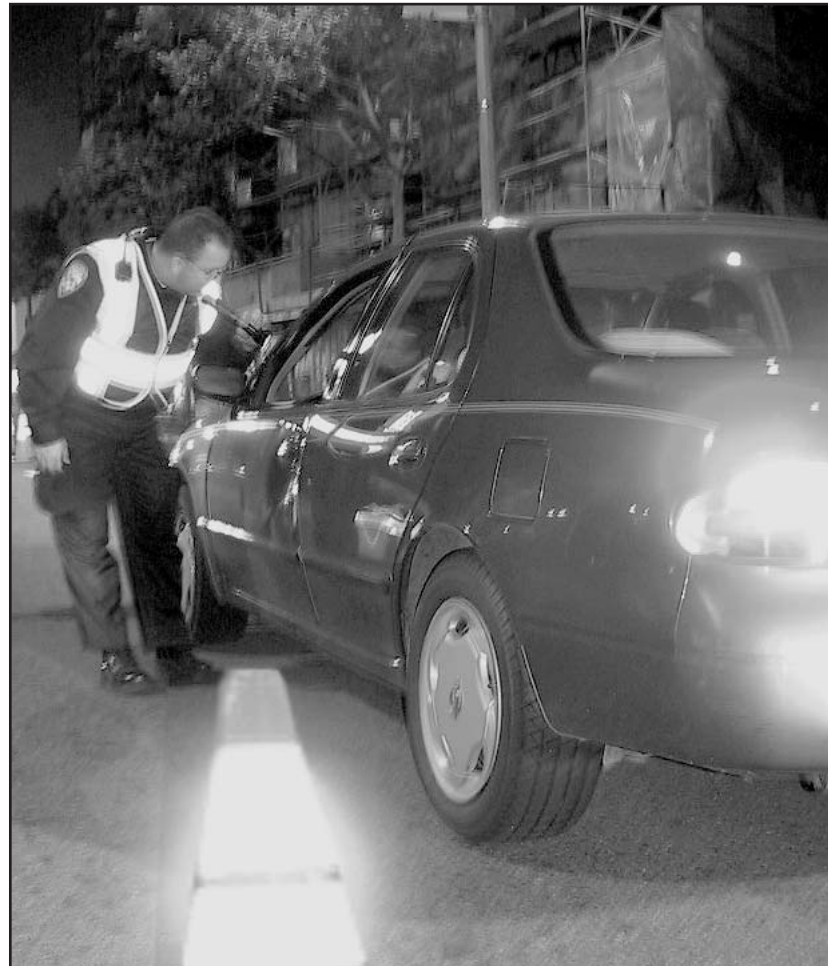
As cars were stopped, licenses were checked, and drivers were given a bag containing pamphlets and a key chain from the Los Angeles chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving — who were on hand for the check point.

"MADD works a lot with law enforcement. We offer a hand to what they do on the street," said Tina Pasco, Executive Director of MADD LA. "We try to fit in with what law enforcement is doing because both our missions are to combat underage drinking and DUI."

Pasco said that California, and especially Los Angeles County, has a high rate of drunk driving accidents compared to the national average. Last year 749 people were killed in alcohol related crashes in LA county — three in Santa Monica.

According to MADD, the incidence of drunk driving is increasing locally. Fatalities in 2000 increased by 65 deaths — almost ten percent — from the previous year. Meanwhile, the group reports that DUI arrests in California are down over three percent during the same time period.

"Population is increasing, there are more new drivers on the road, and law enforcement resources are more strained than ever," said Pasco. "People feel these days like they don't have to be as cautious. Checkpoints like this show them if you make a bad decision, there are departments out there — like Santa Monica — that are more than willing to take you off the street to make us all safe."



Andrew H. Fixmer/Special to Daily Press

A Santa Monica officer stops a motorist on the eastbound 600 block of Santa Monica Boulevard at a sobriety checkpoint. Between the hours of 7 pm and midnight, SMPD stopped 606 vehicles. Three more random screenings are scheduled for December.

Would-be Playmate loses case against Playboy

Hopeful's lawsuit touched off by missing photos

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

She's a Playboy centerfold-in-waiting — a 48-year-old woman wrapped in the body of a 21-year-old. But when Zipora Kochman wasn't selected after a photo test, she sued Santa Monica-based Playboy Studio West, claiming she was improperly touched by the photographer.

But the \$5,000 suit failed when she didn't produce any medical evidence to support her claim of emotional distress. The aftermath has left Playboy and a judge believing the case was more about sour grapes than a sour touch, and has left Kochman vaguely fearful of retribution.

At law, Kochman, of Los Angeles, couldn't sue for being rejected, although she was clearly miffed. But to even get to first base in her case claiming sexual harassment and discrimination, she would need to prove damages. Pro-tem judge Gerald Yoshida ruled in small claims court recently that she had failed to meet the burden of

proof. The amount — \$5,000 — is the maximum for a small claims action.

Kochman auditioned at Playboy Studio West in September of 2000. Playboy took several Polaroid pictures of Kochman, as well as several other women. The photo shoot was done each Thursday as part of a routine recruiting effort, said Playboy attorney Alexander Rufus-Issacs. Playboy destroys the photographs of the woman who are not selected at the end of the year, although it keeps applicants' bios on file, he said.

"At that point, she is not selected to go any further,"

Rufus-Issacs said. "So far as Playboy is concerned, it's the end of the matter."

But Kochman said she became increasingly concerned several months later about the Polaroids taken of her. She had watched a television documentary that showed how fly-by-night operators obtain photographs of women and use them improperly on the Internet and in adult magazines.

She also claimed the Playboy photographer "put me

See PLAYBOY, page 3

Husband for rent in Santa Monica

For Rent: Good man with no problems ... if price is right

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Larry Hoffing wants a lot of wives with no strings attached. And he's put together a marketing campaign to make sure he gets them.

Hoffing is available to cook, clean, shop and do whatever husbandly chores his so-called wives want him to do. But like all husbands, Hoffing comes at a price — \$25 an hour.

Hoffing been advertising to lease himself out, believing there's a market for women who need — well — a husband, but don't want the headaches and commitment that come with them.

"I think a lot of women need someone to do the

See HUSBAND, page 3

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LOCAL



Former lawyer looking to be a good 'husband'

HUSBAND, from page 1

chores," he said. "And this way, they don't have anyone to yell at for leaving the cap off the toothpaste."

Hoffing, 48, has been married to Deborah Cohen for 14 years. They have four boys together and Hoffing is the primary caregiver while Cohen goes to work each day as a health researcher for the Rand Corporation.

She welcomes more women in Hoffing's life.

"The more the merrier," she said. "I would love to lend him out."

Hoffing said he and Deborah talked about his new venture and she's willing to give him up for other needy women.

"She was somewhat surprised at first that I wanted to do this," he said. "But she really wants me to get a job."

Being a house husband with four children in school, Hoffing has a lot of time on his hands. After moving his family here from New Orleans a few months ago, Hoffing noticed a market ripe for husbands. He observed that Californians have learned the art of having other people do their errands. A good percentage of residents here hire people to cook, clean, walk their dogs, do yard work and other annoying and time-consuming errands.

Expanding on the idea from a man who started a handyman service on the East Coast, Hoffing plans to take his business beyond home repair.

"I read about this guy and I got the idea that this would be a way for me to still be close to the kids," he said. "My vision is rent a husband, plus."

Not that Hoffing hasn't gotten around. He's worked in the aerospace industry, and is a former attorney and stockbroker. Now he thinks he has found his true calling.

"I'm much more than a handyman. I can shop, help with homework, walk the dog, change light bulbs, take the trash out, do yard work, clean, do the laundry," he

said. "I wash dishes, too."

And he's had extensive on-the-job training, with references to go with it.

"My wife is really high maintenance, she's very assertive and very demanding," Hoffing said. "I've never met anyone that can top her."

Hoffing will even serve as an escort if a woman needs a date — and more. "I'll do foot massages, but that's about all."

In a place where women are high powered executives in the entertainment and tech industries, Hoffing thinks there are plenty of women out there that need a "hus-

"I looked forward to my wives calling me."

— LARRY HOFFING
Rent-a-husband

band." He says his rate, at \$25 hourly, is competitive. His market research produced dog walkers who charge \$30 an hour and handymen at \$35-\$65 an hour.

He'll take calls from husbands, too. If they want Hoffing to take over their responsibilities, he'll be happy to oblige. "They can be married to husbands who don't lift a finger," Hoffing said.

He hopes to expand the business once the idea catches on. But growth will require more husbands for the harem.

"I looked forward to my wives calling me," he said.

Cohen is hoping the business takes off as well.

"I hope he makes enough so we can hire someone to do all that for us too," she said.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Larry Hoffing will clean up after any woman. He wants to be to the perfect husband and just like any relationship, it comes at a price.

Judge: Playboy suit 'One of the stranger cases'

PLAYBOY, from page 1

on the sofa and made me spread my legs and he was touching me."

She repeatedly called Playboy Studio West in an attempt to retrieve the photos, fearful that they would end up in the wrong hands. But they had been thrown away and no one at the offices remembered who she was, Playboy officials said.

"So she decided to be a little more cunning and she makes the same appointment for auditions that she had done in September that next August," Rufus-Issacs asserted. "But she's turned down again."

He added that Kochman's sexual harassment and age discrimination claims indicate she was more upset about not being selected as a Playboy model than she was about her missing photos. He added that Kochman agreed to the release of the photos when she signed her bio sheet. Sexual harassment and age discrimination claims would cover only company employees, Rufus-Issacs said.

"Really there is no legal basis for any of her claims," he said. "She doesn't appear to have suffered any damage aside from not appearing in Playboy. People do not have a right to appear in Playboy."

Kochman believes she is Playboy material, insisting "I look like a movie star and I have the body of a 21 year old." But, she added, "these people are so big and I'm the little person."

Her claim that the Playboy photographer touched her inappropriately during the audition didn't fly with probem judge Yoshida. Though her damages were limited to an assertion that she felt "very uncomfortable," Yoshida noted that she had agreed to be photographed in that manner. He agrees that the case was probably nothing more than sour grapes for not being selected by Playboy.

"I asked her for receipts for medical bills and medication as a result of the emotional distress," he said. "But she couldn't provide any."

"She felt she was a very attractive woman in spite of her age and she felt she should have been selected," he said, adding she did a sort of mock pose for him during her hour-long testimony. "But the fact of the matter

was she didn't do anything about the photographs until nine months later when she saw the television show.

"She didn't prove her case well enough," he said. "It

was one of the stranger cases I've seen."

Playboy's Rufus-Issacs said he viewed the suit as a nuisance action.



2001 Town Hall Meeting

Santa Monica Disability Community Accessibility Committee (DCAC)

"The mission of the DCAC is to help improve the quality of life for people with disabilities in Santa Monica by prioritizing issues of concern and advising the City Council Staff on those issues, as well as recommending ways to maximize participation of people with disabilities in all facets of city life and increase awareness of the abilities, rights and issues of people of disabilities throughout the community."

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Place: | Santa Monica Main Library Auditorium
1343 6th Street, Santa Monica |
| Date: | December 3, 2001 |
| Time: | 6:30pm — 8:30pm |
| Topics: | ☐ The City's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) transition plan and ADA self-evaluation update
☐ The future of the DCAC
☐ What works and what doesn't work in the city for people with disabilities
☐ Your top priorities and concerns for people with disabilities in Santa Monica |

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STATE

John Wayne Airport to investigate tire blowouts

By the Associated Press

SANTA ANA — Officials at Orange County's John Wayne Airport have asked the Federal Aviation Administration to investigate why Delta Airlines jets have blown tires while landing at the airport nine times since 1998.

The rate of blowouts at John Wayne is extremely high, aviation experts said. All nine incidents involved Boeing MD-90s, a mid-size jet that holds up to 150 passengers.

"Because of the apparent high rate of tire blowouts/failure during landings at John Wayne Airport for Delta MD-90s compared to other aircraft, I feel that the matter warrants review by your office," Airport Director Alan L. Murphy wrote to the FAA earlier this week.

The letter was reported in the Orange County Register on Saturday and the Los Angeles Times on Sunday.

The latest blowout incident occurred Nov. 24. The blowouts have caused no injuries, but could be dangerous, experts said. A tire blowout could cause a pilot to lose control of the aircraft, result in a brake fire or create other problems.

Airport spokeswoman Ann McCarley said officials don't know whether the blowouts are a coincidence, or whether something about the tarmac or the MD-90 aircraft is causing the problem.

But pilots and aviation experts said one likely suspect is John Wayne's

5,700-foot commercial runway, which is among the shortest in the nation and causes pilots to brake harder during landings.

"Pilots are a little more aggressive and assertive when they land at (John Wayne Airport) because you don't have a lot of room for error," said Linda Pauwels, an American Airlines pilot who serves on the safety committee of the Allied Pilots Association.

Faults in the MD-90 auto-brake system could also be to blame, the Register reported. The short runway at John Wayne forces pilots to use the automatic brake controller when landing, where some don't use it at all at other airports, Pauwels said.

At Boeing Long Beach, which built the MD-90s until the aircraft was discontinued last year, spokesman John Thom said that Boeing had identified a problem with the MD-90 brakes.

Thom said Boeing had found a solution, which was offered free to MD-90 operators Jan. 5. But Thom said all air carriers may not have installed the fix.

"We were certainly aware of this issue. We worked it," Thom told the Register. "In January, we issued a service bulletin, a software upgrade for the auto-brake controller. (The upgrade) eliminated the problem."

FAA officials declined comment on how the agency would proceed.

Sierra storm shuts down interstate, ski resorts

BY MARTIN GRIFFITH

Associated Press Writer

NO. CALIFORNIA — The latest in a series of potent storms brought more heavy snow and high winds Sunday to the Lake Tahoe area, shutting down ski resorts and the major gateway to northern California.

Interstate 80 was closed virtually all Sunday afternoon over Donner Summit because of white-out conditions and zero visibility, the California Highway Patrol reported.

The interstate remained closed Sunday evening, with traffic being held at the Nevada line and Baxter, Calif.

Westbound traffic on U.S. Highway 50 over Echo Summit also was being held Sunday evening at South Lake Tahoe, Calif., to allow authorities to deal with a rash of accidents.

Chains were mandatory for motorists crossing the Sierra passes.

"It's blowing really hard and snowing like crazy and visibility is really, really bad," said John Booth, vice president of Boreal ski area atop Donner Summit. "Right now, I can't even see the trees just outside my office window."

Chains or snow tires were required on all other highways in the Tahoe area.

No major accidents were reported.

Many stranded travelers waited out the I-80 closure at the Gold Ranch Casino in Verdi, just east of the state line.

"Some of them are inside watching the Oakland Raiders game on TV," said casino bartender Joe Brady. "I'm sure they'd rather be driving home, but it's not a bad

alternative on a day like this."

The storm dumped up to 2 1/2 feet of snow and followed on the heels of a weaker system that left up to a foot of snow, according to the National Weather Service.

Wind gusts of up to 100 mph over the Sierra crest shut down operations Sunday at most Tahoe ski resorts.

Some resorts, including Alpine Meadows, Heavenly and Kirkwood, did not even open because of the winds. Others, including Squaw Valley USA and Sugar Bowl, closed at noon after limited morning operations.

Over a 24-hour period ending Sunday morning, Kirkwood resort south of Tahoe reported getting an inch of snow an hour for a total of 2 feet.

The snow level dropped Sunday afternoon to Reno and other valley floors in northwest Nevada.

After a slow start to the ski season due to a lack of snow, a string of storms over the last week has brightened the outlook for Tahoe resorts.

"We're set for Christmas now," Booth said. "We have put away our snow-making equipment for the season."

"It's looking like a real winter now. There are four- to five-foot-high snowbanks along the highway."

The snow is also good news for the region's water outlook after recent subpar winter snowpacks in the Sierra.

"We definitely need it," said weather service forecaster Stephen Adams in Reno. "One or two storms won't solve the situation, but they do put us on the right track."

INTERNATIONAL



25 dead, 200 wounded in suicide bombings

Arafat promises to crackdown on militants; declares state of emergency

BY KARIN LAUB
Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — After a series of suicide bombings against Israel that killed 25 people and wounded nearly 200, Yasser Arafat ordered dozens of Islamic militants arrested and promised harsh action. But Israel was deeply skeptical, with hard-liners calling for the removal of the Palestinian leader.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon cut short his U.S. trip to rush home after meeting with President Bush, who denounced the bombings as “horrific acts of murder.”

Bush and other world leaders pressed Arafat to crack down on militants. The Palestinian leader “must do everything in his power to find those who murdered innocent Israelis and bring them to justice,” Bush said.

Images of bodies lying on sidewalks and blood-smeared survivors crying out in agony filled TV screens, and Israelis had a growing sense that 14 months of Israeli-Palestinian fighting had reached a crossroads.

“It must be understood that we are at a turning point,” said Cabinet Minister Matan Vilnai. He did not say how Israel would retaliate but warned the Palestinian Authority was “endangering its existence” by not cracking down on militants.

The carnage began in Jerusalem just before midnight Saturday, when two suicide bombers set off their nail-filled bombs on Ben Yehuda street, an area of cafes and bars packed with young Israelis. Ten people, mostly teens, were killed, and 150 were wounded.

At noon Sunday, another Palestinian blew himself up in a bus in the northern port city of Haifa, sending bodies flying and destroying the vehicle. Fifteen people were killed and 40 injured.

The Islamic militant group Hamas claimed responsibility for the bombings, in retaliation for Israel’s slaying of a Hamas leader nine days ago. Three suicide attackers were killed in the bombings. Hamas said its gunmen were behind the shooting Sunday of an Israeli driver in the Gaza Strip. Israeli soldiers killed the two gunmen in that attack.

Near the West Bank city of Jenin, the army said troops shot and killed four armed Palestinians. The four approached an army position with the intention of carrying out an attack, the army said.

Echoing Bush’s comments, Russia, Germany, France, Italy, Britain and the European Union demanded Arafat move against groups backing terrorism. Pope John Paul II told pilgrims at the Vatican that the attacks were “sorrowful and worrisome” and urged prayers for peace.

Arafat promised to take harsh action against the militants and declared a state of emergency in the Palestinian areas. Palestinian police, accompanied by journalists, began rounding up Islamic militants.

An official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said 90 militants have been arrested, including senior Hamas leaders Ismail Abu Shanab and Ismail Haniya. Security chief Jibril Rajoub said those involved in the bombings “would pay the price.”

Skeptical Israelis pointed to a string of past broken promises. “Arafat will be judged according to his actions, not his declarations,” said Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Infrastructure Minister Avigdor Lieberman called for expelling Arafat and sending Israeli troops into Palestinian-controlled territory. Even some dovish politicians said they no longer considered Arafat a partner for peace.

In at least six Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, gunmen fired in the air to celebrate the bombings. Some Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip also supported the attacks, with celebratory shots fired outside the home of one of the Haifa bombers.

But some Palestinians said they were tired of the



Associated Press

Israeli police secure the area as investigators search the wreckage of a bus after it was exploded in the northern Israeli port city of Haifa Sunday Dec. 2, 2001. A suicide bomber detonated nail-studded explosives on a bus in Haifa Sunday, killing himself and 15 bystanders just hours after Islamic militants set off three deadly explosions in downtown Jerusalem.

bloodshed. “The world should help both of us, Israelis and Palestinians, to get out of this pool of blood,” said Omar Jumma, 31, an engineer in Gaza City.

In a first step, the Israeli military further tightened travel restrictions, barring Palestinians from driving on

“I saw the driver of the bus, his face and body covered in blood. I heard people screaming in the bus. I will never forget it.”

— **MANAL MASRI**
Explosion witness

most West Bank roads. The Defense Ministry said the army would take “a series of steps” and that this was “a critical test” for the Palestinian Authority.

A U.S. envoy in the region, Anthony Zinni, denounced the attacks as the “lowest form of inhumanity,” but said the violence must not derail his efforts to arrange an Israeli-Palestinian truce.

On Sunday, the bomber in Haifa — identified as Maher Habashi, a 21-year-old plumber from the West Bank town of Nablus — got on a crowded city bus, paid his fare, and within seconds detonated the nail-studded explosives belt strapped to his body, witnesses said.

“The bus came down the hill ... and as it leveled out it blew up, it began to run off the road,” said witness Rachel Antebe.

The blast hurled bodies in the air and blew out the sides off the red-and-white bus.

“I saw the driver of the bus, his face and body covered in blood. I heard people screaming in the bus. I will never forget it,” said , 32, an Arab resident of the mixed Arab-

Jewish neighborhood where the explosion went off.

Thirteen bus passengers and two pedestrians were killed, and about 40 bystanders were wounded, including 10 who were in serious condition, police said.

The attack the night before in Jerusalem came at an hour when the shops, cafes and bars of the Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall were packed with teen-age Israelis.

The two bombers detonated their nail-packed explosives while standing some 40 yards apart. The 10 victims ranged in age from 14 to 20, police said.

“A lot of people were crying, falling, and there was the smell of burning hair,” said witness Eli Shetreet, 19.

The blasts shattered car windows a block away. Blood was splattered across store fronts, and bits of flesh and metal bolts from the explosives were strewn on the ground. Shortly after the suicide bombings, an explosion went off in a car parked near the mall.

In the West Bank, Palestinian gunmen wounded an Israeli driver near a Jewish settlement and a border guard in two shooting attacks. In searches that followed the shooting of the border guard, the army said its troops killed a Palestinian gunman.

Palestinian officials accused Israel of provoking the latest upsurge of violence with its assassination of Mahmoud Abu Hanoud, the leader of the Hamas military wing in the West Bank. Abu Hanoud — who had masterminded several suicide bombings in Israel — was slain on Nov. 23, just days before Zinni arrived for his truce mission.

A security official in the Gaza Strip, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Arafat has given orders to carry out mass arrests of Islamic militants and to confiscate illegal weapons. Those speaking out against cease-fire efforts would be muzzled, the official said.

In a statement, Palestinian security officials said Palestinian Authority has banned unauthorized demonstrations and the use of mosques and loudspeakers for incitement or political propaganda purposes.

Since the fighting erupted in September 2000, Israel has repeatedly complained that Arafat has done nothing to stop militants who have killed more than 230 Israelis in bombings and shootings. More than 780 people have been killed on the Palestinian side.

COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson

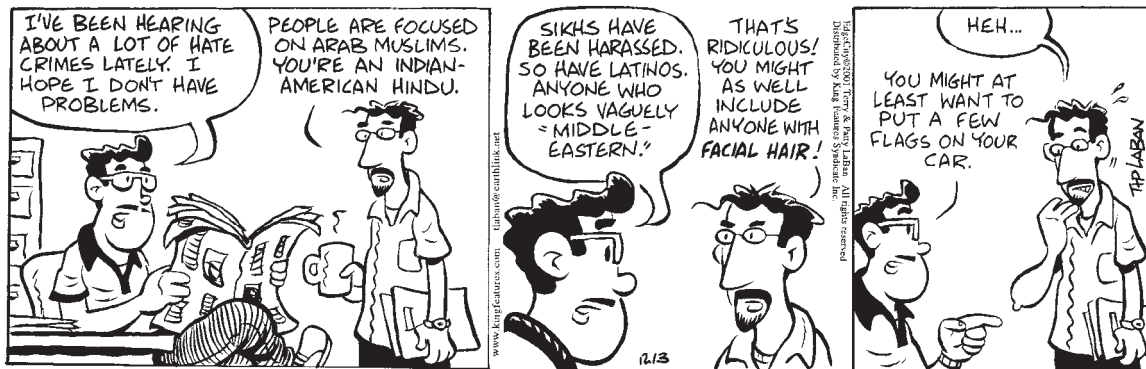


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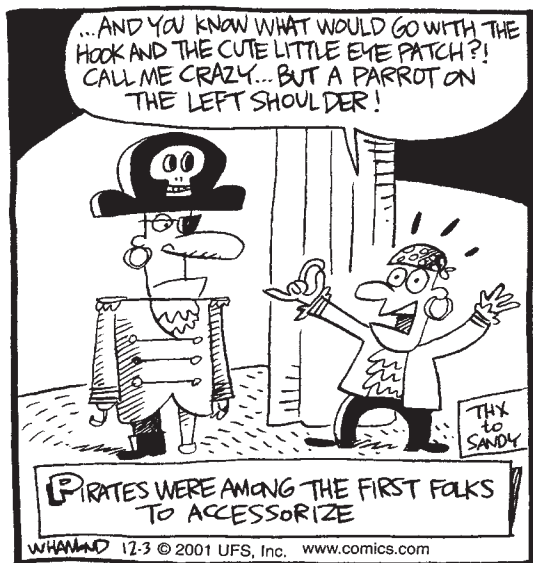


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37 Jason's ship
38 Swift specialty

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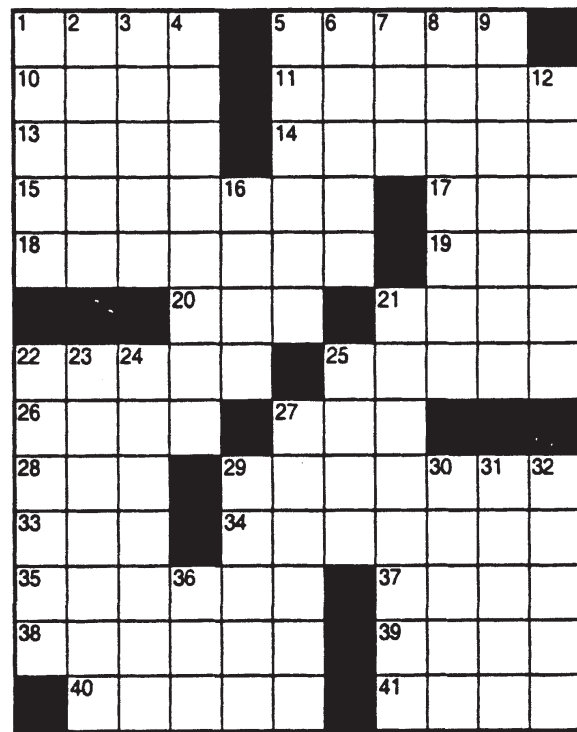
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1 Tennis great Monica
2 Glorify
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6 Good quality
7 Fast jet
8 Turkey's region
9 Casino workers
12 Black-boards

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LEDS	TENDER

Saturday's answer

16 Theater offering
21 Carry on business
22 Accent
23 Far from important
24 Yacht race
25 Noggin
27 Flower part
29 Fungus output
30 Don Diego's alias
31 Boring tool
32 Uncle Tom's creator
36 Spanish hero



12-3

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

A sting of a time

• A small but growing number of people in strife-torn Pakistan deal with their woes by smoking scorpions, according to a November Reuters dispatch from Quetta. Users dry the scorpion's stingers, grind them up, light the powder, and suck in the smoke. "When I smoke scorpion," said Ghulam Raza, "then the heroin is like nothing to me." Quetta addicts tend to hang out at a local cemetery, where outsiders will not bother them (though there is an occasional problem with enstuffed persons falling into partially dug graves).

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BACK PAGE

'Harry Potter' stays on top with \$24.1 million

'Behind Enemy Lines' pulls in \$19.2 million

BY DAVID GERMAIN
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES — After an A-plus debut, Harry Potter's box-office grades have slipped to non-magical levels.

"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" took in \$24.1 million to remain the No. 1 movie for the third straight weekend. But its gross dropped 58 percent from last week's Friday-to-Sunday total, according to studio estimates Sunday. The film has taken in \$220.1 million in 17 days.

"Behind Enemy Lines," starring Gene Hackman and Owen Wilson, opened in second place with \$19.2 million. "Spy Game" was third with \$11.2 million.

In limited release, Hilary Swank's historical drama "The Affair of the Necklace" opened with \$136,000 in 18 theaters for a healthy average of \$7,556. The western "Texas Rangers" bombed with just \$300,000 in 402 theaters for a feeble \$746 average.

After a record-shattering \$90.3 million debut two weeks ago and a huge take over the long Thanksgiving weekend, "Harry Potter" returned to earth. Such a fall is typical of big family films released around Thanksgiving. Theater crowds tail off as children return to

school and parents are preoccupied with holiday shopping.

"Monsters, Inc.," another family hit, fell from second place to fourth with \$9.4 million, a 61 percent decline from the previous Friday-through-Sunday. Last year, the gross for "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas" fell 48 percent the weekend after Thanksgiving.

"Harry Potter" and "Monsters, Inc." should see solid rebounds around Christmas and New Year's Day. Both

Goldstein, Warner's general sales manager.

Whether it can approach the \$601 million of domestic box-office champ "Titanic" remains to be seen.

"It's just too early to tell," Goldstein said. "Whether we can go for the all-time record, that's something we won't know till four or five weeks out from now."

The movie might be able to match the \$461 million gross of the No. 2 film,

Leonardo DiCaprio.

"Repeat, repeat, repeat" propelled "Titanic," said Bruce Snyder, head of distribution for 20th Century Fox, which co-financed the movie with Paramount. "Yes, it was teen-age girls, but also people who never go to the movies who came out to see it."

"Titanic" actually opened with good but unspectacular numbers, grossing \$28.6 million. But it was king of the world for staying power, remaining the No. 1 film for months.

"Titanic" was a marathoner. Most films today are sprinters," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations. "It's a difficult comparison for any film to be held up in comparison to 'Titanic.'"

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. Final figures were to be released Monday.

1. "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," \$24.1 million.
2. "Behind Enemy Lines," \$19.2 million.
3. "Spy Game," \$11.2 million.
4. "Monsters, Inc.," \$9.4 million.
5. "Black Knight," \$5.7 million.
6. "Shallow Hal," \$4.7 million.
7. "Out Cold," \$2.9 million.
8. "Domestic Disturbance," \$1.9 million.
9. "Amelie," \$1.4 million.
10. "Heist," \$1.2 million.

"It's just too early to tell ... whether we can go for the all-time record, that's something we won't know till four or five weeks out from now."

— JEFF GOLDSTEIN
Warner's general sales manager

holidays are prime time for family moviegoing. They fall on Tuesdays this year, meaning five-day holiday weekends that bode well for film attendance.

Distributor Warner Bros. expects "Harry Potter" to soar well past the \$300 million mark and easily break into the top 10 list of all-time top-grossing films.

It could even head toward the \$400 million mark, putting it among the top-grossing four or five films, said Jeff

"Star Wars," or the \$431 million take of No. 3 movie, "Star Wars: Episode I — The Phantom Menace." The top five is rounded out by "E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial" at \$400 million and "Jurassic Park" at \$357 million.

Warner reported that "Harry Potter" continues to draw solid return customers, but it will have a hard time approaching the repeat business of "Titanic." Teen-age girls saw "Titanic" over and over because of heartthrob



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