

FREE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2001

Volume 1, Issue 23

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Residents were once again able to enjoy the warm California weather at the beach after a cold snap hit coastal communities this past week.

School officials defy state funding

District ready to take the money and run

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Special to the Daily Press

Local school officials want the state's money — no strings attached.

Thumbing their nose at California Governor Gray Davis, the school district and the teachers union say they will take any reward money for increased standardized test scores and redistribute it within the district as they see fit.

The state program, the Academic Performance Index, rates schools based on their increase or decrease in standardized test scores, and then monetarily rewards the teachers and individual schools that top the list. The catch is that the school that is awarded the money chooses how to use it. But local school officials and teacher union representatives want the money placed into one pool and distributed at their discretion.

But state education officials said the Santa Monica-Malibu School District could be challenged on how it is proposing to use the awarded money.

"If the money is spent without the individ-

ual school's consent or according to their plans, then there is an audit problem," said Bob Furlock, assistant state education secretary of assessment, accounting and finance. "The school district cannot intercept those funds and place them into a single pot."

"If the money is spent without the individual school's consent or according to their plans, then there is an audit problem."

— BOB FURLOCK
Assistant state education secretary

The initiative, which still needs to be ratified by individual school administrations in the district, would alter Davis' program by redirecting funding to schools of greatest need instead of schools with high test scores.

See FUNDING, page 3

U.S. bombs mountain hide-outs, bin Laden to be in area

BY CHRIS TOMLINSON
Associated Press Writer

TORA BORA, Afghanistan — American jets made repeated runs over the forested mountains of eastern Afghanistan on Friday, bombing hide-outs of Osama bin Laden loyalists and filling the valleys with smoke and dust.

A tall man spotted on horseback near the Tora Bora complex of caves and tunnels and radio traffic inquiring in Arabic about "the sheik" had commanders ever more convinced that bin Laden himself was in the area.

Hundreds of anti-Taliban forces have been attacking the caves this week, trying to dislodge bin Laden's al-Qaida fighters, who fled to the area after the rout of the Taliban in most of Afghanistan. They are also mindful of a \$25 million reward for bin Laden, the main suspect in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Gen. Tommy Franks, commander of the U.S. operation in Afghanistan, said American forces were working with local anti-Taliban militias and the Pakistani government to prevent senior al-Qaida members from escaping across the border. He noted U.S. special forces were in the area.

"We are in coordination with Pakistan as well as with opposition forces to do the best we can in this terribly rugged terrain to prevent the escape of those leaders," Franks told reporters in Tampa, Fla.

Local commanders said Arab fighters had abandoned their main caves as the bombardment and ground attacks intensi-

fied, and had moved with their entire families into smaller caves higher in the mountains. Between airstrikes, fighters reported seeing the children of Arab guerrillas playing outside caves.

The al-Qaida fighters rained mortar shells, rockets and bullets from their mountaintop positions, firing at pickup trucks packed with tribal fighters heading to and from the front lines. Tribal fighters responded with tank fire and mortar bombardments.

One of the commanders, Zein Huddin, said Friday night that his forces had intercepted Arabic-language radio traffic between the fighters in the mountains and

allies in Kandahar before the Taliban abandoned the southern city.

"We have intercepted radio messages from Kandahar to the al-Qaida forces here, and they ask, 'How is the sheik?' The reply is, 'The sheik is fine,'" Huddin said. He was convinced "the sheik" was none other than bin Laden.

Another senior commander, Haji Kalan Mir, said his men reported seeing a man who resembled bin Laden on Friday, riding on horseback at the front line with four deputies.

"He went riding back to (the village of) Malaewa after visiting some of his troops," Mir said.

A third commander, Haji Musa, said he didn't know about bin Laden, "but his son is still in the caves."

None of the reports could be independently confirmed, and U.S. officials say they are getting so many bin Laden sight-

See BOMBING, page 5

"One can't know with precision until the chase around the yard is over."

— DONALD RUMSFELD
Defense secretary

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HOROSCOPE

Scorpio, get ready to play Santa!

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ You were a moving tornado last month with Mars, your ruler, in Aquarius. Today your ruler moves into the sign of Pisces. The planet's message to you is this: Learn to positively express your anger and frustration. Don't internalize your feelings. Tonight: Be a wild thing!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Emphasis switches from work to your friends. Personal happiness comes from feeling satisfied with your life. If you aren't, take a hard look and decide what needs changing. Get together with your pals, doing something that you consider to be fun. Tonight: Let the good times roll.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Your mind often drifts, and though this mental escape proves to be highly beneficial, you will be forced to deal with work in the next few weeks. A parent or relative makes a heavy demand. Listen well, as you could have fireworks with this person. Tonight: Play Saturday night away.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Slow down and take a look at what you want. Sometimes you go on automatic pilot, but right now you have an opportunity to reduce your speed and take stock. Start addressing cards and write those important notes that mean so much. Tonight: Catch a movie.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Your energy changes when someone no longer focuses on his anger. Later in the day this person might be ready to start talking. Don't negate the affection that lies between you. Play Ralph Nader and check out a major expenditure. Tonight: Warm up an important bond.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Mars moves into your opposite sign -- Pisces. You find others more assertive or direct than they have been previously. Presently your allure draws others toward you. Trust your instincts now. Recognize that what someone says might have a basis in reality. Tonight: Out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ In the next few weeks, you will plunge into work and get your errands done. Though you could be overwhelmed, you find out that making a list and organizing yourself makes you feel better. In the afternoon, go off and start your holiday shopping, or better yet, finish it off. Tonight: Collapse at home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Use the morning hours to hook up and chat with friends. You'll have an unusual amount of energy available later in the day. In fact, for the next few weeks others might think you're a whirlwind. Don't tell everyone where you are heading this evening. Tonight: Get ready to play Santa.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Your family needs attention and will let you know it, should you decide to go in another direction. Start, if you haven't already, on holiday decorating. Complete it if you can. You're best off close to home. Invite a friend or two over later. Be careful, you could trip over yourself. Tonight: Where your friends are.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ You will speak your mind. All eyes look to you for advice and direction. Use the early part of the day to visit with an older relative before you go off and take care of some of your holiday errands. You will be running around a lot in the next few weeks. Tonight: Happy out.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Take off if you can. Explore a favorite arts-and-crafts spot or get concert tickets. The doctor recommends escape and relaxation in the present busy holiday hubbub. You might opt to clear out many gifts by shopping on the Internet. Tonight: Try a new restaurant.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Mars moves into your sign today making you high-voltage material for the next few months. You're close to unstoppable once you set your mind to a chore. Be your happy self, expressing your personality. Socialize to your heart's content. Tonight: Party away.



WEATHER

Today ... Partly Cloudy with a high of 70°F. Winds from the North Northwest at 21 mph.

Tonight ... Clear with a low 47°F. Winds from the North at 3 mph.

Tomorrow ... Sunny High—64°F Low—44°F



QUOTE of the DAY

“Courage is not the lack of fear,
but acting in spite of it.”
— Mark Twain

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913
530 Wilshire Blvd., Suite #200 • Santa Monica, CA 90401

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LOCAL



Schools want control over their money

FUNDING, from page 1

“We are, in my opinion, complying with the letter of the law,” said John Deasy, superintendent of schools. “However we feel the spirit of the law is silent on equity.”

State education officials disagree, and said the school district may be undermining the best interests of the state awards program.

“Theirs is a philosophical argument at best. This is a competitive program, and the money is an award for winning,” said a state education official. “If they don’t abide by the rules, then they don’t seem to be working in the best interests of the law.”

The state implemented the API program in 1999 to award schools that demonstrate the greatest growth in test scores. Schools are given \$488 per improved student and teachers can be awarded up to \$25,000 to be distributed to the entire school’s staff.

“I think the programs work because of the large amount of local concerns that can be included into how the money is spent,” said Furlock. “Local districts need the strength and flexibility to do what is right in their local district.”

District officials could not say in the past how much money they received from the program, or the amount they expected to receive this year. But Deasy said an estimate would be ready by next month.

School district teachers unanimously voted at a recent union meeting to relinquish any award money they receive to the general pool, said Santa Monica Malibu Classroom Teachers Association President Harry Keiley.

School district studies odds

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Special to the Daily Press

A school district plan that would gamble millions in state funding to lower class sizes city-wide has been put on hold for more consideration by the school board.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified school board received the analysis of the district’s non-resident student policy at its Thursday meeting only to table further discussion of the plan for one month.

Specifically, the board wanted more time to consider suggestions made by the school district that would place a moratorium on accepting any new non-resident students, and not re-issuing permits given to non-resident students that graduate or leave the school district.

“I feel it was very well received,” said John Deasy, superintendent of schools. “The board has asked for it to come back so they can discuss it further.”

Increased enrollment from local students, combined with a high number of out-of-district permits granted by the school board, has led to overcrowded classrooms in many schools across the city.

Five years ago, the school district was under-funded and unable to cope with the financial weight of educating its students. So in order to raise money, the school board allowed many out of district students to enroll in Santa Monica.

With increased enrollment came extra money from the state. Now the school district boasts some of the top test scores in the state and a wide array of classes and extra curricular activities.

However, if the plan is enacted by the school board, the entire student population could be decreased by as much as 300 students a year, costing the district about \$1.5 million in state funding.

Currently non-resident students make up 21 percent of the entire student body and bring in \$12.3 million of state funding each year.

To make up for the dramatic decrease in funding, the school district will have the difficult task of finding new ways to make up for lost revenue.

“The proposal is based on district need and takes into account an awards system that we feel is fatally flawed,” said Keiley. “We express great concern for cash gifts in return for student achievement.”

Keiley said many teachers had refused to accept award money previously for increasing their students’ scores because they disagree with the state’s policy.

But now the money would stay in the district and

help the schools with larger student bodies, large free lunch programs, and large English as a Second Language programs, all of which need more resources.

“We have students who are struggling to meet the API criteria, and we are very concerned about the issue of equity — especially at the schools with the greatest need,” said Deasy.



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

Ilene Cohen plays puppeteer to Hershel as they demonstrate songs and stories celebrating Hanukkah to an audience of children. The performance took place Friday in the auditorium of the main library in Santa Monica.

Man sues Sav-on for reporting photos

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A man who wanted film to be developed at a Sav-on Drugs store has sued the company claiming invasion of privacy after he was arrested when a store employee showed police photographs of his marijuana plants.

“I have one plant that was situated right here and the second one was over approximately three feet,” Glenn Randall Miller, 42, of Montebello told KCAL-TV in Los Angeles on Thursday. “I’ve been a loyal customer to Sav-on ever since I had physical problems. I didn’t see what they gained by doing what they did.”

Miller filed the suit in Superior Court last month. He is facing a Dec. 11 arraignment on felony possession, use and potential sale of the pot.

The unnamed Sav-on Drugs employee in October showed Montebello police photographs of Miller’s marijuana plants. Police searched Miller’s trailer and confiscated items including a paint scale.

An after-hours message left Thursday night for the Boise, Idaho law firm representing Sav-on Drugs was not immediately returned. Boise-based Albertson’s Inc. is the parent of Sav-on Drugs.

Miller, who says he uses marijuana to ease the symptoms of emphysema, heart and lung disease, is seeking unspecified general and punitive damages and attorney’s fees. He claims the plants were only for his own use.

It wasn’t immediately known whether Miller had a

prescription for marijuana. California voters passed Proposition 215 in 1996, allowing the medicinal use of marijuana with a doctor’s authorization.

Steven Weinberger, Miller’s attorney said his client’s photographs are his property.

“Sav-on was his agent for the purpose of developing the photographs only, not for examining the photographs for any potential legality or illegality portrayed in the photos themselves.”

— GLENN RANDALL MILLER
Sav-on customer

“Sav-on was his agent for the purpose of developing the photographs only, not for examining the photographs for any potential legality or illegality portrayed in the photos themselves,” Weinberger said.

Miller added that he’s afraid of dying in prison. “I really hope that the justice system sees that I’m not a criminal,” he told KCAL-TV.

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STATE

STATE BRIEFS

LAX drop-offs may be curbed soon

By the Associated Press

TORRANCE, Calif. — Motorists may soon be able to pick up and drop off passengers at the curbs outside Los Angeles International Airport’s nine terminals, it was reported.

Under a plan being worked out by airport officials, curbside drop-offs could start up again in two weeks, unidentified sources told the Daily Breeze in a story published Friday.

A city official who asked not to be identified said the Board of Airport Commissioners wants to lift the ban before the Christmas travel season begins.

As a security precaution, the airport banned people from pulling private cars up to the curbsides since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Airport spokeswoman Nancy Castles said the ban hasn’t been lifted because the number of traffic officers patrolling the curbs needs to be increased.

Castles confirmed that LAX directors are exploring ways to lift the ban, but there was no official word on when curbside pickups and drop-offs might resume.

Bloody man picked up near body parts

By the Associated Press

VENTURA, Calif. — A blood-splashed man walking away from body parts scattered in the ocean at Point Mugu was taken into custody for questioning, a sheriff’s spokesman said Friday.

Alfonso Castillo, 37, of Panorama City was taken into custody at about 1:30 a.m. Thursday after a deputy discovered the bloodied man walking up from the ocean where parts of a woman were discarded, sheriff’s spokesman Eric Nishimoto said.

Two Coast Guard vessels and 30 personnel from the Ventura County Sheriff’s Search and Rescue Team worked throughout the day Thursday recovering remains from the sea.

Blood was also found in Castillo’s Ford Ranger pickup truck.

“We’re assuming it’s the victim’s blood,” Nishimoto said. “As far as I know, there are no indications of injury to the suspect.”

Steven Spielberg hurt in scooter accident

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Director Steven Spielberg is recovering from minor injuries sustained in a scooter accident last week, his spokesman said Friday.

The 54-year-old filmmaker, whose famous image from “E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial” involved a bicycle flying from a cliff, toppled off the scooter near his home in the Hamptons in New York several days after Thanksgiving.

He twisted his knee, but did not suffer any broken bones or head injuries, spokesman Marvin Levy said.

Spielberg has a brace on his knee, but is otherwise in good health and no surgery is believed necessary to repair the joint, Levy added.

The director is currently in postproduction on his Tom Cruise sci-fi adventure “Minority Report” and preproduction on the con-artist drama “Catch Me If You Can.”

The injury is not expected to interfere with his work, Levy said.

Agency helps open walkways to shores

By the Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif — The state Coastal Conservancy did an about face, reversing an earlier direction and adopting a policy that should open up public walkways to state beaches previously inaccessible.

The new policy, unanimously adopted by the conservancy board Thursday, revises an earlier version that prompted activists to accuse the conservancy of lagging on its mandate to expand beach access.

The points of coastal access in question are 1,269 strips of land along pricey properties from fog-enshrouded Mendocino to sunny Malibu.

Most of the access points remain from the 1970s and 1980s, when the California Coastal Commission extracted them as a condition for homeowners to build on or near the beach.

But public access to the scenic beaches has been slow in coming. The scenic walkways and trails have remained inaccessible to the public due to high fences and houses built close together.

“I don’t care if a homeowner wants to challenge us,” said Paul Morabito, board chairman of the Coastal Conservancy. “Let them challenge us. Our mandate is to preserve public access.”

Many of the homes that block access to beaches are concentrated in Malibu and in Orange, Santa Barbara and Mendocino counties.

Studio closes up shop

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — West Valley Studios, a suburban Chatsworth production facility for television commercials, videos and other programs, will be shut Dec. 28.

Time Warner Cable spokesman Deane Leavenworth said Thursday the 12-year-old studio has only been breaking even and is being closed because it is not a core business of parent company AOL Time Warner.

“We are streamlining the focus of our business,” Leavenworth said.

West Valley Studio has a handful of permanent employees, but about 100 freelance workers were used at the facility each day.



Taliban’s missing leader is a hunted man

BY LAURA KING

AP Special Correspondent

KABUL, Afghanistan — For someone whose face is known to only a few, Mullah Mohammed Omar emerges from the rubble of the Taliban movement a marked man.

With the fall of his last stronghold, Kandahar, the one-eyed cleric who led the Taliban march to power now faces arrest, exile or even death.

The Taliban exodus from Kandahar — the southern Afghan city where the movement was born and its spiritual center during years of oppressive rule over Afghanistan — triggered scenes of rejoicing Friday.

Witnesses said people poured into the streets to rip down white Taliban flags, symbol of the militia’s purist interpretation of Islam.

As the city changed hands, Omar was no where to be found. But Afghanistan’s interim leader said he was firmly on the new government’s wanted list.

“Of course I want to arrest him,” the incoming prime minister, Hamid Karzai, told The Associated Press by satellite telephone from his desert base outside Kandahar, a staging ground for anti-Taliban fighters who moved into the city. “He is a fugitive from justice.”

The commander of the U.S. military campaign, Gen. Tommy Franks, said “we simply do not know where he is right now.”

Speaking in Tampa, Fla., with reporters there and at the Pentagon, Franks said U.S. forces were firing on Taliban fighters as they fled Kandahar with their weapons.

The United States has made no secret of the fact that it would like to see Omar under arrest — or dead. As the city fell, American warplanes continued to hit targets around it, and the Pentagon said U.S. Marines destroyed a convoy carrying members of the Taliban and Osama bin Laden’s al-Qaida network.

Although the Taliban had agreed to lay down their arms as part of the surrender agreement, some escaped with their weapons and were thought to be heading for the hills. Karzai speculated that holdout Taliban fighters — along with foreign fighters loyal to al-Qaida — might seek to regroup on the steep, jagged mountains north of Kandahar.

Karzai and a Pakistani intelligence source who spoke on condition of anonymity said Taliban forces and bin Laden loyalists might be headed for rugged Zabul province, northeast of the city. Another potential sanctuary would be Islam Dara, a heavily fortified warren of caves dug deep into a mountainside in neighboring Helmand province.

From there, guerrilla bands could make their way toward Bamiyan, in the remote highlands of central Afghanistan, about 200 miles northeast of Kandahar, with a wealth of mountain hide-outs into which holdout



Associated Press

U.S. Marines stand at the ready behind their weapons in fighting holes at Camp Rhino in southern Afghanistan during a period of heightened alert on Friday. Members of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit and other services are operating in southern Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

fighters could vanish for months, even years.

If Omar turned his energies to rallying what remained of his troops, he would be coming full circle — falling back on a role he played in the 1980s, during Afghanistan’s bloody struggle with the Soviets. It was during his years as a guerrilla chieftain that he lost an eye to a shrapnel wound.

Bombs can go deep, but not far enough

BOMBING, from page 1

ings they don’t know which are valid.

“I see, literally, dozens and dozens and dozens of pieces of intelligence every day, and ... they don’t agree,” Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Thursday when asked whether bin Laden was near Tora Bora. “One can’t know with precision until the chase around the yard is over.”

Nonetheless, the American military has focused intense bombing in the remote mountains near the Pakistani border. One tribal fighter said Friday that he was assigned to protect 20 U.S. Navy personnel coordinating airstrikes from the ground and that they were living in a schoolhouse at a nearby village.

A senior Pentagon official, Gen. Peter Pace, said special operations troops have started working with the tribal fighters in the area, relaying information to warplanes that can be used to determine bombing targets.

Commanders said there was no hand-to-hand fighting Friday, as there had been a day earlier when the tribal fighters seized two caves — and then pulled back to allow U.S. warplanes to soften al-Qaida positions before attacking again.

“Today we didn’t do much, we didn’t have an attack plan,” said Hazrat Ali, one of three commanders attacking the mountains. He planned a major push on Saturday.

Ali said three of his men had been killed since Tuesday, when the assault began.

The Qatar-based television network Al-Jazeera reported Friday that the Arabs had asked for a five-day break in the fighting to leave the area. It gave no details, and both the United States and Afghanistan’s new administration have said foreign fighters in Afghanistan must be brought to justice.

That appeared to leave the Arabs with little option but to fight. The only trails out — across the border with Pakistan — were covered in deep snow.

During Friday morning prayers, a Muslim cleric from the Arabs’ side called out over a loudspeaker to the tribal fighters across the front line. He pleaded with his “Muslim brothers” to cease their attack, asking them instead to send in the Americans.

The United States is using bunker-busting bombs against the Tora Bora cave complex. Such bombs can kill those who aren’t down too deep, but probably can’t reach all holdouts. Other options are to put concussion grenades, explosives or smoke bombs down tunnels to stun those inside, or smoke them out.

Overall, however, the Pentagon has few high-tech solutions for underground combat. Spy satellites can’t see into caves and tunnels, and night-vision goggles don’t work because there isn’t enough light.

Condit seeks re-election to Congress

BY BRIAN MELLEY

Associated Press Writer

MODESTO, Calif. — Rep. Gary Condit, dogged by scandal since the May disappearance of a Washington, D.C., intern, said Friday he will seek re-election to Congress.

First elected in 1989, Condit kept silent on his plans until 4:15 p.m. Friday, when he arrived at the Stanislaus County courthouse to file his formal campaign papers. Friday was the deadline for congressional candidates to file for the 2002 campaign.

“It was a very difficult decision for me,” Condit said. “It took some time to think about and I’ve represented the valley for a long time and I’ve done a good job for the people of the valley.”

Accompanied by his son Chad and daughter Cadee, Condit arrived at the courthouse looking weary but still flashing his trademark smile. Condit said he had not had any talks with congressional Democratic leaders before deciding to run.

Condit submitted 1,500 voter signatures with his campaign papers Friday to go with the 1,939 valid signatures he turned in earlier. A candidate must have 3,000 valid signatures to qualify for the ballot or pay a filing fee. Condit will pay the fee if he doesn’t have enough valid signatures.

Now Condit faces a Democratic primary race against his longtime protege, Assemblyman Dennis Cardoza of Atwater, a former Condit aide and who also hired Chad

Condit as his legislative chief of staff.

First elected to the seat representing the northern part of California’s Central Valley in 1989, Condit kept fellow representatives and most supporters guessing about his plans until late Friday afternoon.

Once among the most popular Democrats in the House, Condit has been ostracized by his own party. Prominent Democrats, including California Democratic Party Chairman Art Torres, are backing someone else in the central California district Condit has represented since 1989.

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee said Friday it will remain neutral in the primary race.

“Hold on to your hat,” said state Sen. Dick Monteith, R-Modesto, an erstwhile Condit ally who is seeking the Republican nomination for the seat.

It will be apparent quickly whether the race between Condit and Cardoza veers from the issues to the Levy disappearance, Monteith said. On Friday, Condit said it was anyone’s right to run for office and that he and Cardoza are friendly.

Condit, who had more than \$315,000 in his campaign treasury at the end of the last reporting period in June, has not raised any money since then, Cadee Condit said. Cardoza is considered one of the Legislature’s most successful fund-raisers.

Adding to Condit’s woes, California Democrats dramatically reconfigured his district in agriculture-rich central California as part of the once-a-decade redrawing of electoral boundaries that follows the Census.



Associated Press

USS Arizona survivor Martin Shew of Oregon, bows his head in prayer during the 60th Commemorative Anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attacks on the USS Arizona Memorial on Friday in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.



COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



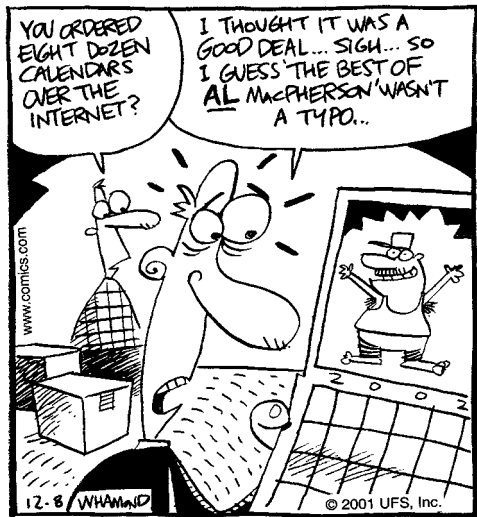
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 - 12 "As You Like It" setting
 - 13 Tolerate
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 - 33 Scamp
 - 35 Flock members
 - 38 Flat paper
 - 39 Cager Shaquille
- 40 Appoint-ments
- 41 Sad
- 42 Like good sentries

DOWN

- 1 Shrimp dish
- 2 In addition
- 3 Originates
- 4 G-men
- 5 Foul result
- 6 Topper
- 7 Misstep
- 8 Penguin type
- 9 Furniture layer
- 10 Supply with funds
- 16 Playing marble
- 20 Hugo heroine
- 21 By way of
- 24 Copy
- 25 Singer Dion
- 26 Actress Martin
- 27 Find
- 28 School need
- 29 Most qualified
- 30 Sci-fi staple
- 34 Circus performer
- 36 — Es Salaam
- 37 Cunning

TEETH	LASTS
ERNIE	ALPHA
EAGLE	SPAIN
LEDA	ANNE
LOIS	LOCI
IRS	CANASTA
SCHWA	USHER
TAMALES	ORE
USES	AMPS
TAFT	SAME
ALFIE	HILTS
RAINY	AGENT
TINGE	BATTY

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
13						14			
15					16			17	
18				19		20	21		
22				23					
			24						
	25	26					27	28	29
30							31		
32				33		34			
35			36	37		38			
39						40			
41						42			

12-8

STUMPED?

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Leave a message after the beep

• News of the Weird has reported several times on romantic-revenge cases from Japan, in which spurned lovers make it nearly their life's work to harass former suitors, sometimes telephoning dozens of times a month for years. Recently, Masashi Kimura made 220 phone calls to the 25-year-old woman who had ignored his advances, and the man was arrested in October. In most traditional cases, the couple had had a previous relationship; in this case, Kimura (of Nagoya, Japan) was still trying to pester the woman for just a first date, and the 220 calls were made in about one month's time.

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BACK PAGE
ODDS & ENDS

Gov. Ventura 'outraged' with no torch

By The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Gov. Jesse Ventura is facing a budget deficit, slumping approval ratings and the potential shutdown of the Minnesota Twins on his hands. But for constituents who take pride in cold, he's tapped a new issue.

"I'm outraged that the state of Minnesota is not getting the Olympic torch," Ventura declared earlier this week. "There should be an outcry from the public. Minnesota is known for its winters."

After arriving from Greece, the torch for the Winter Games in Salt Lake City started its relay on Tuesday from Atlanta, the last U.S. city to hold the Olympic games. It will be carried through 46 of the 50 states, but it will miss Minnesota, the Dakotas and Hawaii.

Lyndsay Rowles, a spokeswoman for the relay, said the torch route is "not about what state has the most snow." Time and logistics don't allow the relay to go through every state, she said.

The torch will travel 13,500 miles before reaching Salt Lake City for the start of the games on Feb. 8. About 11,500 people will carry it, including more than 50 Minnesotans, Rowles said.

Still, Ventura isn't satisfied.

“How would they like it if logistically we said our athletes couldn’t make it to the Olympics?” he asked.

South Dakota Gov. Bill Janklow was less concerned.

"The most important thing is that the torch gets to Utah," Janklow said. "I don't care what route it takes."

LAPD in action figure mode

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — G.I. Joe will have some competition from the Los Angeles Police Department this holiday shopping season: The department's union is releasing its own action figures.

Male Patrol Officer West and female Patrol Officer Sommers each stand 12 inches tall and come with such accessories as a baton, service revolver, flashlight, pepper spray, handcuffs and patrol radio, all made to 1/16 scale.

“They are a great way to show pride in the law enforcement heroes that are protecting our nation right now,” said Mitzi Grasso, president of the Los Angeles Police Protective League.

Grasso said designers are taking pains to make sure "these figures are realistic representations of police officers."

Every three months or so, dolls from units including the SWAT, K-9, narcotics, bicycle, riot control and motorcycle units will be made. They will be on sale on the union's Web site for \$32.

The Protective League, formed in 1992, represents more than 9,000 Los Angeles police officers.

Bra burning of a different kind

By the Associated Press

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. — Bra burning is making a comeback in Johnstown, but feminists aren't behind the act.

A sign of feminine independence in the 1960s, the act was carried out Thursday by two women who will soon be laid off by a company that makes women's undergarments.

Karen Jones and Kathy Johnson wore foreign-made bras over their sweaters with "Out of Work" written on the front to protest planned cutbacks by Bestform Inc.

After a union meeting discussing 600 jobs that will be cut in Somerset and Cambria County by this summer, Jones took off her bra and held a burning cigarette lighter beneath it to set it on fire.

Jones said her bra, made in Taiwan, was meant to protest goods once made in the United States that are now manufactured in other countries.

With the closing of two plants and other moves, the company will cut about 600 jobs by the end of July.

Officials of the company, a division of VF Corp. of Greensboro, N.C., blamed a poor economy for their decision to close the plants and scale-back jobs at distribution sites.

Ducking for cover

By the Associated Press

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. — What should one mobile home company worker have said to another when a lightning bolt streaked across the sky?

Duck.

Lightning struck near workers from White's Mobile Home Supply who were hanging axles under a trailer last week during a storm. After the strike, they came out from under the home, owner Ron White said.

"About 20 to 30 seconds after the lightning struck, ducks started falling from the sky," White said. "It was like tennis shoes falling out of the sky and then they realized they were ducks."

Lightning can hit ducks, but it is rare, said Arkansas Game and Fish Commission waterfowl biologist Mike Checkett.

"When birds are migrating they typically avoid flying in thunderstorms, but if caught in a storm any lightning strike in close proximity could cause death," he said.

The workers collected 20 mallards that fell in the mobile home park. The next day some still remained on the roofs of nearby homes.

"I think this is something they'll remember for the rest of their lives," White said.



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