

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DA's office warns city council about note passing

Officials say they'll continue to write them despite warning

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

The Santa Monica City Council has been warned that if it doesn't stop passing private notes during public meetings, council members may face criminal charges.

Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley wrote to City Hall this week that his office has investigated a past

meeting when council members had allegedly come to a decision by secretly passing a note amongst themselves.

A complaint was filed with Cooley's office by Santa Monica resident Chuck Allord that during an April 16 special meeting Mayor Mike Feinstein passed a note asking members to vote against allowing two people who had submitted late requests to speak.

Copies of the notes provided to the Daily Press show that among doodlings around the words "boring" and "cheesy," a question wondering what to eat

for dinner that night, and asking another council member about a Lakers game, Feinstein passed a note to council members that read, "I have received two late requests to speak. Let's vote no."

When it came time to decide whether to hear late speakers, Feinstein made the motion to hear from Allord and Santa Monica resident Pro Se, but no council members seconded the motion. The motion died and they were not allowed to speak.

Cooley said the council had violated "the letter and spirit" of the Brown Act, the state's public meeting law which forbids pub-

lic bodies from taking action by the use of a secret ballot.

However, Cooley said his office would not take formal action other than to warn the city council to clean up its act.

"It's our belief that a warning will suffice to prevent any future Brown Act violations, which could mean the imposition of criminal or civil penalties,"

See NOTES, page 6

Gov. Davis proposes \$10B in cuts

BY ALEXA H. BLUTH
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Gray Davis proposed \$10.2 billion in sweeping budget cuts Friday, including deep spending reductions to education and health programs for the poor and the state payroll over the next 18 months.

The proposed reductions include \$3.4 billion in midyear borrowing, transfers and cuts to the state's \$98.9 billion budget, and about \$6.7 billion in cuts and savings in the fiscal year that begins July 1, all to help deal with a budget shortfall expected to exceed \$21 billion.

"These budget reductions are severe by any measure ... but we face an extraordinary challenge," Davis said Friday at a news conference at his Los Angeles office.

The proposed cuts were met with horror by advocates for the poor and education leaders and with guarded support from Republican lawmakers who have called for cuts instead of tax increases.

Davis said the failure of the economy to perk up and the continued stock market slump has driven down revenues in California and 40 other states. "We are not out of the woods by a long shot and may not be for several years."

The Legislature will convene Monday for a spe-

cial session to take up Davis' proposed cuts and lawmakers' proposals to deal with the budget shortfall.

Davis already had frozen all nonessential travel, contracts and spending and kept in place a

See BUDGET, page 8

Snapshot of proposed budget cuts

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — A snapshot of some of the \$10.2 billion cuts proposal Friday by Gov. Gray Davis. The changes are subject to approval by the Legislature:

EDUCATION: Immediately cuts education funds by 3.7 percent across the board, putting the decisions on what to cut onto local school districts to trim more than \$1 billion. Davis also proposed cuts to specific programs, for a total cut of \$1.7 billion statewide in the current year — which would amount to a total \$3 billion in cuts over the current and coming fiscal years.

Community college programs would lose \$135 million of that in the current year.

HIGHER EDUCATION: Reduces University of California's current budget by \$74 million and

See CUTS, page 8

Mural on the wall



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

Malibu artist David Legaspi III helps students at Grant Elementary School on Friday finish a mural, which is the last piece of the school district's "United Art Mural Project." The 11 elementary schools in the district each have a mural designed to emphasize the school's individuality. Legaspi donated his time and materials for the project.

Researchers calculate pi to 1.24 trillion places for world record

BY AUDREY MCAVOY
Associated Press Writer

TOKYO — A team of researchers at a leading national university have set a world record by calculating the value of pi to 1.24 trillion places, one of the researchers said Friday.

Professor Yasumasa Kanada and nine other researchers at the Information Technology Center at Tokyo University calculated

the value for pi with a Hitachi supercomputer over 400 hours in September, project team member Makoto Kudo said.

The new calculation is more than six times the number of places in the record currently recognized by Guinness World Records — 206.158 billion places — which Kanada also helped calculate in 1999.

"We would need to verify it, but it sounds like Professor

Kanada has broken his own record," Guinness World Records spokesman Neil Hayes said. He said a Guinness math expert would need to verify the data.

Kanada's team spent five years designing the program used in the September experiment, Kudo said.

"It's amazing and astonishing it could be done," said David Bailey, the chief technologist at the National Energy Research

Scientific Computing Center at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

"It's an enormous feat of computing — not only for the sheer volume, but it's an advance in the technique he's using. All known techniques would exceed the capacity of the computer he's using."

The Hitachi supercomputer is capable of 2 trillion calculations per second, or twice as fast as the

one used for the current Guinness record calculation.

Pi, usually given as 3.14, is the ratio of the circumference to the diameter of a circle and has an infinite number of decimal places.

Such an extremely precise calculation of the figure isn't necessary for any practical scientific use, but researchers say it contributes to improving scientific calculation methods.

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★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average
★★★-So-so ★-Difficult

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Gather with friends, but make strong choices if a partner pushes you in an alternate direction. Keep your priorities in mind when making a decision. Help a loved one get past his or her insecurities, and you'll find that your relationship blooms. Tonight: Know what you want, then go for it.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Someone knows how to push your buttons. Remember, it is in your power how you react. Choose your responses. If you head in a new direction, others could be reactive. Change can be scary. Tonight: A must show, and it could be fun.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Others present their ideas in a new way. As the result of someone else's approach, you're able to present your ideas differently. Take off on an adventure. Go visit a town known for its holiday displays. Get shopping done as well. Tonight: Opt for different food, music and company.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Relate on a one-on-one level to an important friend or loved one. Physically throw yourself into a preferred pastime or happening. You connect with a child or loved one even better after you clear the air. Tonight: Take on a fun project or two.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Others seek you out. Answer your phone. Make plans. Clearly, if you thought you might have a quiet day, you can toss your plans out the window. Give in to the whims of those around you, inviting a roommate or family member along. Tonight: Where the party is.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You might not be as sure of yourself as you'd like to be. Loosen up when dealing with a friend who means well. You could take a comment differently than he or she intended. Head out and start holiday errands. Visit with a friend over hot chocolate. Tonight: Head on home.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Curb your extravagance, and you'll become a lot happier. Your perspective could change dramatically with a conversation. Get to know someone better by doing more together. Let the good feelings flow. Keep sharing. Tonight: Play away.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Be careful how you phrase your dissatisfaction, unless you're up for apologizing. Deal with family. Tighten up your holiday errands and plans. If everyone wants to get a tree, join in. You don't have to go far to tumble into the holiday mood. Tonight: A favorite meal.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Follow your instincts with neighbors and friends. Talks lead you in a new direction if you're open to revealing more of what is on your mind. Your softness emerges with a friend who really cares. Share more often. Tonight: You don't have to go far.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Expenses could be adding up with the upcoming holiday. Pressure builds, at least in your mind, when you look at your circle of friends and consider all the must-dos. Relax and enjoy the feelings behind the holiday. Tonight: Listen to Christmas music.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Do your thing, but please don't be shocked when you find someone a bit resistant or difficult. Know when to put a halt to a disagreement. Would it be worth appealing an older relative or friend? Think Christmas. Tonight: Whatever makes you happy.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Step back. Others might find you to be secretive, but you need to distance yourself from the immediate. Hop in the car for a drive to a favorite area. Enjoy doing something totally different. You also might need to take care of an errand or two. Tonight: Express your heartfelt feelings.

QUOTE of the DAY

"One good thing about being a man is that men don't have to talk to each other."
— Peter Cocotas

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LOCAL



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press
Sean Gustavan looks on while Areen Eberanossian, Rostom Sarkissian and Neno Tafjian protest in front a movie theater Thursday.

Armenian activists kneel for movie 'Ararat'

By Daily Press staff

A group of Armenian activists staged a demonstration on the Third Street Promenade Thursday to raise awareness of the movie 'Ararat.'

The group dressed in all-black and they wore signs slung over their necks that together asked "What is Genocide?" and bandanas over their eyes that read "We want justice."

The event was meant to raise awareness for the movie by famed director Atom Egoyan about how the Armenian Genocide during World War I still affects three generations of Armenians living in North America.

It's estimated that under the Ottoman Empire, 1.5 million Armenians were slaughtered. It's widely known that the Turkish government still refuses to acknowledge that the genocide took place.

'Ararat' is playing at the Loews Cineplex Broadway Cinemas — one of only 24 theaters nationally screening the movie — located on the Third Street Promenade.



The swell is near perfect today, coming out of the west and at a very good angle for local surf.

Reports say swell should begin to decline this afternoon, but we could still see some overhead waves on dawn patrol. For the day, expect chest- to shoulder-high surf at good spots.

Topanga was going off Friday, offering clean, peeling rights to a packed line-up.

Venice looks huge, although it's closing out hard.

If you can handle the crowds and avoid the excessively high tides, it will be a fun Saturday.



Today's Tides:

Low-	4:11 a.m.	2.67'
High-	10:25 a.m.	6.09'
Low-	6:01 p.m.	-0.69'

Location	Saturday	Sunday	Water Quality
County Line	4-5'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A
Zuma	4-5'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-2'/Poor	1-2'/Poor	C
Topanga	3-4'/Good	2-3'/Fair	C
Breakwater	4-6'/Poor	4-5'/Fair	B
El Porto	4-6'/Fair	4-5'/Fair	B

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Main Street festivities begin

By Daily Press staff

The Main Street Merchants will sponsor their 2nd Annual Get Festive! Holiday Event, this weekend between Pico Boulevard and Marine Street.

All the music and activities are free.

The event includes live music, outdoor movies, children's activities, community organizations. Activities will be in parking lots, vacant lots, on two closed streets, and courtyards all day.

Main Street merchants will be offering items on sale as part of the sidewalk sale, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, and merchants also will be having customer appreciation open house specials and activities, staying open later than usual.

On Saturday, three holiday movies will be shown at different locations between 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Samohi Choir Carolers will be strolling the street, singing before the movies start. (Tentatively scheduled movies and locations are: A Christmas Story, on

See MAIN STREET, page 5



Santa Monica Daily Press

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LETTERS

Fear and loathing in Santa Monica

Editor:

What the hell is Ron Scott Smith's problem with being a white, middle-aged, home owning male living in Santa Monica? Sounds like there's some serious self-loathing going on there.

Based on what he has written in the past, he supports a never-ending supply of homeless people flooding our city. He hates anyone who enjoys working hard, making a good living, owning a nice home, driving a nice car, and who (God-for-bid) wants to live in a nice, safe, clean place.

It seems that for Mr. Smith, wealthy people equal evil people.

Here's my guess:

He comes from a wealthy family. Dad worked hard and was never home so he learned to hate his father and what he represented all the while hating himself because he secretly enjoyed the lifestyle he was privileged to have. When he was old enough to go to college he decided to make a statement to Mommy, Daddy, and most importantly himself, by choosing the most liberal college he could attend (Berkeley?).

He sold the BMW Daddy bought for him and got a 1967 VW Bug. He watched old tapes of the '60s protests and civil rights marches. He stopped shaving and chose a nice liberal arts major like Black Studies, Chicano Studies, Women Studies, so that he would insure two things: One, he would piss-off Daddy and two, he would guarantee that he would never get a real job.

After college he made one concession that haunts him to this day — he let his "family money" pay for his "little abode" in Santa Monica.

And now he fancies himself the defender of the poor, downtrodden, helpless, hopeless masses from his lofty perch while heaping scorn upon ANYONE who dares to be successful.

Or, I could be wrong.

Tony Street
Santa Monica

Father Chase is a Godsend

Editor:

This letter is being written in praise of Father Maurice Chase ... In loud and continuous praise of a man of God who brings love ... hope and charity to the poor and homeless in the Los Angeles area.

Week after week father Chase distributes dollar bills to those among us most in need and while the good father brings dollar bills what he leaves is priceless.

What father Chase brings is dignity, choice, honest human compassion and concern.

I speak from experience. I have been the recipient of Father Chase's kindness.

I speak from the heart. I know of nothing that will make a long line of homeless individuals stand taller and smile wider than the knowledge that "Father Dollar" has arrived. A friend has come to call. A good man has come to pay a visit. To stop by and say hello and every soul present. No matter how burdened will be a bit better off when he leaves.

Finally, father Chase brings the timeless message that in God's eyes, rich and poor are one and the same. Haves and have-nots twin sides of a single coin.

A true friend father Chase treats his friends not as a case worker, not as a job, not as faceless paper plates passing before the evening meal but rather as a human being worthy of love, time, appreciation and respect.

May the Lord grant father Maurice Chase a long and healthy life to continue his mission and may he serve as a shining example for others.

Leonard M. Kuras
Santa Monica

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

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The ones on top are the criminals, not downtrodden

The Daily Press did this community a service by publishing four articles on poverty and wealth (Nov. 30): on Father Maurice "Dollar Bill" Chase who dispenses money to the homeless in LA's skid row; the "list of perfect luxury gifts" from the Robb Report, whose readers with an average annual income of \$800,000 can think about buying an \$80 million submarine or a \$70 million airplane; a U.N. report stating that "nearly 40 nations face food shortages," 25 of them in Africa which is already under siege from AIDS, mounting starvation and war; and the "immoral irony" of higher hunger rates in the rural West. The four related articles form a powerful quartet; linking them together reveals how great wealth and poverty/homelessness are as "American as apple pie." You cannot have one without the other in this unequal and unjust economic system.

Father Chase, and other concerned individuals and groups attempt to heal the immediate pain of hunger and homelessness. In my former hometown of Ithaca, N.Y. (population about 29,000), home to Ivy League Cornell University and its \$30,000 plus tuition costs per year, the Loaves and Fishes free lunch program serves thousands of meals per month in an effort to alleviate hunger. Father Chase and Ithaca's Loaves and Fishes must appeal for funds to continue their good work.

Compare this to the gargantuan tax

revenues that serve as corporate welfare to fund the capitalist war machine, pumping hundreds of billions of dollars each year in well-padded military contracts to warmakers that proclaim their allegiance to the "free enterprise" system.

What kind of a society do we have when the Pentagon spends \$2 billion on a warship when telethons and marches are necessary to raise funds to fight diseases; where some can purchase a \$10 million necklace and others must beg; where the wealthy can buy a \$300,000 Mercedes originally made for a dictator and others cannot afford to commute to work; where, in Santa Monica, some can buy a \$995,000 townhouse while nearby people look through the trash container for something to eat?

When linked together, these four separate stories reveal the dark underside of this self-proclaimed "kinder and gentler" society that violates the basic human rights proclaimed in the 1948 U.N. Declaration, including those to shelter, food, and health. Each day, in Santa Monica and throughout the world, crimes are committed against the powerless.

During a 1967 speech that addressed poverty, racism and the Vietnam War, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. shared a thought on crimes and causation from the writer

Victor Hugo:

"Where there is darkness, crimes will be committed; the honest social critic not only condemns the criminal but also those who caused the darkness."

Letter writers have expressed concern about abuses committed by the poor and homeless, but such critics must take into account Hugo's insight for radical understanding, i.e., go to the root in order to eradicate the causes.

This radical insight was touched upon in a slightly different manner by Dom Helder Camara, the late Brazilian Catholic Archbishop:

"When I give bread to the poor, they call me a saint; when I ask why people are poor, they call me a communist."

While individuals and organizations address the symptoms of poverty and homelessness, charitable and private efforts cannot solve the massive inequities in our country and world: They have never abolished poverty and homelessness and never will. There are no non-governmental solutions to such community tragedies.

There are reasonable explanations for these outrageous injustices, but one must look outside the mainstream print and television media, e.g., to "Dollars and Sense," "Extra," "The Nation," the "Progressive" and "Z Magazine" and its

"ZNET" Web site for such insights. These critical alternative sources offer analyses not found in the major mass media, and they challenge the fairy tale "soundbites" that pretend to serve as explanations.

Our nation and earth are blessed with abundant resources for all to live a decent life; thus, there is no rational defense of poverty and homelessness. But these resources are increasingly owned by a dominant few who follow Adam Smith's "vile maxim of the rulers of mankind" all for themselves and nothing for anyone else. His observations on the emerging capitalist system in the 18th century, however, will not be critically examined by the CNN evening business report or the Wall Street Journal.

The wealthy and powerful few ravage the earth and exploit the many, and they are served by both major political parties. Apologists in the mass media and universities tell us that this ruling class has our best interests at heart, that we should ally with it rather than with the earth and the many. When it comes to justice, however, these few have proven they are beyond the pale of human values. If we wish to end poverty and homelessness, we need to name them and their crimes, and change the system that produces both.

(John Marciano is an emeritus professor at SUNY Cortland and chairman of the New York Human Rights Commission from 1991-96.)

Guest Commentary

By John Marciano

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Chess heads come together

By Daily Press staff

A free youth chess tournament for novice youth chess players will take place this weekend at the Thelma Terry Center at Virginia Avenue Park.

The event will be hosted by the City of Santa Monica's Thelma Terry Center in conjunction with the Santa Monica Bay Area Chess Club. Participants will be competing in three different age groups: ages 6-9, ages 10-13, and 14-high school. Winners will receive prizes, which include an electronic chess set, and lunch will be provided for all participants.

The tournament will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave., and Santa Monica. The deadline for registration was Friday.

The chess tournament is only one of the activities of the chess club, which is one of the many free programs that are offered to the local youth at the Thelma Terry Center. The chess club meets once a week, and the meeting consists of short discussions on chess strategies and theories, with the remaining time spent on match play.

For more information on the chess club or the upcoming tournament, please call Keith Neal at the Thelma Terry Center at (310) 458-8868.

Santa Monica man shares his war story on FOX News

By Daily Press staff

A Santa Monica man who interrogated the first WWII prisoner of war will be featured in a new series on Fox News Channel starting on Sunday.

"War Stories with Oliver North" will air "Attack of the Midget Subs," which was filmed on location in Honolulu, Hawaii. The program brings to life first-hand stories of American strength and military pride. Steve Weiner, a Santa Monica man will be interviewed about his experiences when he interrogated Kazuo Sakamaki, a POW. War Stories highlights the true stories of key battles and individuals in American military history and gives the audience a personal look at the battlefield.

The episode will air on Fox News Channel at 5 p.m.

Party on Main Street planned this weekend

MAIN STREET, from page 3

Kinney Street near The Enterprise Fish Co.; Home Alone 2, location to be announced; and a series of shorts and cartoons at the Edgemar Courtyard, 2430 Main Street.)

On Sunday, from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. there will be a variety of music at several locations. (See below)

There also will be pony rides, a petting zoo, Rockie the Clown, and a tidepool touch tank for the kids. And Musclemag will sponsor several team contests including a tug of war.

Santa Monica Baykeeper, Coalition for Clean Air, the City of Santa Monica Sustainable Works Dept., the Santa Monica Police Department, and Treepeople will be among the community organizations present at Norman Place, near the library.

Get Festive! is produced by the Main Street Merchants Association.

All day parking is available at the beach lots two blocks away for \$6.

And there will be holiday trees again on the California Heritage Museum lawn (2612 Main Street), and the street will be decorated with the unique and popular Main Street Starfish, designed by local artist Esquire Joachem.

Sunday bands and activities scheduled:

Edgemar Courtyard:

WOOD/WIND, with flutist Cathy Larson and guitarist Bill Luke (classical repertoire, standards and pop tunes)

Norman Place:

12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.: Joe Gaeta and Friends (jazz)

3 p.m.-5 p.m.: Shea Welsh (jazz)

First Federal Lot:

12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.: Tom Nolan (rock)

3 p.m.-5 p.m.: The Gary Gordon Band (folk and country rock)

Kinney Street:

12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.: Luca (rock)

3 p.m.-5 p.m.: Neon Venus (Latin)

Petting zoo and pony rides at The "Caffe" Lot, northeast corner of Hollister and Main, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday

Window On Our Waters touch tank and exhibit, Norman Place, Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Musclemag Team Contests including a Tug 'o War, "The Scratch" lot, southeast corner of Main and Marine.

NEED SOMETHING FUN TO DO?
CHECK OUT THE CALENDAR ON PAGE 15!

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LOCAL

Council shrugs off DA's warning about notes

NOTES, from page 1

Cooley wrote. "This office intends to fully enforce the public's right to complete access to meetings by local legislative bodies. Any future violations will be dealt with accordingly."

Feinstein has admitted to writing the note and passing it to only one other council member, who has not been named by officials. Feinstein was unavailable for comment Friday.

Typically, the city council votes to hear late requests to speak from the public for one minute. It's rare when members of the public are not extended that opportunity, city officials said.

Despite the stern warning from the DA's office, city council members said it would not stop them from passing notes to their colleagues or senior city staff members with questions or comments.

"No I don't think it's going to stop," said Councilman Herb Katz. "I don't think individual notes are a problem as long as it doesn't have to do with decision making."

City council members say they don't remember reading Feinstein's note at the meeting, and they argue that it's essential they are able to send each other and city staff notes asking technical questions about issues that arise during the meeting.

Many of the notes are typically jokes between members, comments about the proceedings, or requests for a break time in the meeting, council members said.

"I don't make jokes about people at the meetings, but about the Lakers or something," said Councilwoman Pam O'Connor. "I'm very careful about that. I want to be very respectful of the people there and the process but sometimes you have to also lighten up and have some fun in life."

California Newspaper Publishers Association attorney Jim Ewert said passing the note may not have violated the law. Only if a majority of council members read the note or if there had been a response from one of the council members after speaking to two colleagues, would it have qualified as a violation.

"If that (return) communication did not take place, there likely was not a serial meeting and not a Brown Act violation," Ewert said.

It's rare for a district attorney to take such an active role in ensuring local city councils are complying with the Brown Act, he said.

"Mr. Cooley has gone to great lengths I think to ensure that ... public bodies continue to follow the law," Ewert said. "But I think in a lot of other areas of the state, I think it's pretty much left up to individual constituents to bring their own civil action, or the local newspaper."

Ewert also said while passing the notes may not violate the letter or the law, it certainly looks bad if you're the public watching it happen.

"If you have secret notes being traded back and forth on the dais, even though

it's during an open meeting, its not in keeping with the purpose of the Brown Act," he said.

City Attorney Marsha Moutrie, who was unavailable for comment Friday, has said in the past that she asked council members to keep their note passing to a minimum, or not do it at all.

Earlier this week she issued a memo to council members indicating the council had been under investigation by the DA's office for the alleged Brown Act violation, officials said. She also advised council members in the memo of how comply with the Brown Act, they said.

**"No I don't think it's
going to stop. I don't
think individual notes are
a problem as long as it
doesn't have to do with
decision making."**

— HERB KATZ

Santa Monica City Councilman

However, while officials acknowledged the memo had been sent, a copy was not made available to the Daily Press because officials say it's protected under attorney-client privilege.

After the April 16 meeting — which was specially called to instruct members of the city's 15 boards and commissions on how to comply with the Brown Act, among other things — Allord slipped back into the empty council chambers, which had been closed when the meeting ended and everyone had left.

Using wadded-up paper to jam the locks on the doors, he was able to sneak back into council chambers after everyone had gone home. Allord then went through the garbage cans behind where the city council sits and retrieved Feinstein's notes. He taped the pieces together and sent them to Cooley's office as part of his complaint.

Katz said that kind of action shows Allord, who ran for city council this year and in 2000, may have had an agenda.

"That is in my opinion a little sick, very dicey and the question is why," Katz said. "I thought McCarthyism was dead."

Another city council member said Allord's action changed the way he'll treat the notes council members usually write during a meeting — which can range from random thoughts to just plain doodling.

"I will be more circumspect with what I do with my trash," said Councilman Richard Bloom. "So I'll take my notes home with me at the end of the night and shred them in the new paper shredder I have at home."

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STATE



Winona Ryder gets probation, no prison time for store theft

BY LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent

BEVERLY HILLS — Winona Ryder was sentenced Friday to work with the sick, the blind and babies with AIDS as part of a probationary term for stealing thousands of dollars worth of high-fashion merchandise from a Saks Fifth Avenue store.

"If you steal again you will go to jail," Superior Court Judge Elden Fox told the actress, who sat watching him solemnly and acknowledged the warning.

"What is of concern to me," the judge said, "is you have been unable and have refused to accept personal responsibility for what happened."

The judge ordered her to undergo psychological and drug counseling because "there's going to be a need for you to confront what I consider aberrant behavior."

A probation report released by the court painted a disturbing picture, citing an investigation that found she received 37 medications from 20 doctors between January 1996 and December 1998.

The judge imposed 36 months of probation and said Ryder must appear in court April 7 for a status report.

Ryder was ordered to perform 480 hours of community service — 240 hours at the City of Hope medical center in Duarte, Calif., 120 hours at the Foundation for the Junior Blind, and 120 hours at the Caring for Babies With Aids foundation.

The judge also imposed a fine of \$2,700, a restitution fine of \$1,000 to the court, and restitution of \$6,355 to Saks. He also imposed a technical term of one day in jail but was given credit for the day she was booked.

"You have disappointed many people who have been inspired by your talent and your acts of humanity," the judge said.

Her lawyer, Mark Geragos, suggested that Ryder has been punished more than the average person would be because of the public attack on her character.

"I don't think that one crime should trump all the good she's done in her life," Geragos said, citing the actress' work with American Indian causes and with the Polly Klaas Foundation, which deals with missing children.

At one point, prosecutor Ann Rundle, began an angry speech concerning the constant references to the Klaas Foundation. Mark Klaas, father of the slain Polly Klaas, has supported Ryder, who donated a reward when Polly was kidnapped from her Petaluma, Calif., home in 1993.

"What's offensive to me is to trot out the body of a



Steve Grayson/Associated Press

Actress Winona Ryder reacts in court during her sentencing hearing of her shoplifting case in Beverly Hills on Friday. At right is Ryder's lawyer Mark Geragos.

dead child," the prosecutor began. "I've heard this for over a year."

Geragos objected loudly and Ryder rose partly from her seat, glaring and appearing about to speak, when the judge interrupted and said Rundle should stick to the facts of the shoplifting case.

Outside the courthouse, Polly's father, Mark Klaas, said he was outraged by the reference to his daughter and credited Ryder with an unsolicited act of benevolence.

"Winona Ryder may be a double-felon, but she's a

double-felon with a heart," he said.

The two-time Academy Award nominee was convicted last month of felony grand theft and vandalism for her infamous Dec. 12, 2001, shopping trip to the Beverly Hills store.

Ryder had numerous prescription drugs in her possession when she was arrested. One drug count was filed but it was eventually dropped when a doctor said he had prescribed it. The probation report revealed she also had a syringe in her purse.

"She had more medication in her purse than would be given to a person with a terminal disease," Rundle noted.

Geragos responded that Ryder had "a pain-management problem" for some time. He angrily accused the district attorney's office of "doing everything they could to destroy this woman" and said he had tried repeatedly to settle the case without a trial.

He argued in vain to have a probation report sealed, saying that he was trying to "preserve some shred of privacy" for Ryder.

Rundle said all felons give up their right to privacy, and the judge, while agreeing to remove some irrelevant facts from the report, ordered it released.

"This is one of the classiest women I have ever met," Geragos declared. "Perhaps she had some aberrant behavior. But she is going to carry the scarlet S for shoplifting for the rest of her life."

Ryder faced up to three years in prison, but prosecutors did not recommend any time behind bars because she had no prior convictions.

In a victim's statement, Saks Fifth Avenue general counsel Kenneth Metzner told the court that Ryder made TV appearances after her arrest that made light of the crime.

He said shoplifting is serious, costing Saks more than \$7 million last year. That money could have gone to employee benefits and other purposes but "instead it went to criminals," he said. Ryder appeared to smile at that moment.

During the trial, jurors were shown videotapes of Ryder wandering through the store's designer boutiques and taking a large number of items into dressing rooms.

The tapes did not show Ryder cutting off sensor tags with scissors, but a security guard testified she looked through door slats and witnessed the vandalism.

Security staff testified that after Ryder was caught, she claimed a director had told her to shoplift to prepare for a movie role.

Winona Ryder probation report spotlights prescription drug use

BY LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent

BEVERLY HILLS — In a three-year span Winona Ryder filled 37 prescriptions from 20 doctors under a half-dozen aliases, according to a probation report that concluded the actress is apparently addicted to pain killers.

The report was released Friday after Ryder received a probationary sentence for stealing and vandalizing merchandise at a Saks Fifth Avenue store in December 2001. It paints a picture of the actress "doctor shopping" to obtain prescription medicines.

Ryder was not convicted of any drug charges and defense attorney Mark Geragos emphasized that she had prescriptions for eight medications found on her when she was arrested. Geragos, who tried to keep the report sealed, told the judge that Ryder has a "pain-management" problem.

The probation report suggests a different scenario.

"While the defendant may have had reason in the past that necessitated her use

"The defendant had apparently used half a dozen names, some similar and some derivations of her own in order to get these prescriptions. Apparently she was 'shopping doctors'."

— PROBATION REPORT

of opiate pain killers, it would appear to the undersigned, as well as others, that the defendant is addicted to pain medication....," said the report by chief probation officer Richard Shumsky and two deputies.

Much of the report focused on one doctor who came under investigation for allegedly over-prescribing to his patients the week before Ryder's arrest. The report did not state the doctor's full name.

The report said that a week after Ryder's arrest police were contacted by California Medical Board investigator Charlene McKenzie, who told them that on Dec. 4, 2001, her office executed search warrants at the doctor's home and

office.

The search revealed that Ryder was a patient of the doctor "under an AKA of Emily Thompson" and all the personal information in the "Thompson" file was Ryder's, including a photocopy of her driver's license and an original patient form signed Winona Ryder, the report said.

Evidence indicated the doctor wrote prescriptions for her under both names, it said.

"If the defendant was under 'pain-management guidance' then the procedures that are recognized to affect pain were certainly not followed by this doctor," the report said.

"Apparently he was a popular doctor

because he made 'house calls and hotel calls,'" the report said.

It also noted that Ryder filled many prescriptions at pharmacies in Hollywood and the San Fernando Valley.

"The defendant had apparently used half a dozen names, some similar and some derivations of her own in order to get these prescriptions. Apparently she was 'shopping doctors' ...," the report said.

The report said Beverly Hills police detectives found out from the federal drug enforcement agency and the state Medical Board that the doctor "had been kicked out of South Africa for 'overmedicating' people. He came to California and apparently is listed as a tattoo and hair removal doctor but at one time was a licensed internist."

The document added, "Apparently, he is the doctor to many celebrity-type people."

The authors of the probation report quoted police Detective George Elwell as concluding that Ryder has a drug problem and needed intervention.

"He claimed, 'We don't want to find her slumped over in a car with a needle in her arm,'" the report said.

DID YOU KNOW?:

The petals of the world's largest flower are half metre (1,5 feet) long.



STATE

Bates apologizes for fighting dirty during elections

BY MICHELLE LOCKE
Associated Press Writer

BERKELEY — Incoming Mayor Tom Bates apologized Friday for an incident in which about 1,000 copies of a university newspaper endorsing his opponent were trashed during the recent elections.

"I deeply regret my involvement in the activity. I was tired on the last day of a difficult campaign and I made a mistake. There's no excuse for it," Bates said Friday. "However, my job is to work as hard as I can to make Berkeley a better place. That's what I was elected to do and that's what I'm doing."

Bates, a former state assemblyman, won the Nov. 5 election with nearly 56 percent of the vote to incumbent Shirley Dean's 42 percent.

The copies of The Daily Californian were taken Nov. 4, the day the paper endorsed Dean. The student newspaper reported that about 90 percent of the papers were recovered from trash cans in Berkeley's Sproul Plaza,

"We're all kind of shocked. It causes us to question what he would do behind closed doors at City Hall."

— STEVE SEXTON
Junior at Berkeley

which happens to be the birthplace of the 1964 Free Speech Movement.

Campus police have forwarded the case to the district attorney's office, said UC Berkeley Police Capt. Bill Cooper. Prosecutor John Adams said he will decide what to do with it sometime next week.

Three of four students who said they saw Bates throwing away the papers held an informal news conference at

Sproul Plaza Friday.

"We're all kind of shocked," said junior Steve Sexton. "It causes us to question what he would do behind closed doors at City Hall."

Sexton and the other three students are affiliated with the California Patriot, a conservative campus publication. But Sexton said it wasn't bias that motivated them to speak up.

"We're a conservative student group. We're certainly not going to lie to help elect one liberal Democrat over another," he said.

Dean, who, like Bates is a Democrat although she is considered to be closer to the center, said she was "absolutely astounded" by the affair, but would need to learn more about the facts before suggesting a course of action.

"He painted himself throughout the whole campaign that here was a man of years and years of integrity who was running a positive campaign, et cetera, et cetera, all of which was simply not true," she said. "I'm appalled, I really am, but what can be done about it I don't know."

Education to take a beating with state budget cuts

BUDGET, from page 1

statewide hiring freeze. But "actions should be taken immediately to reduce expenditures," Davis said.

The plan Davis produced Friday includes 3.7 percent in immediate across-the-board cuts to elementary and high schools and community colleges — which would shave about \$1 billion from education spending — and more than \$700 million in other education-related cuts including child care and training programs. The K-14 cuts, plus cuts to some programs in 2003-04, will total \$3 billion.

Education spending accounts for about \$46 billion of the current budget.

In return, the governor proposed to give the schools more flexibility in shifting funds for mandated programs. He would also ease the requirement that each district keep 3 percent of its budget in reserves.

"We've really tried hard to minimize the effect on the classroom and on classroom instruction," said Davis' Education Secretary Kerry Mazzoni.

Davis, a Democrat, has faced budget woes for nearly two years, but until now he has largely spared education, his pet priority, from the ax. School spending, however,

makes up nearly half of the state's budget and declining revenues have reduced the total school funding required by state law by about \$1.9 billion.

Education leaders — who had been crying out against cuts even before they were announced — immediately criticized the plan.

"The effect of this reduction is going to be a scramble to put immediate program cuts into place. Some programs, such as adult education, will be especially hard hit," said Mary Bergan, president of the California Federation of Teachers.

"The effect of this reduction is going to be a scramble to put immediate program cuts into place."

— MARY BERGAN
California Federation of Teachers, president

Davis also called for cutting from transportation spending and suspending cost of living increases for welfare recipients.

In health care, Davis proposed cutting payments to some non-hospital Medi-Cal providers by 10 percent; requiring Medi-Cal recipients to provide proof of eligibility four times a year; and rolling back benefits and recently enacted eligibility expansions for adults in the health program for the poor. The changes could force some 200,000 people out of Medi-Cal, officials said.

Beth Capell, spokeswoman for Health Access, a coalition of health care advocates, said the group estimates a much higher number of people would be left uninsured and mean "real suffering for real people." She added that the group wants tax increases to prevent some cuts.

Davis also proposed increases in state parks fees and asked the state's personnel department to reopen negotiations on state worker contracts to cut the state's payroll by \$470 million in the 2003-04 budget year through salary freezes or reductions, layoffs and furloughs.

Lawmakers will be forced over the next 18 months to fill in the more than \$21 billion deficit — almost one quarter of the state's total operating budget — and could face \$12 to \$16 billion deficits for at least six more years, according to Elizabeth Hill, the Legislature's nonpartisan economic adviser.

Davis signed the current budget Sept. 5 — a record 67 days late — that used a combination of cuts, borrowing and increases to the state's revenues, including the suspension of a tax break that allows businesses to write off losses, to fill a \$23.6 billion gap.

But revenues have continued to slump and lawmakers have exhausted the easier, one-time solutions, forcing Davis to propose midyear cuts. Davis likely will propose more cuts — and possibly tax increases — for the coming budget year when he reveals his 2003-04 budget in January.

Lawmakers already have feuded over the best way to fill the deficit — with Democrats calling for some tax increases and Republican legislators calling for massive cuts to government spending.

Assembly Speaker Herb Wesson, who was at a political conference in Hawaii with several other legislators, issued a statement Friday calling Davis' proposed cuts "only the beginning if those who hide behind the 'no new taxes' mantra have their way."

Senate Minority Leader Jim Brulte, R-Rancho Cucamonga, said he would support most of Davis' proposals and predicted the other 14 Senate Republicans would support most of them too.

John Campbell, R-Irvine, called the proposal "a good start."

"I am pleased it has no tax increases in it and I think it's further evidence that we can do this thing without tax increases," Campbell said.

But Davis has not ruled out tax increases when he makes his 2003-04 budget proposal in January and he issued a pre-emptive warning to lawmakers Friday, saying "It will not be possible for us to meet this fiscal challenge if decisions are driven by politics, fear or rigid ideology."

Snapshot of proposed budget cuts

CUTS, from page 1

California State University's by \$60 million.

MEDI-CAL: Cuts payments to some non-hospital Medi-Cal providers by 10 percent; requires Medi-Cal recipients to provide proof of eligibility four times a year; rolls back benefits and recently enacted eligibility expansions for adults in the health program for the poor. The changes could force some 200,000 people out of Medi-Cal, officials said.

PERSONNEL: Directs the state Department of Personnel Administration to negotiate, through the collective bargaining process, to cut the state's payroll by \$470 million in the 2003-04 budget year.

The plan also calls for the state to reduce its contribution to a teacher retirement stability fund by \$500 million in 2003-04.

TRANSPORTATION: Suspends the Proposition 42 transfer of fuel tax funds to transportation programs from the general fund, which accounts for about \$1 billion.

PARKS: Proposes to raise state parks fees by \$1 to \$12 including museums, camping and day use costs.



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DID YOU KNOW?:
Cows do not have upper front teeth.

NATIONAL



Company searches for link to man connected with al-Qaida

BY CURT ANDERSON

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A Massachusetts software company whose clients include the FBI, Air Force and Navy was searched by federal agents looking for links to a Saudi businessman who in turn is believed to be connected to al-Qaida, government officials said Friday.

Ptech Inc. was searched late Thursday by agents from the Customs Service, FBI, Internal Revenue Service and other agencies. They were looking for information on Yasin al-Qadi, who is on the Treasury Department's list of Specially Designated Global Terrorists whose assets should be immediately frozen.

Al-Qadi, who is from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, heads the Saudi-based Muwafaq (Blessed Relief) Foundation, which Treasury officials allege is an al-Qaida front used to funnel millions of dollars to the terrorist organization.

Federal law enforcement officials say al-Qadi once was a key investor in Ptech, located in the Boston suburb of Quincy. They want to know whether al-Qadi still has a relationship with the company and whether information obtained in the search could lead them to other entities with which he was involved, a law enforcement official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Joseph Johnson, vice president of professional services at Ptech, said al-Qadi has no ties to the company now but "may have had something to do with it nine years ago" when the company started.

"There isn't anything going on here,"



Chitose Suzuki/Associated Press

Ptech company employee James Cerrato, center, is swarmed by reporters as he arrives at the company, Friday in Quincy, Mass. Ptech, a software company whose clients include the FBI was raided early Friday by Customs agents as part of a terrorist investigation.

Johnson said. "We're a small software company. What we do doesn't give us access to information that is top secret."

Ptech provides sophisticated financial tracking and budgeting software to big companies and to numerous government agencies, including the FBI, Energy Department, Air Force, Navy, NATO and U.S. House.

The software is not involved in classified areas but does handle sensitive data.

The company's software code was checked by the government to determine

if outsiders could read or steal any sensitive data from the government, or embed the code with something destructive, officials said. Those checks began months ago, when the probe of Ptech started.

"The material has been reviewed by the appropriate government agencies and they have detected absolutely nothing in their reports to the White House that would lead to any concern," said White House spokesman Ari Fleischer.

White House officials helped coordinate the search but "didn't orchestrate

this," Fleischer said. "Anything that may be terrorist-related, of course, gets coordinated with the White House," he said.

No arrests were made after federal agents obtained their search warrant and none are likely, officials said. The company consented to the search.

No one answered the door or the phone Friday at the home of the company's chairman and chief executive officer, Oussama Ziade. A man who answered the phone at the home of vice president Hussein Ibrahim said Ibrahim was unavailable. Neither Ziade nor Ibrahim appear on any government lists of suspected terrorists.

Public records in Massachusetts say Ptech has ties to BMI Inc., a now-defunct Seacaucus, N.J., company that law enforcement officials also have linked to al-Qadi. Johnson said he had no knowledge of a BMI connection; the records show BMI financed Ptech computer and telephone equipment during the 1990s.

Federal law enforcement officials said the Ptech connection to al-Qadi was disclosed months ago by Ptech employees themselves. The FBI has been investigating the case for months and recently was joined by the Customs Service, which obtained the search warrant.

The investigation is part of a broader Customs-led program known as "Operation Green Quest," a multiagency task force that has served 114 search warrants in the past 14 months involving suspected terrorist financing networks. The effort has resulted in 50 arrests, 28 indictments and the seizure of about \$27.4 million, Customs officials said.

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NATIONAL

U.S. general arrives in Gulf area for simulated war game

BY ROBERT BURNS

AP Military Writer

WASHINGTON — Gen. Tommy Franks, the American general who would run any U.S.-led war against Iraq, arrived Friday in the Persian Gulf area to prepare for the opening of a simulated war game next week.

Franks' 15-hour flight took him from his Central Command headquarters in Tampa, Fla., where he has overseen the war in Afghanistan, to Qatar, a Gulf emirate where he has a new headquarters complex that could be used in an Iraq war.

Qatar, a peninsula that juts out from Saudi Arabia's Gulf coast, has emerged as a crucial U.S. ally in the region.

Franks went directly to Camp As Sayliyah for a series of meetings and

briefings with his battle staff. Jim Wilkinson, director of strategic communications for Central Command, said in an interview from Qatar that Franks planned to spend the weekend making last-minute checks of communications links to be tested in the battle scenarios that comprise the weeklong exercise starting Monday.

The exercise, code-named Internal Look, involves no combat troops. It is designed to test Franks' ability to command Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and special operations forces in the Gulf using a new high-tech command post. The war scenario in Internal Look is classified but reportedly includes potential conflict with Iraq.

The exercise has been, in the planning for many months, coincides with Iraq's expected delivery to the United Nations

this weekend of its response to the Security Council's demand for documentation on programs to develop weapons of mass destruction. Iraqi officials reiterated Friday they have no such weapons programs. The Bush administration insists Iraq is lying about this and must disarm or face war.

Franks' command post is at Camp As Sayliyah, a little-publicized installation on the outskirts of Doha, the Qatari capital. The camp's main function has been as a climate-controlled storage area for tanks and other armor and equipment.

If President Bush were to order an attack on Iraq, Franks probably would direct the operation from As Sayliyah. Franks' naval commander is in Bahrain, his Air Force commander in Saudi Arabia and his Army commander in Kuwait.

British commanders also are at Camp As Sayliyah for the Internal Look exercise, and other allied nations might come as observers.

Internal Look has been staged periodically for more than a decade, but this is the first time Central Command has used its transportable headquarters, 22 prefabricated buildings, 16 tents and communications equipment, for the exercise. It also is the first time Internal Look has been held outside the United States.

The United States has several other military installations in Qatar, including Camp Snoopy, a major military logistics base, and al-Udeid air base, where about 3,300 U.S. troops are stationed. Central Command also has an ammunition storage facility in Qatar called Falcon 78.

Government: Weight-loss formula doesn't live up to promises

BY DAVID HO

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Federal and state fraud fighters have sued a San Antonio company that said its weight-loss product would allow users to gorge on pizza, beer and tacos and burn away the fat while sleeping.

The Federal Trade Commission said Thursday that Mark Nutritionals Inc. used radio disc jockeys on more than 650 stations in 110 cities to sell its Body Solutions Evening Weight Loss Formula.

One radio ad included this claim read by a DJ: "It helped me lose 36 pounds and it helps me maintain through the holidays. I mean, I ate so much over Thanksgiving, I still have turkey burps. But thanks to Body Solutions, I keep the weight off and now I'm ready for Christmas."

The agency is not suing the DJs who read the ads, which were broadcast in English and Spanish.

"This was bilingual deception," said Howard Beales, director of the agency's consumer protection bureau.

The FTC lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in San Antonio. Texas and Illinois officials filed similar lawsuits Thursday.

The company, which filed for bankruptcy protection

in September, has taken in \$190 million since 1999 selling its Body Solutions products, the FTC said. The company still sells the weight-loss product on its Web site, charging \$43 for a 15-ounce bottle.

"We are moving forward with a new way to promote and advertise our product."

— LARRY COCHRAN

Mark Nutritionals, chief executive

Larry Cochran, acting chief executive of Mark Nutritionals since the bankruptcy, said the company has agreed to change its advertising to address the FTC's concerns.

"We are moving forward with a new way to promote and advertise our product," he said.

The weight loss formula is a liquid that consumers are instructed to drink before going to bed and at least three

hours after eating or drinking. The ingredients have changed over time, the FTC said, but most recently included aloe vera gel and various herbs and supplements.

The FTC said there is no scientific proof any of the ingredients promote weight loss.

The FTC said the false claims included statements that the product would "cause substantial weight loss even if users eat substantial amounts of high-calorie foods such as pizza, beer, tacos, nachos, cheese grits and doughnuts."

Consumers ordered the formula over the Internet or by calling a toll-free number. The product also has been sold since the summer in Wal-Mart, Eckerd, Kmart and Walgreens, the FTC said.

The FTC is seeking preliminary and permanent injunctions against the company to stop any deceptive claims. The agency also is seeking refunds for consumers.

Beales criticized the media for accepting advertisements like those for the weight-loss formula.

"We need help from responsible media outlets to keep these kinds of advertising from reaching the public," he said.

Beales said the FTC is developing a list of dubious weight-loss claims and wants to work with the media to screen those promotions.

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INTERNATIONAL



Inspectors pressured to talk with Iraqi scientists

BY SANDRA SOBIERAJ
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The White House pressured U.N. officials and weapons inspectors Friday to more aggressively court Iraqi weapons scientists with promises of safety and asylum in exchange for evidence against Saddam Hussein.

"We take the issue very seriously and attach great importance to it. We hope the international community would also attach the same importance to the issue," White House press secretary Ari Fleischer told reporters.

Fleischer emphasized that the U.N. Security Council resolution demanding Iraq's disarmament and dispatching a weapons-inspections team to Baghdad "makes perfectly plain in black and white" that the inspectors are authorized — even encouraged — to squire scientists and their families to safety outside Iraq for debriefing.

"Given Iraq's history of brutal witness intimidation — including imprisonment, torture and murder — this is a key tool for inspectors to make certain that Saddam Hussein disarms. By providing for such interviews in its resolution, the Security Council expects inspectors to take advantage of it," Fleischer said.

Chief U.N. inspector Hans Blix, in an interview with Swedish Radio, disputed reports that White House national security adviser Condoleezza Rice used a meeting with Blix on Monday to demand a more aggressive pursuit of interviews with Iraqi scientists.

"She started out from the American view and gave various opinions on how they thought one could do the whole thing and there wasn't any demands," Blix said. The inspections-team leader added that they are "straightforward in our work... we

go forward as fast as we possibly can."

Fleischer was careful to note that the handling of any Iraqi defectors would be a United Nations responsibility. "Of course, much of the world stands ready to help," he added amid speculation that the United States would create a sort of "witness protection program" for Iraqi informants.

"We're concerned with the safety and the welfare and non-intimidation of Iraqis who may want to cooperate" with international inspectors," Fleischer said.

The Security Council resolution unanimously approved on Nov. 8 demands that Iraq provide unrestricted access to "all officials and other persons" that Blix's team wants to interview "inside or outside Iraq." The United States is counting on this tactic to provide a breakthrough in making the case that Saddam, the Iraqi president, has been at work building chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

Resolution 1441 also requires Iraq to provide by Sunday a full inventory of its weapons and weapons programs. Fleischer said Iraq's declaration could itself prove a "material breach," which is diplomatic parlance for the trigger that would lead the United Nations to consider authorizing war.

"Certainly, we don't rule it out," Fleischer said.

U.S. and U.N. officials cautioned that the Iraqi declaration could be thousands of pages in Arabic that would take some time to translate and analyze.

"We'll take as much time as is necessary to do the job right," Fleischer said.

He raised preemptive suspicions that Iraq will dump a ton of data on inspectors as a means of stalling and distracting from any omitted documentation.

"Just because Iraq turns over the phone book to the United Nations doesn't mean that nobody inside Iraq has an unlisted

Awaiting the declaration



Suzanne Plunkett/Associated Press

United Nations chief weapons inspector Hans Blix, left, on Friday talks to the media after leaving Security Council consultations on Iraq, as Colombia's United Nations Ambassador and present U.N. Security Council President Alfonso Valdivezo looks on at the United Nations. Iraq will hand over a weapons declaration Saturday to U.N. inspectors in Baghdad, Iraq's ambassador said Friday, reiterating his country's claims that it is free of weapons of mass destruction.

phone number," Fleischer said.

"We won't be fooled by the size of this document."

The material, once transmitted from Baghdad to New York, would be distributed

first to the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council: the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China, officials said. The other 10 council members would receive the documentation later.

Swiss struggle to not use the English language, but some substitutes look unwieldy

BY ERICA BULMAN
Associated Press Writer

GENEVA — The Swiss, who speak three major languages, ought to have little trouble accommodating one more. But when it comes to English, they are raising the drawbridge.

A new government lexicon aims to replace anglicisms, mainly the computerese kind, with purebred German, French and Italian equivalents. But the result sometimes seems to reveal a "gift for compressing the largest amount of words into the smallest amount of thought," as Winston Churchill once said of a political foe.

For instance, instead of "spam," let "courrier de masse non sollicité" trip off your tongue.

"There is a lot of English used in everyday speech," said Marcel Grangier, head of the French Linguistics Service at the Swiss Federal Chancellery. "It's a little shocking. English words are used more and more every day."

In an interview (in French), Grangier said: "Using English is not the best way to communicate with our citizens. We've tried to find solutions for that."

So citizens of the French part of Switzerland are urged to trade in "public speaking" for "l'art oratoire," and "prime time" for "l'heure de grande audience."

No longer are the Swiss to use "spam," meaning to blitz e-mail recipients en masse, but the amplitudinous "courrier de masse non sollicité," meaning unsolicited bulk mail.

Grangier said the linguistics task force

(or "cellule d'intervention linguistique") working on the problem is flexible. For instance, for "e-mail" it has borrowed "courriel," a shorter form of "courrier électronique," from French-speakers in Quebec.

But some of the results are confusing — looking clumsy in one language, tidy in another, hybrid in a third. "Driver," as in the computer component, becomes "gestionnaire de peripherique" in French, "Treiber" in German and "driver di periferica" or "driver di dispositivo" in Italian.

The compilers seem to have applied their strictest filters to French terms, but are more permissive with others. For instance, they offer "posta elettronica" in Italian but will settle for "e-mail."

"There are some real problems in translating Internet terminology into different languages," acknowledged Robert St. Clair, a linguistics professor at the University of Louisville in Kentucky who has served as editor of the International Journal of Intercultural Communications Studies. "This is because there is a lot of colloquial English used. Those who started those terms didn't think of other cultures."

"They should have just invented another acronym for what is, after all, junk mail," St. Clair said. "It's human nature. People will just create a new and easier word regardless of what an educated board of linguists say."

"We aren't acting as a language police," Grangier insisted. "These are simply recommendations to try to get people to think. We are trying to limit how much English influences us."

Universal reaches agreement to build theme park in China

BY MARTIN FACKLER
Associated Press Writer

SHANGHAI, China — Universal Studios has reached a preliminary agreement to build a theme park in Shanghai, mainland China's biggest city, the Shanghai government said Friday.

In a written statement, the government called it "an agreement in principle," meaning more negotiations remain ahead. City officials refused to disclose the details.

The Asian Wall Street Journal reported Friday that the deal could be worth \$870 million. It said Universal will pay \$100 million for a one-third stake, sharing the project with two Chinese government companies. The park could open as soon as 2006, the newspaper said.

An employee at Universal's Shanghai office said managers there were not available for comment.

The announcement appears to open the way for the first international-class theme park in China. It would compete with a new Disneyland scheduled to open in Hong Kong in 2005.

The agreement could give Universal a lead in China's vast market over Disney, which has also reportedly been searching for a mainland theme park site.

Shanghai is an appealing market for foreign investors, with 17 million people and one of China's highest average incomes — about \$1,600 a year.

"Shanghai Universal Studio theme park will be based on many outstanding Hollywood movies, using high technology to let visitors vividly experience for themselves scenes from these movies," the statement said.

Executives from Los Angeles-based Universal, which is owned by France's Vivendi Universal Entertainment, have made repeated visits to China to scout locations in Beijing and the southern city of Shenzhen, as well as Shanghai.

The Shanghai sites were in Pudong, a newly developed district on the eastern edge of the city that is home to futuristic skyscrapers and the city's stock exchange.

One official of the Pudong district government told The Associated Press that the site would take up 2 to 4 square miles, though the Asian Wall Street Journal report said it was less than one square mile. The official refused to give his name.

Universal's Chinese partners will be two city-owned companies — Waigaoqiao Holding Co., a dockyard operator, and Jinjiang Group, which runs another amusement park near Shanghai.



SPORTS

San Antonio victorious over Philadelphia 76ers

By The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — The second-longest winning streak of the NBA season came to an end Friday night as Tim Duncan scored 29 points and the San Antonio Spurs blocked 16 shots in a 98-93 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

The Sixers came in with an eight-game winning streak.

Stephen Jackson came off the bench to score 24 points, while David Robinson added 13 and Tony Parker 10. Duncan also had 10 rebounds and eight blocked shots.

Philadelphia was led by Allen Iverson with 21 points. Keith Van Horn added 15 and Eric Snow, 14.

After taking an 80-68 lead into the fourth quarter, San Antonio maintained its advantage behind eight points from Jackson and led 90-78 on Robinson's layup. Snow cut the lead to 90-82 on a jump shot with 4:16 remaining. San Antonio answered with four free throws, the last two by Duncan with 1:41 to play gave the Spurs a 94-82 lead.

Philadelphia would get no closer than five points the rest of the way.

Anaheim will increase payroll to keep team intact

BY GARY GENTILE

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — Even while The Walt Disney Co. proceeds with plans to sell the World Series champion Anaheim Angels, it has approved a 33 percent payroll rise to keep the World Series championship roster.

The team's payroll will increase about \$20 million from last season's \$63 million to keep fan favorites such as Adam Kennedy and Scott Spiezio.

"There's nothing mysterious about it — we like the guys we got," Angels general manager Bill Stoneman said Friday.

About half of the pay increase was built in. Star players such as pitchers Kevin Appier and Troy Percival, as well as outfielders Garret Anderson and Tim Salmon and third baseman Troy Glaus, are signed to multiyear contracts.

"We're going to start out with the same group unless something comes up that surprises us," Stoneman said.

The team does have a couple of holes to fill, including two relief outfielder spots. Stoneman said he is looking at some internal solutions, but will also be open to trades or pursuing other free agents who may become available.

The increased payroll will be partly

borne by fans, who will pay more for tickets. The team will announce the new prices in the next few weeks. It is likely the Angels will adopt a variable pricing plan that charges more for high-profile games, such as those against the Dodgers and the New York Mets.

"We're going to start out with the same group unless something comes up that surprises us."

— **BILL STONEMAN**
Angels general manager

"For us to be competitive, if we can keep our tickets around the median price, that's what we're shooting for," said Kevin Uhlich, senior vice president of business operations.

Anaheim's average ticket price was \$11.79 last season, according to the Team Marketing Report, ahead of only Montreal (\$9 U.S.) and Minnesota (\$11.78).

Angels will not offer arbitration to free agents

By The Associated Press

ANAHEIM — The World Series champion Anaheim Angels announced Friday they don't intend to offer salary arbitration to reserve outfielders Orlando Palmeiro and Alex Ochoa and left-handed reliever Dennis Cook — the team's three free agents.

The 33-year-old Palmeiro hit .300 with 79 hits in 263 at-bats and drove in 31 runs in 110 games for the Angels last season. He ranks second on the team's career pinch hit list with 42.

The 30-year-old Ochoa hit .277 with 18 hits in 65 at-bats after being acquired from the Milwaukee Brewers last July 31. He had two homers and 10 RBIs with the Angels.

The 40-year-old Cook was 1-1 with a 3.38 ERA in 37 games for the Angels before being placed on the disabled list July 13 because of a tear in his left labrum. He would later undergo surgery.

Teams have until Saturday night to offer arbitration or sign any of their free agents. If a club offers arbitration to a free agent, the player has until Dec. 19 to accept or decline the offer. If a club doesn't offer arbitration, his former club cannot re-sign the player until May 1.

Flying to fourth place



Frank Gunn/Associated Press

Caroline Lalive of the USA races down the course on her way to fourth place in the Women's World Cup downhill in Lake Louise, Alberta, on Friday.

Triple crown of surfing event won by Californian

By The Associated Press

KAHUKU, Hawaii — Julia Christian of California won the Turtle Bay Resort Women's Pro, the second jewel in the women's Triple Crown of Surfing.

Thursday's victory in 6-foot waves along Oahu's North Shore earned Christian, 20, a berth on the 2003 Association of Surfing Professionals World Championship Tour.

As the current rankings stand, Christian will be the only American woman from the mainland on the tour.

Keala Kennelly of Hawaii placed second, followed in order by Sofia Mulanovich of Peru and Prue Jeffries of Australia.

Lakers switch up centers on roster; activate Walker

By The Associated Press

EL SEGUNDO — The Los Angeles Lakers activated forward/center Samaki Walker from the injured list Friday and made room for him on the roster by waiving center Soumaila Samake.

Walker missed six games after straining his lower back during a 111-99 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Nov. 24. He was in uniform Friday night when the Lakers faced the Dallas Mavericks.

Walker, in his second season with the Lakers, averaged 8.1 points, 8.3 rebounds and 1.50 blocked shots in the first 14 games of the season.

Samake, signed by the Lakers as a free agent Aug. 23, averaged 1.7 points and 1.8 rebounds in 5.9 minutes while playing in 13 games.

DID YOU KNOW?:

The first instance of global electronic communications took place in 1871 when news of the Derby winner was telegraphed from London to Calcutta in under 5 minutes.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH



When the left hand doesn't know
what the right hand is doing

by Walter J. C. Orr, London



By Dave Coverly



by Chuck Shepard

• Alberta (Canada) judge Shelagh Creagh ruled in October that prison inmate Shane Arthur Wilson could not be punished for carrying around a homemade plastic knife since Wilson said the knife was only for defending himself against prison gangs. This, and a similar decision currently being appealed by another Alberta judge have predictably outraged prison guards across Canada.

- A November Washington Post dispatch from Mexico reports that escaping from prison is not a crime in that country (nor is running away from police or lying about guilt) because, as one Supreme Court justice put it, Mexico respects the individual's "basic desire for freedom."

ACROSS	DOWN
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DOWN

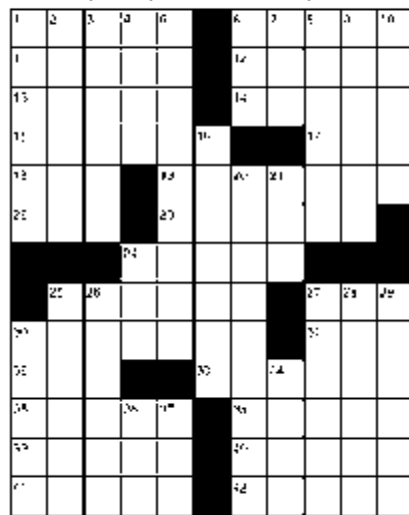
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Yesterday's answer

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ally | 34 Tot
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tio, balcony, 2 car parking, lots
of windows, lots of storage.
Great looking unit. 1 year lease,
no pets. (310)396-4443 x102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH: Front single
in 4-story brick building with
ocean view. Newly renovated
with original hardwood floors. 1
year lease, no pets. (310)450-
1934.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

W. LA \$950.00 Extra large
1bdrm/1ba w/garden view.
Great centralized location and
private parking. Laundry room,
carpet, private entry. 1 year
lease, no pets. (310)396-4443
ext. 102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

Houses For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$850.00
Guest house, R/S, carpet,
bright, parking. Westside Ren-
tals (310)395-7368

SANTA MONICA \$975.00 Du-
plex, R/S, hardwood floors, lau-
ndry, parking. Westside Rentals
(310)395-7368

VENICE CANALS House
\$3,500 3bdrm/2ba, 2 car ga-
rage, canal front patios and
views, fireplace. Great location!
Repainted inside and out, new
carpet downstairs, new wood
trim, new garage door, new
deck, new windows. 1 year
lease. No pets. (310)396-4443
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Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
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Roommates

S.M. SHARE 2bdrm furni-
shed apt. 9th & Wilshire.
\$2200.00 a month. You pay
only \$675.00!! (310)394-
1050.

SANTA MONICA \$500.00 Pri-
vate room, private bath, R/S,
hardwood floors, laundry, park-
ing. Westside Rentals
(310)395-7368.

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vate room, R/S, high ceilings,
yard, parking. Westside Rentals
(310)395-7368.

Commercial Lease

1318 Second Street, Santa
Monica. Approximately 600
square feet. 2 ocean view offi-
ces w/reception. RTH Manage-
ment (949)916-1430. Parking
available.

Storage Space

GARAGE FOR Rent. Car or
storage. Central Santa Monica
location. \$175/mo. (310)828-
6621

STORAGE ROOM 9 x 9 feet.
Santa monica North of wilshire.
\$100/month. (310)393-5900

Massage

BLISSFUL RELAXATION! Heal
your body, mind, spirit. Thera-
peutic, Swedish, Deep-tissue.
energy balancing, non-sexual.
Introductory specials from
\$45.00/1hr. In/out. Lynda,
L.M.T. (310)749-0621

REVITALIZE & Rejuvenate.
Body, Mind & Spirit with a ther-
apeutic Swedish/Deep-tissue
massage. Laura (310)394-2923
(310)569-0883.

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

STRONG & SOOTHING profes-
sional Swedish massage. Intro:
\$35/90min. Platonic. For wom-
en only. Paul: (310)741.1901.

Announcements

**ASSISTANTS LEAGUE OF
SANTA MONICA**

Visit our bargain bazaar at 1453
15th St. Very reasonable prices.
(310)395-2338

Services

HOUSE CLEANING
Janet's at Your Service!
House, yards, garage. Parties
w/hot dog cart! (310)367-5436
(/818)545-8914

HOUSE CLEANING - Available
6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Windows,
laundry, general house clean-
ing. References available. Re-
sponsible. Reasonable prices.
Call Lalo (310) 313-0848.

MASS TUTORING in your /our
home any levels, ages, SAT
preparation. Good experience.
(818)785-8579 Nina.

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MENT** 1-900-226-1930 x6804
\$2.99 per minute, must be over
eighteen. SERV-U-619-645-
8434

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Conscious caring help. 32
years experience. Low cost:
Divorce, Support, Criminal,
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GET IT WHILE IT'S HOT!



**RUN A CLASSIFIED AD FOR ONE MONTH
AND GET A SPECIAL DAILY RATE.**
CALL FOR DETAILS:
310.458.7737

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



Be in the middle of it all!

Professional office space available on the Third Street Promenade.



950 square feet of office space conveniently located downtown, a walk away from shops, restaurants and the beach. Bright office space with high ceilings, natural light, two large private offices and a spacious reception area. Quiet location with a shared kitchen. New paint and carpet. Parking. Available now.

Call (310) 458-7737 ext. 104

SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2002

TODAY'S EVENTS

COMMUNITY

If you visit the **Santa Monica Pier** on December 6, 7, or 8th, you'll be able to paint your impression of holidays in America on a huge 30' x 6' canvas! Fun and friendly for all ages, this event is produced by and benefits the Magna Carta Theatre Company. A Small \$5 donation is recommended to leave your mark in an 8" x 8" space.

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.

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.

ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

Santa Monica High School Theater Arts Department presents **Romeo & Juliet**. Friday and Saturday nights at 8:00pm. November 22nd through December 21st. \$10.00 for students, children, and seniors, \$15.00 for adults. Humanities Center Theater at Santa Monica High School, 601 Pico Blvd. For more information please call (310)458-5939.

MAGICOPOLIS presents HOCUS POCUS! (Fish Bones Choke Us). The stage explodes with a colorful mix of Magic, Special Effects, Sleight of Hand, Comedy and Music that's sure to delight audiences of all ages. At MAGICOPOLIS, 1418 Fourth Street, Santa Monica. Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm, \$20. Saturday & Sundays at 2pm, \$15. For tickets call 310-451-2241.

SUNDAY'S EVENTS

COMMUNITY

Saint John's Shots for Tots & Teens will offer FREE immunizations today from 10am to Noon. Saint John's Health Center, Cafeteria - Ground Floor. Arizona and 22nd Street. Free valet parking is available off of Santa Monica Blvd. (310) 829-8234.

Westside Waldorf School will host a multi-cultural Winter Crafts Faire and Festival of Lights! Entertainment includes live music, storytelling, and puppet shows. The Faire is from 1pm to 5pm, at 1229 4th Street, in Santa Monica. Admission is FREE!

ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

Santa Monica Dance Studio presents "Once upon a night" a 45 minute musical/ dance adventure. Children from Santa Monica Dance Studio will perform as well as professional guest artist/ musicians. The event will take place Sunday, Dec. 8 at 2pm and 4pm at the Morgan Wixson Theatre, 2627 Pico blvd. in Santa Monica. For more info and for reservations call (310) 319-5339 Tickets at thedoor: \$10.00.

Maurice Sendak Days. Saturday, December 7 and 14. 11am to 2pm, Third St. Promenade. Skirball Cultural Center will promote its installation of works by Maurice Sendak by hosting costumed Sendak characters to meet and greet children. To complement the event, Barnes & Noble will host a reading of Sendak's works for children.

The Santa Monica Sweet Adelines and The Santa Monica Oceanaires - plus special guest quartets join together in a festive 2pm a cappella concert. Located at the Mt. Olive Lutheran Church (Ocean Park & 14th Street) in Santa Monica. Tickets are \$8.00. Holiday refreshments. Information/Tickets (310)837-9640 or www.oceanaires.org

MOVIE °GUIDE

LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY CINEMA

1441 Third St. at Broadway
The Emperor's Club (PG-13) 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40. **Ararat** (R) 11:15, 2:00, 4:45, 7:45, 10:30. **Solaris** (2002) (PG-13) 12:00, 1:15, 2:30, 3:45, 5:00, 6:15, 7:30, 8:45, 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) 12:00, 1:00, 3:30, 4:30, 7:00, 8:00, 10:30. **Extreme Ops** (NR) 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) 1:35, 4:00, 10:00. **8 Mile** (R) 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10. **Treasure Planet** (PG) 1:05, 3:05, 5:10, 7:20, 9:35. **Die Another Day** (PG-13) 1:25, 3:45, 4:25, 7:25, 9:20, 10:15. **Adam Sandler's Eight Crazy Nights** (PG-13) 1:00, 1:40, 3:15, 5:25, 7:00, 7:45, 9:55. **Wes Craven Presents: THEY** (PG-13) 1:15, 3:20, 5:35, 7:55, 10:05.

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. **Rabbit Proof Fence** (PG) 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55. **The Quiet American** (R) 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40. **El Crimen del Padre Amaro** (R) 1:30, 4:20, 7:15, 10:05.

AERO THEATRE

1328 Montana Ave.
Bloody Sunday 5:00 **Secretary** 2:30, 7:30, 10:00
The Neverending Story 11:00



BACK PAGE



Santa to bypass Wyoming town

By The Associated Press

SHERIDAN, Wyo. — It appears Santa Claus isn't coming to northern Wyoming this year. Not via the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, anyway.

The railway's "Santa Train," carrying Claus himself, has rolled through the region the past seven years, but this year's stagnant economy combined with staffing problems will put a stop to the holiday tradition, railway spokesman Gus Melonas said.

"It's unfortunate, but that's the way it is this year," he said.

The train, which originates in Edgemont, S.D., normally stops in Newcastle, Upton, Moorcroft, Rozet and Gillette before arriving in Sheridan County, where classrooms of children often turned out to greet it, especially in rural areas.

Students get lesson in etiquette

By The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — There were no essays or true-false questions, but finding the right fork was a step in the right direction.

Twenty-two University of Cincinnati students dressed for success for their final exam Wednesday night in "Global Civility."

Students enrolled in technology-related majors in the College of Applied Science were rated on dining skills, conversation and comportment while at a new French restaurant, Jean-Robert at Pigall's.

"I told them, 'If you show up in Reeboks, I will kill you on the spot,'" said Linda Ginter Brown, head of the Media and Cultural Studies department. "Trust me, they do not look like this on campus."

The 10-week Global Civility course is designed to give students a competitive edge in landing a job or a promotion by focusing on business etiquette and international protocol.

The course requires students to research professional conduct around the world as well as learn how to plan an event. But the final exam focused on dining etiquette.

Toys for Tots go on sale

By The Associated Press

STERLING, Colo. — Toys placed in a drop-off box for charity at a Wal-Mart wound up back on the store shelves after a mix-up that frustrated organizers.

With 10 days left until the end of the annual Toys for Tots drive for the Logan County Chamber of Commerce, organizer Susan Kraich said she was back at square one.

But by late Wednesday, things were looking up — with \$425 worth of toys in hand for delivery.

The roller-coaster charity drive began its wild ride over the weekend.

"I've been keeping an eye on that box every time I went to Wal-Mart, and was so excited as it slowly began to fill. Over the weekend I heard that it was nearly full, so I went to pick it up. I was devastated when I found it empty," Kraich said.

Kraich said she complained to store management, but was told the store would only replace the items she knew for a fact were in the box. She was only able to replace three toys.

"I don't know how I am suppose to prove what was in there ... I thought since Wal-Mart agreed to place the box, they were agreeing to keep an eye on it," she said.

Wal-Mart manager Brad Barritt said the Toys for Tots organizer he met, whose name he could not remember, was instructed that donated items needed to be wrapped in Wal-Mart bags to ensure the items had been purchased.

Kraich, who works for First America Cash Advance, denied ever receiving any such instruction.

Since store officials didn't know if the gifts had been bought or not — and no video camera was trained on the box — Barritt said he decided to place all the toys back on the shelves for resale.

Barritt noted that the retailer is a regular benefactor to area clubs and organizations, donating more than \$50,000 annually. Wal-Mart even offered a \$1,000 cash grant to Toys for Tots this year.

Kayaker paddles 1,750 miles

By The Associated Press

NASHUA, N.H. — A kayaker who began paddling last May from her Florida home to her high school reunion in Nashua has finished her 1,750-mile journey.

Along the way, 48-year-old Karen Ellis Richardson got five marriage proposals, seven nights of free lodging from hotels and lots of new friends. She camped on deserted islands when the weather forced her off course.

She thought she'd arrive before winter did.

Richardson left her home in New Smyrna Beach, Fla., on May 24 in a 17-foot sea kayak with 100 pounds of gear, planning to paddle up the Intracoastal Waterway in time for her Oct. 30 reunion.

Delayed by bad weather, she ended up docking the kayak near New York City and driving to the reunion, then returning to complete her trip. She finished with a 15-mile trip down the Merrimack River from Manchester to Nashua on Monday.

"It feels good to stand up," Richardson said.

Richardson missed only one stretch, from Sunderland, Mass., to Manchester. After spending Thanksgiving with friends, she left South Hadley, Mass., and began paddling upstream, even though she was ill.

"Here I was with a fever, but it was really fun paddling in the snow. I was thinking about how I started out in the tropics and now it's snowing," she said.

Back in her hometown, friends said they weren't surprised that she completed the trip.

Meet Wolfgang!

Holiday Dessert Party & Book Signing

When: Sunday, Dec. 15th

Book Signing and Holiday Dessert Party
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

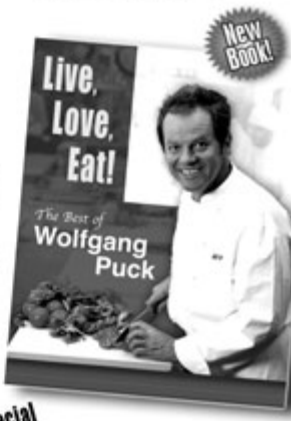
Where: **WOLFGANG PUCK CAFE**

1323 Montana Avenue
Santa Monica, CA

Price: Book Signing - Open to public

Holiday Dessert Party
includes dessert buffet and a copy of "Live, Love, Eat!"
\$30 per guest

Taxes and gratuities not included.
Reservations for Holiday Dessert Party



Special Price!

Wolfgang Puck is coming to Santa Monica for a signing to celebrate the release of his new book, "Live, Love, Eat! The Best of Wolfgang Puck." At the same time, join us for a special Holiday Dessert Party featuring a dessert buffet by Chef Ed Huante, inspired by recipes from Wolfgang's new cookbook.

"Live, Love, Eat!" cookbooks will be available for purchase at an extra-special holiday price of just **\$19.95** (msrp \$39.00) at the Wolfgang Puck Cafe on the day of the event. Get an autographed copy for everyone on your gift list!

For additional information, speak with one of our managers or call
(310) 393-0290.

Limited seating available. Reservations Highly Recommended.

Blue Cross of California Kids Safe Day 2002



KidAlert

present an afternoon of fun, food prizes and child safety.

Saturday, December 7, 2002

11:00a.m. — 3:00p.m.

Madison Campus

Santa Monica College(SMC)
1310 11th Street, Santa Monica
protect your children

FREE photos & fingerprinting — to keep records of your kids.

FREE DNA kits—for parents to retain.

FREE kids' safety tips.

FREE eye exams.

FREE food and entertainment.

FREE prizes and raffle.

Meet special guests Nathan Fillion and Adam Baldwin!

Santa Monica Police R-9!
See Police Cars and Fire Trucks!

For more information call, 310.575.1927