

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTO

FANTASY 5

39, 30, 13, 9, 28

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 5, 3, 6

Evening picks: 3, 3, 5

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 3, Hot Shot

2nd Place: 1, Gold Rush

3rd Place: 9, Winning Spirit

Race Time: 1:48.98



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

The Moscow State Circus, touring Britain in July, told reporters its insurance companies had instructed trapeze artists to wear hard hats during their performances to comply with European Union safety rules. And Beaufort County, S.C., adopted a policy in August that, for two-semester high school courses, a student who fails the first semester would automatically receive an encouraging "62," no matter how low his actual score.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Big deal! I am used to dust."

— Epitaph requested by Erna Bombeck

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People in the News

"The Cooler" didn't keep his 20

Retail sting catches stores overcharging

Officials caution shoppers to be wary during holidays

By JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Nine Santa Monica retailers have been accused of overcharging customers by as much as \$100, the City Attorney's Office announced Monday.

Among the stores are fashion outlets Bebe, Urban Outfitters and the Gap — all located on the Third Street Promenade — drugstore Walgreens, and bookstore giant Barnes & Noble.

The merchants allegedly overcharged consumers by as little as \$2 for one item — at the Coffee Bean on Montana — and as much as \$101.10 for three items — at clothier Diesel, also on the Promenade,

according to an undercover consumer sting by the LA County Weights and Measures bureau.

Deputy City Attorney Adam Radinsky said all nine defendants are scheduled to appear in court this week. Each faces a maximum penalty of \$3,300 and, if convicted, will be required to post a 60-day "notice of violation" in front of their respective stores.

David Peterson, an attorney for Diesel, called the overcharge a "glitch," and said it occurred as the store was installing a new computer-based pricing system.

"In the past, when there were sale items and things, the clerks had to manually enter prices," Peterson said. "Now, there's a new computer system."

Holiday shoppers sounded dismayed

See STING, page 4

The \$58,000 survey says: Promenade has problems

By CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

THIRD STREET PROMENADE — A \$58,400 survey performed earlier this year to determine how to fix the Third Street Promenade has already prompted officials to make changes. However, bigger problems still loom, and if ignored, the outdoor mall's economic viability could crumble, consultants say.

Project for Public Spaces, a New York-based consulting firm that attempts to maximize a community's public spaces to its advantage, was hired last year and sug-

gested several ways to make the Promenade a more vibrant and economically viable business district.

The Promenade Uses Task Force, a committee comprised of merchants and city politicians, worked with the consultants to address immediate issues, such as the loss of restaurants and locally-owned stores on the Promenade.

Based on recommendations from consultants, the task force (and subsequently the City Council) adopted some new regulations that make it easier for a restaurant

See PROMENADE, page 5

Council mulls spending \$429K on dump trucks, housing repairs

(Editor's note: This is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures which appear on the upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agenda. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the city council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past).

By Daily Press staff

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

A little more than \$400,000 will be spent tonight by the Santa Monica City Council on dump trucks and making improvements to low-income housing.

The bulk of the expenses — \$300,000 — will be earmarked for the potential hazards of lead-based

paint in residents' units and to make conventional home repairs like plumbing, roofing and electrical improvements. The money will be given to Comprehensive Housing Services, which will administer the program, with a maximum of \$60,000 in administrative fees, through June 30.

Another \$129,564 will be spent on two new compressed natural

gas trucks for the open space management division and the community and cultural services department to haul dirt and grass for landscaping.

The City Council will consider spending an unknown amount of money if it enters into an agreement with a company that would audit businesses in town to see if

See SPENDING, page 4

Hard hat area



John Wood/Daily Press

Monday's heavy winds blew away smog and clouds, but also left a few hazards. Above: A metal beam meant to support a "Home for the Holidays" banner hangs precariously over Main Street. Below: A different banner lays on the sidewalk, shortly after it fell Monday morning. Several of the metal posts that ripped loose remained swinging overhead Monday afternoon

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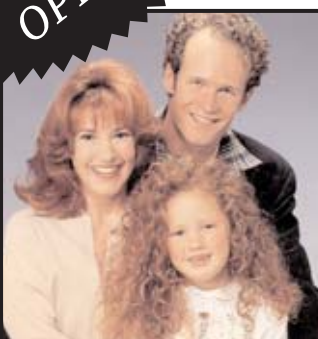
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★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average
★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, December 9, 2003:

You find that often others are highly reactive to you. Perhaps unknowingly you might trigger others. Try to detach in order to see what you are doing, or get feedback from those you value and trust. You will want to curb this type of response through a change in your actions and/or words. Unexpected developments mark your year, and you enjoy the excitement, whether you admit it or not. You can be sure that you will not be bored. If you can avoid buying a car or computer, that might be wise. Your popularity is high, allowing many professional networking opportunities. If single, you will meet a lot of people. After September, someone quite important will stroll into your life. If attached, you will want to take more time to relate to your sweetie. CANCER likes to be close to you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Keep your temper in check. You need to find constructive ways to release your anger that don't distance those around you. A talk with a friend is encouraging; he or she might have some suggestions. Look to the long-term. Tonight: Head home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You can harp on your finances all you want; it isn't going to make a difference. You find that you have a lot of frustration and anger to deal with. Schedule an exercise or yoga class. You need to expend this energy for your own sake. Tonight: Join up with a pal.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Use the daylight hours to further a project, even if others object. Sometimes you need to be your own master. Aim for what you want, but realize that you might need to pull in an expert or two. Your creativity soars. Tonight: Treat yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★ Stand back when a boss loses it. He or she might have good reason to be upset, although you don't think so. Do what you need to do, and stay out of the flak. A discussion with a partner proves significant and enlightening. You see the other side. Tonight: With that special person.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Use the daylight hours to accomplish what you want. News from somewhat of a distance could be upsetting but manageable. Excitement surrounds a partner and your long-term goals. Be sensitive to a friend who could be frustrated. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Take care of a partner who wants and needs to know where you stand. Agree to disagree if you don't want a problem. Later in the day, a conversation works out a lot differently. You can't always see everything eye to eye. Tonight: Where the gang is.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You might want to take on a new project or two, as "enthusiasm" becomes your middle name. Think about all the times you've felt overburdened. You might want a second opinion. Remember your priorities. Tonight: Work late.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Deal with an associate who could be sabotaging your work. Ultimately, you could find this very upsetting. Be careful with your words if you don't want to start a problem. Try to look at this person with detachment. Tonight: Put on a favorite piece of music.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)
★★★★ Others seem unusually fiery and touchy. You might wonder what gives. Just be yourself and don't worry so much. A close conversation later in the day resolves many problems. Be open with a trusted friend. Tonight: Be a duo.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You might find out that what you thought was important is not important to someone else. Keep examining what works, not giving up on a loved one and his or her needs. Dig into work for some mental distraction. Tonight: Out on the town.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Use your special imagination to find answers. Ingenuity is one of the special traits unique to your sign. Be careful while driving and around mechanical devices. You might be a bit accident-prone, as you are in your head so much! Tonight: Relax in your favorite way.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Be careful with frivolous spending right now. You could get yourself into more trouble than you realize. Think about each person and find a gift that suits him or her but isn't necessarily costly. You might want to put in some overtime. Tonight: Bring some cheer to those around you.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Take in an outdoor flick on the Promenade

By Daily Press staff

Mayor Richard Bloom today will address the audience at the inaugural showing of the Winterlit outdoor theatre on the Third Street Promenade.

Winterlit Theatre is a free, outdoor children's movie presentation that will take place on the Promenade in Santa Monica, near Wilshire Boulevard every Tuesday evening from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. through Christmas. Classic television and animated holiday films will be shown on a 20-foot screen.

Beginning Dec. 9, Winterlit Theatre will open up with Porchlight Entertainment's "Jay Jay the Jet Plane Holiday Specials." As a surprise treat, children can meet Jay Jay the Jet Plane character, who will be making a special visit. In addition, Disney's "Rolie Polli Olie: Olie's Winter Wonderland," then "Winnie the Pooh: Seasons of Giving" and "Winnie the Pooh: Very Merry Pooh Year" will be shown.

On Dec. 16, you can view favorites from Paramount Home Video including "SpongeBob SquarePants," "Blues Clues," "Dora the Explorer" and "Oswald."

Older kids can relive their holiday movie memories on Dec. 23, when Winterlit Theatre will presents "Classic Christmas Animations," including "Howdy Doody's Christmas," "A Christmas Carol Tales from Dickens," "Jack Frost" and "Santa Clause Story."

Winterlit Theatre is a production of the Bayside District Corp. in conjunction with Santa Monica Film Festival. Any proceeds from the event help benefit the Cancer Relief Fund.

For more information, contact Bayside District Corporation at (310) 393-8355 or visit downtownsm.com.

UCLA researchers seek prostate cancer patients

By Daily Press staff

Men with high-risk prostate cancer who are candidates for surgery are being sought to test a molecularly targeted experimental drug that may interrupt the signal that is driving their cancer and keep the disease from recurring, officials said.

The early-phase clinical trial is based on basic research discoveries made in Jonsson Cancer Center laboratories UCLA researchers have successfully tested the drug in the laboratory and on animals. They hope to translate that benefit into patients in the clinic, said Dr. Charles Sawyers, an investigator for the study and the Jonsson Cancer Center scientist whose basic research resulted in the clinical trial.

Sawyers proposed the prostate cancer study to Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, and the clinical trial was designed. UCLA's Jonsson Cancer Center is the only West Coast site offering the study. Other sites participating include MD Anderson Cancer Center in Texas and Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, Sawyers said.

UCLA researchers are seeking study volunteers with newly diagnosed prostate cancer who are at high risk for recurrence, meaning they have Gleason scores of 8, 9 or 10 and a PSA level of 20 or greater. Because their cancers are aggressive, the patients generally have a 50 percent to 70 percent chance of recurrence after surgery, Sawyers said.

In the study, a cancer fighting treatment will be administered to volunteers for eight weeks prior to surgery. The prostate will then be removed and researchers will study the tumor sample to determine if the drug hit its target.

Researchers will follow patients, measuring PSA levels and monitoring for recurrences. If the study is successful, researchers may be able to decrease the number of recurrences expected in the patient population, officials said.

Prostate cancer is the most common type of cancer found in American men, other than skin cancer, and is the second leading cause of cancer deaths. About 220,900 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed in the United States in 2003, according to the American Cancer Society. About 28,900 men will die of the disease.

For more information, call (310) 825-4415.

UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center is comprised of more than 240 cancer researchers and clinicians engaged in cancer research, prevention, detection, control and education. The center, one of the nation's largest comprehensive cancer centers, is dedicated to promoting cancer research and applying the results to clinical situations. In 2003, the Jonsson Cancer Center was named the best cancer center in the western United States by U.S. News & World Report, a ranking it has held for four consecutive years.

Wow, that water's dirty. A mix of fading WNW swell, small SW swell, and some steep reinforcing NW swell holds this morning. Unfortunately, the overall trend of fading surf will continue throughout the day.

OUTLOOK: Charts are showing a new storm forming off the California coast. These storms are tough to forecast, but at this point it looks like the storm could become fairly intense as it approaches and hit us as early as Wednesday. More tomorrow.

Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

Today the water is:

60°

Sunrise: 6:59 a.m.
Sunset: 4:53 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	12:53	1.9	2:19	-0.1	7:13	5.9	8:36	3.7
SUNDAY	1:19	2.1	2:50	-0.3	7:38	6.0	9:15	3.7
MONDAY	1:45	2.3	3:23	-0.4	8:03	6.0	9:55	3.6
TUESDAY	2:11	2.4	3:57	-0.4	8:31	6.0	10:36	3.5
WEDNESDAY	2:38	2.6	4:34	-0.4	9:00	5.9	11:22	3.4
THURSDAY	3:07	2.7	5:43	-0.2	9:32	5.8	N/A	N/A
FRIDAY	3:40	2.9	5:56	-0.1	12:15	3.4	(10:07)	5.5

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The local school board is contemplating a new "gift policy" to make cash donations more equitable for all schools in the district. The proposal would no longer allow vast inequities like McKinley Elementary, which raised \$30,000 last year and Pt. Dume Elementary in Malibu, which raised \$300,000, to continue.

One side of the debate argues contributors to the wealthier schools may stop giving if 15 percent of the cash donation is put into a central pot to be distributed to less affluent schools, as the proposal suggests.

Others laud the proposal, saying the less affluent schools will finally get to reap the benefits of all contributions within the district.

This week, Q-Line wants to know, "Is it fair that 15 percent of cash donations be distributed throughout all schools in the district?"

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

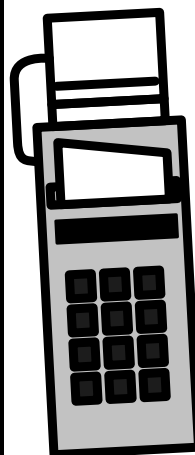
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LOCAL

Buyer's remorse: Stores caught in sting charged

STING, from page 1

by the charges.

"I had no idea," said Cindy Logan, of Manhattan Beach, a wardrobe stylist shopping at Diesel. "I'm one of those people, I look at prices on my receipt. I'm very aware of what I pay, but not all people are. 'I think it's totally wrong,' she added.

Pastor Herrera, director of the LA County Department of Consumer Affairs, said that during the holiday season, especially, shoppers need to be diligent in checking their receipts.

"We have seen in the past that many of the sales items are not scanned with the sale price and, particularly during the holidays, I think it's important that consumers really be more alert of that situation," said Herrera, who urged shoppers to report overcharges.

Complaints can be made directly to the LA County Weights and Measures bureau, a division of the Department of Agriculture. Deputy Director Jeff Humphreys said his team of inspectors regularly patrols the 8,400 LA stores that have scanners.

Of the 6,800 stores inspected since February of 2002, 1,450 overcharged investigators on at least one item, Humphreys said, adding that merchants are seven times as likely to charge more than the posted price for an item than they are to charge less.

For more than a decade, the bureau relied on just one inspector to survey the entire county, Humphreys said. But in February of 2002, the bureau established a sliding-scale registration fee for all scanners, creating revenue that has allowed the bureau to hire a team of 14 inspectors.

"Obviously, we're doing a lot more undercover inspections," Humphreys added. "We used to focus just on grocery stores, really just the grocery chains, and a few department stores. And often, really, we were responding just to complaints."

Humphreys said the bureau investigates about 30 complaints each month, in addition to its routine inspections. He said the most frequent violation is when stores leave up sale tags after the discount has expired, but added that also common are botched percentage-off calculations and bona fide sale items that ring up at full price at checkout.

The recent charges are based on a series of undercover inspections conducted between May 22 and July 9 in Santa Monica. Also named as defendants are Sears on Colorado Boulevard and Carlton Cards in Santa Monica Place mall.

Cato Fiksdal, commissioner of the LA County Department of Agriculture, which oversees the bureau of Weights and Measure, said there may be even more discrepancies at the checkout aisle now than there were in the summer, when the sting was conducted.

"What we were guilty of was sort of jumping the gun at our store, giving the discounts to most customers ahead of time."

— **JOSH BURELL**
General manager,
Urban Outfitters

"In general, the holiday season is a time when there are a lot of sales, a lot of merchandise, a lot of shoppers," he said. "Every one is busy and there is a lot of part-time help out there."

Josh Burell, general manager of Urban Outfitters, explained that the overcharge at his store is unlikely to reoccur. He attributed the mistake to a worker not double-checking the new sales promotions in the store.

"What we were guilty of was sort of jumping the gun at our store, giving the discounts to most customers ahead of time," he said, explaining that the signs went up for sales before the computers were programmed. "The error is still on our part because we should, obviously, charge what's advertised."

Mike Terry, 30, a West LA resident and recording engineer shopping on the Promenade Monday afternoon, said he would take some extra precautions this holiday season.

"Usually, when I buy something, I check (receipts)," he said. "Now, I'll be sure to."

Business license revenue could help bolster budget

SPENDING, from page 1

they have proper business licenses. The company would operate on a contingency basis — the first year it would be paid 30 percent of the revenues recovered, 35 percent the following year and 40 percent the third year.

Business license revenue for the city is substantial — City Hall annually issues about 20,000 business licenses, generating nearly \$18 million for the city. But there are plenty of merchants in Santa Monica that operate without a license.

"Given the uncertain budget situation in the city, it is now more important than ever that the city take steps to discover

these businesses and recover all revenues to which it's entitled," city staff wrote.

The company that would perform the audit services is MBIA MuniServices, which currently provides City Hall with audit services for utility tax users. The agreement would include both discovery and audit services. Discovery is designed to identify businesses subject to taxation that are not properly licensed and are not reporting fees to the city. Audit services are designed to identify businesses that are not properly reporting the full amount to which they are subject.

City Hall hasn't done any audits of business licenses since 1991.

LOCAL

Consultants suggest cafes, cleaner alleys as solution

PROMENADE, from page 1

to open on the Promenade. They also lifted restrictions on outdoor dining and expanded the vending cart operation, using the kiosks more to merchants' advantage. Among other changes, they limited retail storefronts to discourage additional chain stores.

But there were many suggestions that have been either tabled by city officials or are no longer being considered. A report given to city officials earlier this year by the consultants summarizes what most people already knew — that the Promenade isn't operating to its full potential and has experienced a distinct shift over the past three years that has alarmed both merchants and city officials.

The consultants attribute the decline to several factors — most of the stores being corporate, a dearth of restaurants, too many loitering transients. In addition, the alleys — the main thoroughfare leading from the parking structures — leave much to be desired.

"The best thing about the alleys now is their potential," the report states. "They smell overwhelmingly of urine, have views of dumpsters more than businesses and have little signage. Also, there is nothing of interest to people in them — almost no businesses open ... and no activities take place there."

At a minimum, PPS suggests that the alleys should be better maintained, lighting should be improved and local artists should paint murals on the walls. Beyond the appearance of the alleys, PPS suggests that art shows, vending and cafes be implemented there. Businesses should also open their doors to the alleys, which would extend the street into more of a district.

"I think the alleys need to be upgraded," said City Councilman Herb Katz, who served on the task force. "You have to find ways to hide the trash."

The original plan for the Promenade called for the development of the alleys and adjacent streets into one district. The goal was never achieved, but it must be revisited if the Promenade will continue to thrive, PPS concluded.

"The success of the Promenade should be allowed to spread before it ends up damaging the area," the report states. "Third Street's success is distorted — in a sense, artificial — because of the lack of viable opportunities for businesses to take root and thrive in adjacent and nearby streets."

The consultants add that Second and Fourth streets are practically devoid of people.

"In effect, the disparity in retail-friendliness is partly attributable to the lack of pedestrian friendliness of other streets," the report states. "What is needed is to replicate what was done on the Promenade to the surrounding district."

The consultants suggest that other streets should be more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly. Sidewalks should be widened to allow for more cafes and vehicle lanes should be narrower to help slow traffic. More on-street parking should also be considered.

If the entire downtown area is going to be an expanded district, it must be funded by a new revenue source which the consultants suggest could be raised through public money and assessments.

But if there is going to be a new district, the Bayside District Corp., which manages the downtown with City Hall, will need more money to manage the area, the consultants said.

"They got us into creative thinking and out of our narrow thinking. This was one of the times the consultant was worth their salt."

— HERB KATZ
Santa Monica City councilman

The report also suggests that the Promenade doesn't "appear to be a pedestrian street so much as it does as a street with pedestrians" because people avoid walking down the center. That was designed to keep people walking by storefronts, say the consultants, but the street space isn't being used to its full potential.

That can be remedied with creating better seating areas, hosting more public gathering events and having additional cafes, the report concludes.

The consultants also think there are too many buildings that don't support street activity, like the city-owned garages. All buildings should have ground-floor uses that catch the attention of passersby. And the surface parking lots downtown should be used for new movie theaters because the ones on the Promenade are outdated.

Katz said that even though the consultants pointed out the obvious, the process allowed them to think "out of the box."

"I'm an anti-consultant guy, I think we over consult," he said. "But these guys are over-the-top good. They got us into creative thinking and out of our narrow thinking. This was one of the times the consultant was worth their salt."

The 31-page report goes into detail on how Santa Monica should implement the suggested changes and how long it should take to do it. While city leaders don't like all of the suggestions made, it opened their eyes to potential opportunities in the future.

"I think we did learn a lot," said Bayside Board member Rob Rader. "They told us things we knew, but also things we didn't know."

Kathleen Rawson, executive director of Bayside, said a lot of today's issues were issues back in 1966 — a study then suggested that transients, lack of parking and traffic were the main problems plaguing the area.

"I have often reviewed past studies and they become historical documents," she said. "Consultants hopefully guide you and make you think outside of Santa Monica."



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LETTERS

Be cautious with school tax

Editor:

For many years I have been very active in the Santa Monica-Malibu School District in many different ways, with much of my activities involved with the economic issues facing the district, including sitting as one of four members of a task force established by superintendent Neil Schmidt to look into the finances of the district. The one thing that has always been clear to me is that there has been great inequities with fundraising among the various schools and as a result the schools have not been equal. I do feel the more affluent schools have a social obligation to share some of their wealth with the less affluent schools and I feel 15 percent of funds raised is small enough that it should not have a material affect on fundraising. Superintendent John Deasy's proposal is much improved over some of the proposals from his predecessors in the past, which included sharing as much as 50 percent or putting a dollar limit on fundraising and then everything above that being shared with other schools. The only caution I would give is that in factoring in the redistribution of the 15 percent, grants to schools should be taken into consideration. Over the years, some of the less affluent schools have been able to get grants that were not available to some of the more affluent schools. As a result, while the fundraising efforts among those less affluent schools may have been substantially less than the more affluent schools, when factoring in grant funds, some of the less affluent schools may actually have raised outside funds which were substantially more than raised by the affluent schools. If grants are factored into the equation, then I fully support John's proposal and do not believe it would reduce fundraising at those schools which must share.

Neil Carrey
Santa Monica

The more things change ...

Editor:

I made a promise to myself that I would not write any letters to SMDP after I moved out of Santa Monica even though I would still avail myself of SMDP to keep current with the goings on in the "little city by the sea." However, having just returned from the holiday trip I took there, I just couldn't help but notice how things never change.

Day 1: I decided to take a walk to the Promenade to see how it was looking. In less than six minutes from the time I crossed Wilshire Boulevard, I was hit up by one of Charles Springer's "brothers" and he wasn't asking for just "a smile." As I progressed south, I was overcome by the spirit of the season as I passed the enchanting artificial, blue/green, Siegfried-and-Roy-esq stage props — better know as "Winterlit." Ah, the sites and sounds of the holidays as I journeyed passed the young, pierced, tattooed, lovers as they told each other to "bleep" off. I only wish I had my 2-year-old son with me to experience the wonderful ambiance offered by Santa Monica during this festive time of year.

Day 2: I went for an early run at the beach, passing south of the pier — the ocean air, the precious silence, the smell of urine. Oh well, two out of three ain't bad, I guess.

Day 3: I grabbed a cup of Joe around 10 a.m. at the Montana Starbucks (15th not 7th), watched all the beautiful people walking by on their way to, on their way to, on their way to ... well, on their way to something very important, I'm sure. As I sipped my mocha and picked up the SMDP, I noticed that Charles "Homeless-and-living-in-Santa-Monica-artist-student-activist-blah-blah-blah" Springer had once again claimed that absolutely no personal responsibility whatsoever played a hand in his buddy's death. It was "the man," "society," and of course George Bush that had killed his fellow bum (can we please stop using the PC word "homeless" now? It's so '80s).

Day 4: Got a great laugh at the news that a judge ruled against the Rent Control Board on 3304 based on a suit filed by a wealthy lawyer who lives in Beverly Hills but keeps two rent-controlled, beachfront apartments on the side. If this isn't poetic, I don't know what is. Imagine the faces of the RCB and SMRR when the truth was

See LETTERS, page 7



Reasons why the Democrats deserve to lose the San Francisco mayor's race



Evelyn Jerome

Today is election day in San Francisco, and a win for Green Party candidate Matt Gonzalez could very well cement the city's political insignificance on the national scene.

While former mayor Art Agnos, supporting Gonzalez, enjoys San Francisco's image as "cantankerous" and "obstreperous," the city will choose today between left and lefter, and between teetering on the edge of political normalcy and teetering off of it.

The east coast is laughing its snowed-in rear end off.

Gonzalez is running against Democratic county supervisor Gavin Newsom, a millionaire married to a model, hand-selected by outgoing mayor Willie Brown, who likes to get his way. Newsom is your run-of-the-mill Frisco Democrat: Pro-choice, pro-environment, pro-gay rights, pro-union, etc., and by the way, he's easy on

the eyes. How could he lose?

Well let's see. Half of the city's Democratic clubs have endorsed the Democratic supervisor, Newsom. And the other half have endorsed Gonzalez. Many of the city's high-profile Democratic activists and elected officials have endorsed the Green. Greens from across the Western states are piling into San Francisco, sleeping on borrowed yoga mats and knocking on doors for Gonzalez.

Greens in San Francisco see the 40 years that Democrats have run the city the same way that the 1994 Republicans saw 40 years of Democratic rule in Washington and Congress. They hate it. And they smell their chance right now.

And the Democrats deserve it if they lose.

A year ago California Democrats were on top of the world, having won all eight statewide constitutional offices and having swept the legislative races to hold tight control of both houses of the state legislature. Democrats were in charge.

Just 11 months later, Democrats were caught in the highbeams of a Hummer, and now we're hanging our heads in shame, as the state's voters handed us Gray Davis' head on a plate.

Democrats have an organizational problem. October's election gave us the first glimpse of it, and today's may be the second. Just like they tell you in the 12-step programs — you've got to recognize that you have a problem before you can fix it.

We Democrats actually seem to have a two-sided problem — we're losing folks from each end of our far-reaching spectrum. The recall election showed us that we're losing moderate Democrats who are looking for action and results with fiscal efficiency. And frankly, a multi-billion dollar deficit with Democrats controlling both houses of the legislature and the top spot didn't help.

And as the 2000 election proved to us, we're losing liberal voters from the left to the Green Party, and today's San Francisco contest may give the Greens

the boost they've needed to prevent Democrats from telling voters that a vote for the Green candidate is a waste.

So we're shrinking, we recently invincible California Democrats. And if we shrink enough, we will find that the national candidates will quickly go from taking us for granted to writing us off as a loss.

Given that we are 11 months away from the next presidential election, now would be a great time for California Democrats to regroup, reorganize, and redouble our efforts to give as many voters as possible something they can grasp within the Democratic Party.

And by the way, it's not so big a deal if Matt Gonzalez wins Frisco today. Santa Monica, until recently, had a Green mayor.

(Evelyn Jerome is a communications consultant, a past president of the Los Angeles County Young Democrats and a Santa Monica homeowner. To respond or to reach her, e-mail evelyn_thinktwice@yahoo.com.)

OPINION

Networking through organizations take perseverance



LEGAL VIEWS AND NEWS

By David Pissarra

Do you prefer gumballs or slot machines? Now that's a strange question. Or is it? If you just LOVE gumball machines, you probably require an immediate payoff for your nickel. A quarter these days. You want instant gratification. Effective business networking works more like a slot machine. You invest your time, your membership, and your dues. Eventually it pays off. Sometimes with small jackpots. Sometimes with big jackpots. Sometimes it pays off right away. Sometimes you have to play it for a while. It takes time to build a reputation, to be known, to make friends, to become respected.

A strong networking organization is designed to provide members the tools that enable members to build the kinds of relationships and friendships that pay off — now and later. When you need a lawyer, or a car dealer, or a personal coach, or a florist, or a dentist, or a financial consultant, or a real estate agent — or when your friends do — you have a built-in network of people you know and like and trust to turn to, or to refer.

These are traditionally found to be chambers of commerce, trade organizations, social benefit clubs and country clubs, sort of. The value of a chamber or a networking group is in the way it will

allow you to market yourself to other members. The key to these types of organizations is in how well they foster growth among the members and let you develop your reputation in the organization.

I am president of one organization and we encourage the members to send letters to each other, e-mail, communicate freely, and use the organization as a touchstone point of reference so that the letter, phone call or e-mail is not a cold call. The reason for this is that when you can contact another and you have a commonality, the letter is more likely to be read closely, the phone call will be taken, and the e-mail will be opened. The point of a good organization is for the members to communicate with each other.

I also have been the member of a chamber of commerce that would not allow the transmission of e-mail to other members. I was shouted down, literally, by the person running the organization, and told by the president that I was not to use the organization's name in any of my marketing to other members in writing. This completely defeated the purpose of being a member and was a frighteningly bad experience for me.

As an entrepreneur I have used quite successfully the direct mail approach to build a business. The use of e-mail and direct mail is a very powerful tool if done correctly. One of the most powerful ways is to build a database/mailling list of the members so that you can customize a letter with a proper salutation, make your labels look nice and build in the connections with information about the other

party. This was frowned upon by the organization I was with, but they were more than willing to sell me their plain white labels which scream "junk mail" and virtually guarantee a quick trip to the trash bin for the letter. I know, because it is precisely what happens to the letters I receive with those cheap labels on them.

When I wanted to use the e-mail list I had created from their printed directory of members, they told me that I was spamming people. I tried to point out that you can't, by definition, spam a membership group to which you belong. I got yelled at for that one too. When I was no longer allowed to use my connection to other members of the organization in my marketing materials there was no purpose in my continued payment of dues to this organization.

I wrote a few weeks back about the effect that Wal-Mart is having on our economy. And after a Thanksgiving road trip through Nevada, Utah and Idaho, where the super centers were spread heavily, I want to encourage the buy American theme. Wal-Mart is taking over this country, and soon there won't be many American businesses left unless we start to support our own companies, and unfortunately that means staying away from Wal-Mart and shopping in the more expensive and smaller shops closer to home. If you are reading this and if you have your own business — I want to encourage you to support doing business with members of our community and your neighbors.

A good organization will provide the

opportunities for you to meet and make friends with a wide variety of professionals, learn about their services, and share your company and its services with them. Business follows naturally. But be sure to find a good one, they are not all the same in their philosophy.

I highly recommend service organizations as a great way to meet people and get known. They are not as conducive to the full frontal assault of marketing that some people like, however they tend to create a longer lasting relationship. I strongly suggest that people take a view of networking as a slot machine, where you have to put in your time, pay your dues and eventually it will pay off.

The problem most people have with chambers, networking groups and trade organizations is they believe that they can show up one or two times, and should be walking out the door with new clients. This is rarely the case. It is more likely that you will have to appear often and eat many a rubber chicken dinner before you garner a good clientele.

There are many social service organizations, including Rotary International, Kiwanis, Lions Club, Elks, Eagles, Moose, to name just a few of the better known ones. They all provide wonderful opportunities for a business owner to give back to the community and to build their business.

(David Pissarra is a partner in the Santa Monica law firm of Pissarra & Grist. He can be reached at (310) 664-9969 or by e-mail at dpissarra@pissarra.com).

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LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 6

exposed, namely that the majority of rent-controlled apartments are actually rented by people with high incomes! I guess that explains all the new SUVs and sports cars that populate the carports of rundown, '70s-era apartments. But, I'm not telling you anything we didn't already know.

Day 5: Found out that Fisher Lumber is going to close so that the city can continue to boost the number of SMRR voters to offset the naturally occurring gentrification that's taking place in Santa Monica. In other words, they're building "low income housing." Oh well, what's one more longtime business getting the boot? It didn't matter to the city with the Boathouse, so why change?

Day 6: Had enough. Decided to return to my new home and that Marilyn Brennan, Ron Scott Smith, Ed Silverstein, and every other aging hippy with a ponytail and a comb-over, should take Charles Springer into their homes and once and for all — get him off the streets!

Happy holidays.

Tony Street
Santa Monica

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STATE

Nanosys getting big jump in one minuscule industry

MATTHEW FORDAHL

AP Technology Writer

PALO ALTO — The science of manipulating the smallest building blocks of matter into useful technology has been hyped as the engine of the next industrial revolution, when molecular computers supplant silicon chips and cheap "nanobots" render billion-dollar factories obsolete.

Most experts agree that nanotechnology — usually defined as the creation and manipulation of materials no larger than a billionth of a meter, or 1/100,000th the diameter of a hair — has the potential to transform everything from fabrics to health care to computers and space probes.

The question is, who will capitalize on it first, and when.

Nanosys Inc., a 35-employee Silicon Valley startup quickly gaining strength in the nascent industry, isn't banking on marvels of nanotechnology stitching themselves into reality any time soon.

It's building instead on near-term possibilities, hoping to make money and lay a foundation. The pragmatic approach may not be as dramatic as some sci-fi visions — but it's attracting considerable attention and investment.

That doesn't mean the company's view is narrow — Nanosys is working on applications as diverse as solar cells, sensors and nano-engineered fibers and electronics while developing and licensing core technologies it hopes will build business muscle.

"Today, our focus is on very simple things," said Stephen Empedocles, a co-founder and director of business development. "Things that we can do in the next couple years to get into the market so that people will have valuable nanotechnology at their fingertips."

This year, Nanosys led most nanotech startups in capturing venture capital investments, closing \$39 million in financing for a total of \$70 million in equity and non-equity funding since its founding two years ago.

Privately held Nanosys and its scientists regularly top lists of up-and-coming companies and researchers. It has struck deals with corporations like Japan's Matsushita Electric Works, and recently received investments from Eastman Kodak Co. and others.

It also has agreements with defense and intelligence communities, including the CIA-backed venture capital group In-Q-Tel and defense contractor Science Applications International Corp. No details of those deals have been released.

Last week, President Bush signed a bill to invest nearly \$3.7 billion for work in nanotech. Corporate labs are investing heavily, and universities have set up more than 100 research institutes across the country. Nanosys is among more than 400 startups playing the field, according to data from the research firm Cientifica.

Nano-size particles have unique qualities that make them especially enticing. Nanotech can make materials faster, better and cheaper by building materials up atom by atom through chemical reactions in \$10 beakers and flasks, rather than in the multi-billion-dollar factories of today's semiconductor industry.

Nanosys' goal is to become a provider of nanotechnology-based devices that its corporate partners can commercialize without needing to know the details — much like

computer makers integrate an Intel Corp. microprocessor into their products.

Three businessmen founded Nanosys: Larry Bock, an entrepreneur who started 15 companies; Calvin Chow, who launched three; and Empedocles, who also started three. They rounded up nearly a dozen leading researchers who serve as exclusive scientific advisers and hold equity stakes in the company.

**"Today, our focus is on
very simple things."**

— **STEPHEN EMPEDOCLES**
Nanosys Inc. co-founder

The company uses its investments to license intellectual property and develop its own. So far, it has about 150 patents, two-thirds licensed from nanotech centers around the world and the remainder developed internally.

"Nanosys has done a remarkable job of carving out intellectual property protection and really covering what appears to be all the bases for the area they want to be in," said Steve Crosby, president of Small Times Media, publisher of a magazine that follows the industry.

The intellectual property also helps Nanosys stand out, said John M.A. Roy, a technology strategist at Merrill Lynch. "Everyone talks about intellectual property, but to truly focus on it as a core element, there's not that many doing that," he said.

Empedocles is careful not to oversell what's feasible in the near future. Molecular computers may be distantly possible, but Nanosys isn't counting on replacing Intel Corp. tomorrow.

"Our vision is different — it's basically looking for the low-hanging-fruit opportunities along this path," he said.

In Nanosys' lab, researchers work on nanomaterials that repel water so well that drops of liquid literally bounce from the surface. The company also is making strides in electronics that don't require the superheated vacuums and clean rooms of traditional semiconductor technology.

The photovoltaics it's developing — the technology converts sunlight into electricity — are different from today's expensive crystalline silicon solar cells. The hope is that, through nano-engineering, they might someday be molded into construction materials — or even painted onto surfaces.

Nanosys is not trying to reinvent the wheel with more exotic and unproven creations like the carbon nanotubes championed by others. Carbon nanotubes are a promising technology, offering stronger-than-steel strength at a fraction of the weight and excellent electrical properties, but they're far from ready for prime time.

"The problem with carbon nanotubes is you can't manufacture them with any sort of control," Empedocles said. "Even the most bleeding-edge nanotube synthesis processes produce all types of nanotubes at once."

But even with a dream team of researchers, a strong patent portfolio and simple near-term applications, Nanosys — and nanotechnology in general — must now deliver something to match the high expectations of investors or risk popping the growing bubble of interest, said Stan Williams, Hewlett-Packard Co.'s director of quantum science research.

NATIONAL



Open or closed? Nevada's U.S. forest road still disputed

BY SCOTT SONNER

Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. — Any day now, Mother Nature will dump enough snow on South Canyon Road to effectively close it — by anybody's standards — and the question of whether the remote backcountry road is technically open or legally closed will be moot again until spring.

In the meantime, just as it has for eight winters since a 1.5-mile stretch washed out in a flood in 1995, the legal status of the road remains in limbo. And the fractious dispute over property rights, government authority and a dwindling species of trout will continue to simmer in remote northeast Nevada.

The dispute now pits federal agencies against one another. The agencies disagree even among themselves on whether the road near the Idaho border is open or closed.

Environmentalists want the Forest Service to build a gate across the road in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest near the town of Jarbidge. They want it locked until the agency determines if travel on the road poses a threat to the threatened bull trout.

"It really is an abdication of the Forest Service's responsibility to protect public lands for them to continue treating the road as open," said Michael Freeman, a lawyer in Boulder, Colo., representing The Wilderness Society and Great Old Broads for Wilderness.

Some Elko County property-rights activists want the agency to recognize residents' rights to travel the road and approve their plans to rebuild it.

"We opened the road three years ago," said Grant Gerber, an Elko lawyer and one of the leaders of the "Shovel Brigade" that helped clear away boulders from the road at an Independence Day rally that drew hundreds to the tiny canyon in 2000.

"The Forest Service at the time was rumormongering to everyone that we were doing it illegally. But if we had been doing it illegally, they would have arrested us," Gerber said.

Even the experts at the two lead federal agencies are at odds over whether the road is open and to what extent, if any, motorized vehicles should be allowed there.

Officials of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service say the road that winds along the Jarbidge River and runs to a primitive campground should be considered closed because it washed out in the flood and never was reopened legally.

The Forest Service for years treated the road as closed, rejecting county proposals to reopen it while sharing its sister agency's view that any motorized travel there could accelerate streambank erosion and push the bull trout closer to extinction.

"It really is an abdication of the Forest Service's responsibility to protect public lands for them to continue treating the road as open."

— MICHAEL FREEMAN
Attorney

But more recently, Forest Service district ranger Bill Van Bruggen suggested the road was technically "open in disrepair." And Humboldt-Toiyabe Forest Supervisor Bob Vaught has since declared that the road is neither open nor closed.

"From the Forest Service perspective, a road that is open is one that is safe, maintained for its use and available for public use. That is not the case here," Vaught said.

"A road that is closed means there is a closure order on the road and anyone that would be on the road with a motorized vehicle could be issued a citation for violating the closure. That also is not the case here," he told The Associated Press.

"I admit it's a matter of semantics. But on these highly volatile issues, semantics can be important. It's a very special circumstance and doesn't fit our normal definitions."

Vaught said the Forest Service discourages use of the road "but people are not restricted from going up there."

The Forest Service view has evolved since the agency entered a settlement agreement in 2001 in which the

agency agreed it would not challenge Elko County's claim to a right of way on the road, Vaught said.

Environmentalists objected, saying the agency had no authority to waive its jurisdiction. In June 2003, a federal judge agreed, saying the agency had not followed the necessary procedures to grant a right of way.

Nevertheless, Vaught said he manages the road as though the agreement was in effect.

"I have read the judge's report numerous times. I personally find it difficult to understand," Vaught said. "Until I get specific direction from the U.S. attorney's office, I'm continuing to follow the settlement agreement."

The Fish and Wildlife Service is stopping short of endorsing a gate across the road, but officials worry about the effect on the bull trout.

"The court put aside the settlement agreement so in our opinion that road is still not open to vehicular use," said Randi Thompson, spokeswoman for the Fish and Wildlife Service in Reno.

For years wildlife biologists for the Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service have argued side-by-side that the road should not be rebuilt because the potential harm to the bull trout would violate the Endangered Species Act.

"We have not changed our view," Thompson told AP. "If anything it is a worse situation now because we have a dozen crossings of the river now. But we cannot force them to close the road."

Gerber said the condition of the rough road is improving as more and more people drive it.

"Each time somebody goes up there, they move a rock or two. It's just gotten better over time, just like they did it back in the pioneer days," Gerber said.

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Santa Monica

A weekly look at events and programs for Santa Monica

Parents also need to be on best their behavior

Guest Commentary

By Margaret Altman

Our lives as parents seem to be busier than ever over the holiday season. We want things to go well and for our youngsters to be happy. The kids are picking up on all of our adult vibes — good and bad — joyous and stressed-out.

Our children are paying attention to what we say and what we do. Whether it is the holiday season or an ordinary time of year, youngsters are learning from their parents' behavior. Even though we expect to be stressed at this time, it is a good idea to take a few minutes and pay attention to our stress levels so that we do not become overwhelmed. A parent who is under pressure and feeling rushed may be more likely to communicate that anxiety to their

kids, and many kids become frightened or saddened when adults are tense and worried. Here are some tips:

■ Keep track of your daily sleep and exercise activities to be sure that they remain stable and that you stay comfortable. You can add relaxing activities to your schedule. They can be as simple as taking the time to read a magazine or listening to music while you bathe.

■ Our children are reacting to what we say and how we behave. Now is an excellent time to pay attention to your kids' daily behavior — eating, sleeping, playing, etc. Make sure that their little schedules stay on track as much as possible. When routines change suddenly, many little ones cannot adjust and get back into their comfort zones.

■ Spend special time with your kids and do the simple things they like to do. You can read with them, draw with them or dance with them. When you do this, you will be helping them stay comfortable and secure.

■ Our children are remembering many things about these holidays, and their memories have emotional meaning for them. Try to think about what you want them to remember about these holidays and make this your primary goal.

■ Jot down the feelings and the ideas that you want your children to keep with them after the holidays are over. Post this list where you will see it and put a picture of the child or children next to it.

■ Our children are unique individuals. They have their own individual temperaments, and things often get out of control when parents least expect it. It is fair to say that no child will magically transform themselves into perfect angels for your convenience over the holidays.

■ Try to be consistent with your youngster in terms of maintaining the same limits that you usually set. Do not expect your child to be a perfect little angel this holiday season. Remember that your youngster has wonderful qualities throughout the year.

■ Our children are curious and they like to explore new things. This is the time to be sure that the environment is as clear of harmful things as you can make it.

■ Take a look around your house and make sure that electrical cords, large plants or trees, brightly wrapped boxes

and other enticing things are out of reach of their little hands and mouths. Our children are defenseless and they cannot protect themselves.

■ Be careful who watches your kids if you are out at a party. There may be well-meaning people who offer to watch your little ones, and as a parent you need to be especially careful about who you hire. It is also important to keep young children close to you in crowded stores, or at events. When your children are ready, you can teach them the basics of how to say "no" to strangers and the importance of remembering their names and phone numbers. Our children are precious gifts and they are our responsibilities for years. Kids who can walk and talk and dress themselves and count to 10 are still in need of an enormous amount of parental comfort and guidance.

■ Enjoy your children over the holidays!

(Margaret Altman L.C.S.W., is the author of Developing Your Child's Emotional Intelligence. She is in private practice with Dr. A. Korchmarev in Sherman Oaks, specializing in child and adolescent issues. Contact M. Altman at margiealtman@yahoo.com).

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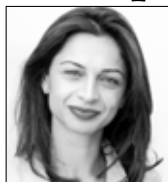
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CALENDAR:

Special Events

VISIT WITH SANTA CLAUS! You can find Santa at various places around town including: Santa Monica Place. See Santa daily from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. thru Christmas Eve. Santa breaks for lunch from noon to 12:30 p.m. and breaks to feed the reindeer from 5 - 6 p.m. Photos available. Call 310-917-1355 for more info.

SUNDAY FARMER'S MARKET - Market hours are 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Santa will be there Dec. 14 and 21. Market located on the corner of Main Street and Ocean Park Blvd.

SANTA MONICA PIER - Visit with Santa on Saturday & Sunday, December 20 & 21 from noon – 4 p.m.

CHANUKAH LIGHT INSTALLATION - December 19th – 26th the Menorah will be lit on the Promenade every night to celebrate the festival of light. Dancing and live music on Saturday, December 20.

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY FILMS AND CARTOONS - Tuesdays in December on the Third Street Promenade near Wilshire. Just after dark. Visit www.downtownsm.com on the web for more info.

RIDE THE NORTH POLE EXPRESS! - 6:00 p.m., Thursday – Sunday, Dec. 11-14 and 18 - 21. Have some family holiday fun on a vintage train ride at the Fillmore & Western Railway Company. The train departs at 6:00 p.m. and returns at 7:15. There are storytellers, carolers, cookies and chocolate milk and even Santa Claus. Kids wear your pajamas and bring your teddy bears, imagination and smiles. Dress warmly! Reservations required. Fillmore & Western Railway is located at 351 Santa Clara Avenue in the historic city of Fillmore off of Highway 126 in the Heritage Valley (about 50-55 miles from Santa Monica). Tickets are available by calling 800-773-8724. For more information and directions log onto www.fwry.com.

TUESDAY

Movies for Moms
Movies for Moms sponsored by:



"Casa de los Babys" showing December 9th. 11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. In Casa De Los Babys, director John Sayles turns his attention to an unspecified Latin country where a group of American women wait to adopt a child. Each has come for their own reasons and from vastly different backgrounds. Each waits as their adoption applications move slowly through the bureaucracy. Trapped for weeks in an exotic hotel they expose their opinions,

prejudices and insecurities. Casa De Los Babys is a sharp, insightful look at clashing cultures, contemporary motherhood and the mysteries of fate. Rated "R" for some language and brief drug use.

Coming December 16th – "Something's Gotta Give" starring Jack Nicholson, Diane Keaton and Keanu Reeves.

Storytelling

Main Library - Toddler Story Time at 10:00 and 10:30 a.m., at Reed Park, 7th and Wilshire – 2 year olds with parents, 310-458-8600.

Fairview Branch – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443. Lap Time – 11:00 a.m., New series begins Nov. 4, a six-week series for babies 0-24 months.

Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., New series begins Nov. 4, a six-week series in Spanish for children 24-36 months with adult. Twilight Story Time - 7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.

Montana Avenue Branch – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081. Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.

Ocean Park Branch – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804. Toddler Story Time – 10 and 10:30 a.m. New series begins Nov. 11 – Dec. 16. Registration required. Music, rhymes and stories for 24 – 36 months with adult.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) – 10-11am, \$9

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Mommy Care – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd, at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711. Pregnancy Exercise – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Santa Monica YMCA – 1332 6th St., 310-393-2721
Pre-natal Water Work – 10 – 11 a.m. and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Free for members. Non-members pay \$15.00 regular YMCA day fee or buy a ten-class card for \$70 (\$7 per class)

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30pm

Other

Magickopolis – 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 Call 310-451-2241 for info. **Children's Holiday Films and Cartoons** - Tuesdays in December on the Third Street Promenade near Wilshire. Just after dark. Visit www.downtownsm.com for more info.

Holiday Hoopla - at the Ocean Park Library, December 9. 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. Pick up a free ticket beforehand when the library opens at noon. For kids ages 3-7. Call 392-3804 for more info.

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling

Ocean Park Branch – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804, Twilight Story Time – 7:00 to 7:30pm – for parents with 3-5 year olds.

Montana Avenue Branch – 1704 Montana Avenue – 310-829-7081. Lap Time – 10:00 and 10:30 a.m. – New series begins Nov. 12-Dec. 17 for 0-24 months old, no registration required.

Toddler Story Time – 11:15 am - New series begins Nov. 12-Dec. 17 for two year olds with adult, no registration required.

Fairview Branch – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443. Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m., New series begins Nov. 5-Dec. 18, a six-week series for 3-5 year olds.

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144

Border's, Westwood – 11am – 310-475-3444.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) – 10-11am, \$9, Mommy and Me (infants) 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station – 826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Toddler Story Time – 10:00 a.m. – Reed Park, for 2 year olds. Preschool Story Time – 10:30am – Reed Park. Stories for ages 3-5. 310-458-8922 for info.

Montana Avenue Branch – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081. Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m. – Nov. 13 to Dec. 18, for 2 year olds with adult, no registration required. Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m., for 3-5 year olds.

Fairview Branch – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443. Toddler Story Time – 10:30 a.m., New series begins Nov. 6 – Dec. 18. A six-week series for children 24-36 months.

La Hora del Cuento – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages. **Ocean Park Branch** – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804. Lap Time – 9:20 and 10:20 a.m. – Oct. 23 – Dec. 4 (no class Nov. 27) – for babies 0-24 months old.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) – 10-11am, \$9

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Mommy Care – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd, at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711. Pregnancy Exercise – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Santa Monica YMCA – 1332 6th St., 310-393-2721
Pre-natal Water Work – 10 – 11 a.m. and 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Free for members. Non-members pay \$15.00 regular YMCA day fee or buy a ten-class card for \$70 (\$7 per class)

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-

reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00-2:30pm

Other

Ride the North Pole Express at the Fillmore & Western Railway Company! See Special Events section for details.

FRIDAY

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381; Prenatal yoga – 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., \$13 Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.; Mommy and Me (infants) 1:00 – 2:00 p.m., \$9

Other

Ride the North Pole Express at the Fillmore & Western Railway Company! See Special Events section for details.

Magickopolis – 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Cinderella – thru Dec. 19, 6:00 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., 394-9779. www.santamonicaayhouse.com. The single most requested of all of the Santa Monica Playhouse Family Theatre musicals, Cinderella is a delightfully romantic, original classic. \$12.00 for adults, \$10.00 for ages 12 and under.

SATURDAY

Storytelling

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Prom-enade – Kid's Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110 **Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion** – 10:30am – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381; Prenatal yoga – 9:15– 10:30 a.m., and

10:45 – noon, \$13.

Mommy Care – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd. at the Dance Factory, West LA, 394-6711; Pregnancy Exercise – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Other

Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

Magickopolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Alice and the Wonderful Tea Party – Saturdays and Sundays, Nov. 8 – Dec. 28 at 12:30 and 3:00 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse's Family Theatre presents this musical matinee based on Lewis Carroll's delightful and zany characters. Ages 2 and up; \$9 and \$10. 1211 Fourth St., 394-9779, ext. 2. www.santamonicaayhouse.com

Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute) – December 13 – Temescal Canyon (Pacific Palisades) – 10:30am. Reservations required – 310-998-1151 or www.childrensnatureinstitute.org.

Ride the North Pole Express at the Fillmore & Western Railway Company! See Special Events section for details.

SUNDAY

Main Street Farmer's Market – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing. Visit with Santa Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, 14 and 21.

Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

Magickopolis – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Alice and the Wonderful Tea Party – Saturdays and Sundays, Nov. 8 – Dec. 28 at 12:30 and 3:00 p.m. Santa Monica

Playhouse's Family Theatre presents this musical matinee based on Lewis Carroll's delightful and zany characters. Ages 2 and up; \$9 and \$10. 1211 Fourth St., 394-9779, ext. 2. www.santamonicaayhouse.com. **Ride the North Pole Express** at the Fillmore & Western Railway Company! See Special Events section for details.

MONDAY

Storytelling

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Prom-enade – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

Main Library – Lap Time at Joslyn Park – 9:30 a.m., September 8 – December 15 (no program Oct. 6), a series for children 0-24 months old with adult.

Ocean Park Branch – 2601 Main Street, 310-392-3804. Spanish for Little Ones – 11:15 a.m., September 22 – December 15 (no class Nov. 3). Rhymes, songs and very simple stories in Spanish for ages 2-5 with adult.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station – 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.; Moms/babies 4-8 months, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15

Yoga Garden - Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal – 6:30 p.m., 310-450-0133. www.yogagardenstudios.com

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) – 10-11am, \$9, Mommy and Me (infants) 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

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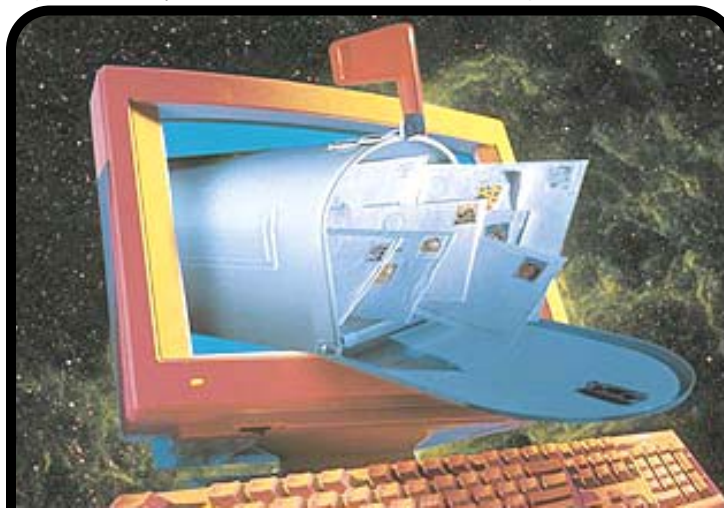
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NATIONAL

Bush signs Medicare bill, keeps 'promise to seniors'

BY SCOTT LINDLAW
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Monday signed into law the most far-reaching changes in Medicare in nearly four decades, an overhaul that includes for the first time a prescription-drug benefit for seniors.

Bush said the measure, estimated to cost \$400 billion over the next 10 years, would give older Americans "better choices and more control over their health care, so they can receive the modern medical care they deserve."

He signed the bill amid great fanfare in front of an audience of seniors and congressional leaders in the Daughters of the American Revolution's Constitution Hall.

"Our government is finally bringing prescription drug coverage to the seniors of America," Bush declared.

The new law will carry out the most extensive changes since Medicare's creation in 1965. It adds a prescription drug benefit beginning in 2006. At the same time, it encourages insurance companies to offer private plans to millions of older Americans who now receive health care benefits under terms fixed by the federal government. Leading Democrats have charged this would lead to the destruction of the Medicare program as it was designed at its inception during the Johnson administration.

Beginning next May, seniors can buy a Medicare-approved discount card for \$30 or less to help offset the growing costs of prescriptions.

Bush had promised such a measure as part of his 2000 presidential campaign, seeking to capitalize on an issue usually associated with Democrats. However, the GOP-written legislation has come under fire from all nine Democratic presidential candidates, a host of Democratic lawmakers and some fiscal conservatives opposed to its pricetag.

Bush spoke in front of a large blue banner with a prescription sign and the words: "Keeping Our Promise to Seniors."

"I'm pleased that all of you are here to witness the greatest advance in health care coverage for America's seniors since the founding of Medicare," the president said.

He said then-President Lyndon Johnson, when he signed the Medicare Act of 1965, established a "a solemn promise to America's seniors. We have pledged to help our citizens find affordable medical care in the later years of life."

"And today, by reforming and modernizing this vital program, we are honoring the commitments of Medicare to all our seniors," Bush said.

Bush sought to emphasize bipartisan support for the bill, mentioning the backing for the overhaul by Sens Max Baucus, D-Mont., and John Breaux, D-La. He also praised William Novelli, the chief executive of AARP, a senior's group, for backing the bill.

And on Capitol Hill, House Majority Leader Tom DeLay said "the long-term capability of the Medicare program, the future of America's health care system and the seeds of fiscal security for a century are all right here."

"Democratic leaders have lashed out at us, at the president and AARP," the Texas Republican said. "But Democrats have no one to blame but themselves for their abject failure on health care. We wanted a bill, they just wanted an issue, and now the American people know who took their concerns seriously."

The overhaul includes a wide array of other pilot programs that are meant to tweak the Medicare system and will add to the cost of the changes that Bush signed into law Monday.

One of the costliest among them sets aside \$500 million for a two-year, six-state effort for at least 50,000 patients to cover a limited category of self-administered prescription drugs. "No less than 40 percent of the funding shall be for oral cancer," Congress directed in a report accompanying the bill.

Other programs are designed to help health care providers and their patients, including a two-year program to cover chiropractic services without prior approval by a medical doctor.

Others are aimed at attacking waste, such as a three-year provision to allow Medicare to contract with private firms for "identifying underpayments and overpayments and recouping overpayments."

The new law encourages insurance companies to offer private plans to millions of older Americans who now receive health care benefits under terms fixed by the government.

Even before he was to sign the legislation in a campaign-style event, Democrats stepped up their criticism.

House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., and other opponents scheduled a rally with seniors to underscore their claim the measure threatens Medicare's future.

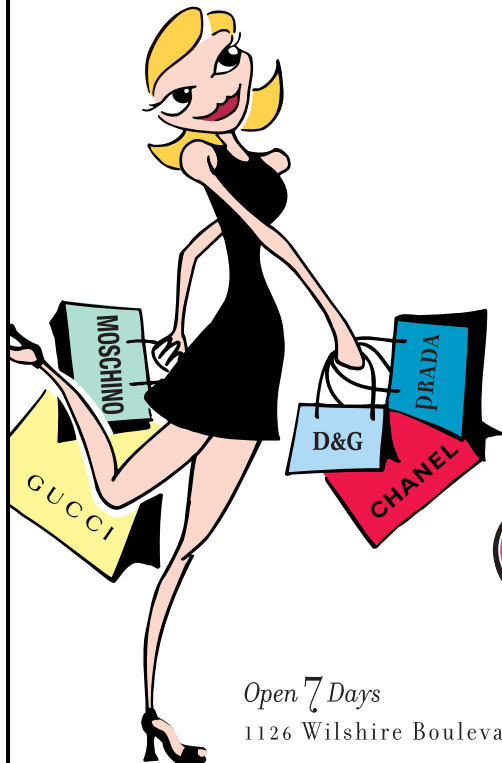
Even some of Bush's fellow conservatives have questioned the price tag of the reforms, which come at a time when next year's budget deficit is projected to be some \$500 billion. "The U.S. budget is out of control," Goldman Sachs economists said last month.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

NATIONAL



'Body Farm' founder still gets rush from unknown corpses

BY DUNCAN MANSFIELD

Associated Press Writer

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — He's been a pre-eminent forensic anthropologist for half a century. His research facility inspired Patricia Cornwell's bestseller, "Body Farm." And his triumphs include identifying the remains of the Lindbergh baby.

But at 75, Dr. Bill Bass, a semiretired University of Tennessee professor emeritus, still gets an adrenaline rush from a fresh encounter with an unidentified corpse.

"There is nothing better than a dead body to make your day," says Bass, who still occasionally heads out to crime scenes. "Now that sounds crass and cruel. But in all honesty, it is a puzzle. The adrenaline is flowing. The headache is gone. I got a new puzzle to deal with."

With the public's appetite for forensic science whetted by such hit TV shows as "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" and "CSI: Miami," Bass has just co-written a book about his own stranger-than-fiction case files.

Among the tales are how he confirmed the identity of the Lindbergh baby from 12 tiny bones 50 years after the child's kidnapping; revealed the faked death of a Connecticut Internet company executive in Mexico; and sorted through the diluted and mismatched ashen remains from a Georgia crematory.

Bass and co-author Jon Jefferson had considered calling the book, "The Real Body Farm," playing off the unofficial name for his UT Anthropology Research Facility immortalized by Cornwell, the crime novelist, in her 1994 book.

Instead, they settled on Cornwell's suggestion, "Death's Acre."

"I never see a forensic case as a dead body. I see it as a challenge. Do I have enough knowledge to figure out who this individual is and what happened to them?"

— DR. BILL BASS

U.S. attorney for Massachusetts

Bass's "body farm" is the only research facility in the world devoted to understanding the decay and decomposition of human flesh and bone.

The compound behind the University of Tennessee Medical Center is surrounded by a wooden privacy fence, chain-link and razor wire. Donated bodies are left to rot in cars, shallow graves and on the ground — all in the name of science.

As many as half the forensic anthropologists in the country studied at the "farm" under Bass. FBI agents, crime-lab technicians, homicide detectives and cadaver dog handlers train there.

Public tours ended a few years ago when two den mothers wanted to bring their Cub Scouts to see the bodies. "That was the straw that broke the camel's back," Bass says. "It is like the morgue. You don't go there to take photographs."

Research at the "farm" has grown more sophisticated since Bass founded it in 1980 to help crime investigators and distraught families pin down when and how a person died.

Bass and colleagues study the life cycles of insects that feed on corpses. They test ground-penetrating radar to

detect hidden graves. And they catalogue biochemical markers of decomposition sensed by cadaver dogs in hopes of creating more reliable artificial noses.

Bass was an expert on bones when he arrived at UT in 1971. He'd spent 11 years teaching anthropology at the University of Kansas and helping police there solve crimes from the skeletons they brought him from the state's vast open ranges.

But in Tennessee, a smaller state with a larger population, remains often are found sooner and still have flesh on them, Bass says.

He became interested in studying decomposition in 1977, when he guessed that a headless corpse found at an antebellum mansion was a few months old. He was wrong by more than a century.

The body of the elegantly dressed man was found in a coffin in a family cemetery at the mansion south of Nashville. It turned out the man was a Civil War soldier killed in battle in 1864. Bass was off by 113 years. He failed to consider the effects of embalming and an airtight, cast-iron casket.

Bass was embarrassed, but also intrigued because the scientific literature

of the day offered him little support for any other conclusion. With his dean's permission, he soon began experiments on the forerunner of the "body farm."

"I have lost two wives to cancer. I hate funerals. I hate mourning and death. I don't like that scene at all," Bass says.

"But I never see a forensic case as a dead body. I see it as a challenge. Do I have enough knowledge to figure out who this individual is and what happened to them?"

Bass is still known to show up at a crime scene and turn it into a field exercise for students and police officers eager to hear how he reveals the secrets of the dead.

"I get out there and say, 'OK, who is in charge?' And they say, 'Oh, Doc, you're in charge,'" Bass says with a laugh. "Well, really I am not. ... But I know what they are saying."

Bass himself may one day be a specimen in the "body farm," becoming part of the research center's neatly boxed, skeletal collection. But he says he will leave that decision to his third wife, Carol, and his three sons.

"I have always been a teacher," he says. "And I would just as soon teach when I am a skeleton as when I have soft tissue on me."

In the foreword to "Death's Acre," Cornwell writes: "The dead have much to say that only special people with training and special gifts have the patience to hear, despite the assault on the senses. ... Dr. Bass's patient translation adds to the fluency of a secret language that helps condemn the wicked and free those who have done no wrong."

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WORLD BRIEFLY

Tough sell: Attack on kids hurting cause

By The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan officials warned Monday that an American military attack that mistakenly killed nine children playing in a remote village could make it harder to persuade ordinary people to support Afghanistan's U.S.-backed government.

Saturday's warplane attack came as coalition forces are fighting a growing Taliban insurgency across the southern and eastern provinces, and as Kabul, the capital, prepared for this week's loya jirga, or grand council, to debate and approve the country's new constitution.

The attack, aimed at a local Taliban militant accused of attacking aid workers, also was criticized outside Afghanistan.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan was "profoundly saddened" by the children's deaths and called for a thorough investigation.

Seven boys and two girls, the oldest aged 12, died when the A-10 warplane sprayed a dusty field with 30mm high-explosive rounds in Hutala village, 150 miles southwest of Kabul, the Afghan capital.

The attack also killed a man that U.S. officials say was Mullah Wazir, a former district Taliban commander suspected of attacking aid groups and workers on the Kabul-Kandahar road. But villagers say the dead man was Abdul Hamid, a laborer, and that Mullah Wazir cleared out days before.

Putin proves popular

By The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Allies of President Vladimir Putin won a sweeping victory in parliamentary elections,

according to preliminary results Monday, strengthening his hand as he plots strategy for the second term he is expected to win next year.

The United Russia party, whose main ideology appears to be its loyalty to Putin, led all contenders with about 37 percent support in Sunday's vote, Central Election Commission Chairman Alexander Veshnyakov said, with more than 90 percent of the ballots counted.

The Communists were next, with 12.7 percent, followed by the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, which always votes with Putin, and Homeland, a new, apparently Kremlin-approved patriotic grouping formed to syphon votes from the Communists.

With no other parties getting the minimum 5 percent, it was certain the Kremlin's allies would win the vast majority of the 225 seats that will be filled by the party vote. The other half of the lower house's 450 seats will be filled in individual races, where United Russia and its allies were also expected to poll strongly.

"The United Russia party has won, the president has won. That means that democratic reforms in Russia will continue. This is a serious victory we can rightly be proud of," said Lyubov Sliska, a top figure in United Russia.

Man kills wife with sword

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A man slashed his wife to death with a sword in their apartment and charged police screaming "I'm God! Kill me!" when they came to investigate, officials said.

Ivor Forbes, 32, was naked and covered in blood when he rushed through his apartment door early Sunday, police said. One officer fired 14 shots that left both Forbes and another officer wounded.

Forbes' wife, 24-year-old Kisha Denton, was pronounced dead at a hospital. Forbes had severed her left hand and repeatedly slashed her head, police said.

Forbes, who was shot in both legs, was in stable condition Sunday night at a different hospital. The wounded officer, whose name was not released, was hit in his knee and chest but was wearing a protective vest, officials said. He was in stable condition.

Investigators found two swords inside the apartment, but it was unclear whether Forbes used one or both in the attack, said Officer Louis Camacho, a police spokesman.

Patton ponders place in history

By The Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Gov. Paul Patton thinks "it'd be a miracle" if history looked kindly on him for an extramarital affair that derailed his political career.

Patton, 66, was seven years into what many considered a productive administration focused on education and the economy when news of the two-year relationship with former nursing home owner Tina Conner led him into retirement.

Patton leaves office Monday, just over a month after Democrat Ben Chandler lost to Republican Ernie Fletcher in a race affected at least in part by the scandal. Fletcher will be the first Republican to become Kentucky's governor in 32 years.

Patton said he was planning a leisurely final day at the Capitol — no mass pardons or appointments — before he returns to his hometown of Pikeville in the mountains of eastern Kentucky.

Hard to please: Spending bill unpopular

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats say a \$373 billion spending package opens the door for bad Bush administration policies on overtime pay, food labeling and media ownership. Conservatives say the bill is too fat.

See WORLD BRIEFS, page 15

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Drive-by shooter kills U.S. soldier in northern Iraq

BY CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A U.S. soldier was killed Monday in an apparent drive-by shooting at a gas station in the northern city of Mosul, the U.S. military said.

The soldier was a member of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division which controls the city, 250 miles north of Baghdad. The fatal attack was the second in two days in Mosul, where a 101st soldier was killed and two were injured in a roadside bombing Sunday.

A total of 445 U.S. soldiers have died in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion on March 20. Of those, 308 have died in enemy attacks.

Witnesses in Mosul said dozens of U.S. soldiers cordoned the city's central neighborhood of al-Muthana during a raid Monday, inspecting cars and searching people walking in the streets. At least three helicopters flew overhead at low altitude.

"We are looking for bad guys," a soldier said without elaborating.

On Sunday, U.S. troops in Samarra, 70

"The killing or capturing of Saddam Hussein will have an impact on the level of violence, but it will not end it. It won't be the end-all solution."

— LT. GEN. RICARDO SANCHEZ
U.S. commander

miles north of Baghdad, seized \$1.9 million in cash and false identification papers in a raid targeting a man suspected of financing insurgents.

U.S. troops arrested one person in the operation, said Maj. Josslyn Aberle, spokeswoman for the 4th Infantry Division.

"They didn't catch the original target, but they detained one of his relatives and seized the money," Aberle said.

Samarra was the site of heavy fighting Nov. 30 between Iraqi guerrillas and U.S. soldiers who were delivering new Iraqi currency to local banks.

Near Kirkuk, also in the north, Iraqi

police on Monday said they discovered a cache of 100 mortar rounds and other ammunition in a garbage dump after a tip from trash collectors. American troops later arrived and took away the weapons.

Also Monday, Iraq's Governing Council chose a dentist to replace Aquila al-Hashimi, a Shiite Muslim member of the 25-seat group who was assassinated in September, a council statement said.

Salama al-Khafaji, a Shiite professor of dentistry at Baghdad University, replaced al-Hashimi, who was mortally wounded Sept. 20. Al-Hashimi was the highest Iraqi official killed by suspected loyalists of Saddam Hussein.

The council statement said al-Khafaji, one of three women on the council, comes from the southern Shiite holy city of Karbala.

Overseen by the U.S.-led coalition, the Governing Council was installed on July 13 and acts as an interim government. It is divided proportionally between Iraq's different sects and ethnic groups: 13 Shiite Arabs, five Kurds, five Sunni Arabs, one Christian and one ethnic Turk.

The top U.S. commander in Iraq, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, warned of a surge in attacks against coalition forces before a July 1 deadline to transfer authority to Iraqis, and cautioned that strikes might not end even if troops kill or capture Saddam Hussein.

Sanchez said Sunday that attacks could increase ahead of a July 1 deadline for a transfer of authority from the U.S.-led coalition to a transitional Iraqi government.

"The killing or capturing of Saddam Hussein will have an impact on the level of violence, but it will not end it," he said. "It won't be the end-all solution."

General warns killing Saddam would not halt insurgents

BY JIM KRANE
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A U.S. commander warned of a surge in attacks against coalition forces before a July 1 deadline to transfer authority to Iraqis, and cautioned that strikes might not end even if troops kill or capture Saddam Hussein.

Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez' comments Sunday came as guerrillas killed a U.S. soldier with a roadside bomb in northern Iraq.

A soldier from the U.S. Army's 101st

Airborne Division died Sunday and two others in his unit were wounded when rebels detonated a bomb as their convoy drove through the center of Mosul at midday, Master Sgt. Kelly Tyler said.

"I heard an explosion and came running toward the site of the attack and saw three soldiers, one of them covered with blood," said Bahaa Hussein, a student. Mosul is 250 miles north of Baghdad.

Sanchez, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, said attacks could surge ahead of a

July 1 deadline for a transfer of authority from the U.S.-led coalition to a transitional Iraqi government.

"We expect to see an increase in violence as we move forward toward sovereignty at the end of June," Sanchez said.

"The killing or capturing of Saddam Hussein will have an impact on the level of violence, but it will not end it," he said. "It won't be the end-all solution."

After a daylong trip to Iraq on Saturday, U.S. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said he wants senior commanders in Iraq to consider whether the Pentagon underestimated how many U.S.-trained Iraqi security forces would be needed before a sovereign Iraqi government takes over next summer.

He said he worried that the current goal of 220,000 Iraqi security forces may not be able to be increased later if need be.

"I worry that budgets will begin to get committed, and we may not know if we need more until sometime, for example, in February or March or April," Rumsfeld said on the flight to Washington, arriving early Sunday. By then, he said, the money

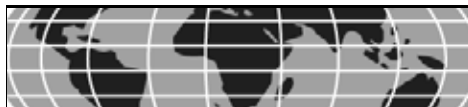
might not be available.

The number of Iraqis now in uniform is now said to be about 140,000, many of whom were rushed through training programs. Rumsfeld sees the buildup of those forces as the key to completing the military mission there in the aftermath of Saddam's deposed dictatorship.

In Baghdad, the U.S. Army's 1st Armored Division sent almost 1,500 soldiers on a sweep through the capital's al-Mansour district, raiding apartment buildings and detaining 43 people, including a dozen suspected guerrillas. The raids netted 215 AK-47 rifles, 10 grenades and bomb-making gear.

Members of the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council gave different versions of progress on a statute that would establish a war-crimes tribunal that could try Saddam and his top aides.

One member, Mahmoud Othman, said the council had reached agreement on the statute and planned to send it to the U.S. administrator, L. Paul Bremer, on Monday for his signature. But another, Yonadam Kanna, said negotiations were continuing.



WORLD BRIEFLY

WORLD BRIEFS, from page 14

Even so, Republican congressional leaders said they would try to push the overdue money bill through the House on Monday, and they were expected to prevail, though perhaps narrowly. The measure would finance 11 Cabinet-level departments and scores of other agencies for the budget year that began Oct. 1. Stopgap legislation has kept the agencies operating.

Passage would leave the bill's fate in the hands of the GOP-led but closely divided Senate, which is unlikely to vote on the legislation until mid-December or even late January.

The bill also has plenty to offer lawmakers of both parties.

It is stocked with money for roads, hospitals and thousands of local projects worth billions of dollars. It has big increases for veterans health care, education for the disabled, highway construction, farm conservation and other items popular with lawmakers.

A bit of country comes to the capitol

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The nation's capital sounded a little more like Nashville with country music stars paying tribute to "coal miner's daughter" Loretta Lynn at the 26th Kennedy Center Honors.

"Godfather of Soul" James Brown, comedian Carol Burnett, director Mike Nichols and violinist Itzhak Perlman also were honored over the weekend for their artistic achievements.

Actress Sissy Spacek, who played Lynn in the movie "Coal Miner's Daughter," praised the country legend for reflecting her Appalachian upbringing in her songs.

"It's where she got her strength, her feistiness and her music," Spacek said in her tribute.

Reba McEntire, Garth Brooks, Trisha Yearwood, Lyle Lovett and Patty Loveless delved into a medley of Lynn's lyrical tunes, highlighted by a Brooks and Yearwood duet on "Louisiana Woman, Mississippi Man."

The show's rhythm changed when hip-hop performers honored Brown, and singer Anastacia led the show's black-tie audience in a clap-along rendition of Brown's "Sex Machine."

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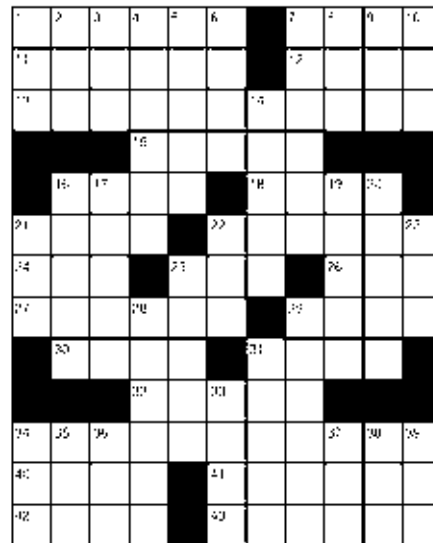
ACROSS

- 1 Steep-roofed home
- 7 Ride the waves
- 11 Relax
- 12 American lake
- 13 Regards with contempt
- 15 Extreme diets
- 16 Paid players
- 18 Bath spots
- 21 Stratum
- 22 Pushes away
- 24 Crumb carrier
- 25 A pop
- 26 Grant's foe
- 27 Puckered
- 29 Entreaty
- 30 Boston players
- 31 "Hey, you!"
- 32 Milan's nation
- 34 Remembers fondly
- 40 Assistant
- 41 Baseball's Suzuki
- 42 Winter glider
- 43 Was rife

DOWN

- 1 Greedy desire
- 2 Rock's — Fighters
- 3 Young hopper
- 4 Request
- 5 Buttes' kin
- 6 Finishes
- 7 Finishes
- 8 Fancy planter
- 9 Carnival city
- 10 Marsh
- 14 Mink's cousin
- 16 Locker art
- 17 Fashionably dated
- 19 Sleigh
- 20 Winter weather
- 21 Spigot
- 22 Primary color
- 23 Squid's home
- 25 Nuisances
- 28 Made the punch more potent
- 29 Self
- 31 Finish second
- 33 Somewhat
- 34 — Vegas
- 35 Vinegar's partner
- 36 Exalted verse
- 37 Kipling work
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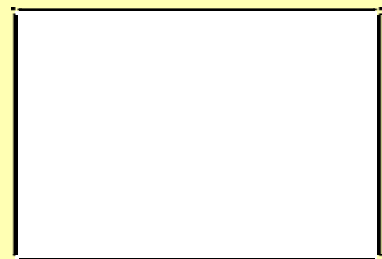
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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2003

EVENTS

Stress management workshop

An interactive workshop with Dr. Kathryn Deal, relationship counselor, which will illuminate techniques of dealing with stressors and how to better understand them. The workshop is free to the public and will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the DeWind Room on the second floor of the YMCA Senior Center.
Santa Monica Family YMCA 1332 Sixth St.

Holiday art sale

From 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Santa Monica College will be displaying artwork for sale. Included will be prints, ceramics, jewelry and more. The gallery will be open both today and tomorrow. The gallery is located at the Pete and Susan Barrett Art Gallery at SMC's Madison Campus, Santa Monica Blvd. & 11th St. For more information, call (310) 434-3434.

Terrific Tuesdays

The Santa Monica Library invites children, grades k-3, to participate in their, "Terrific Tuesdays" program featuring stories and crafts. The event is free and will be held from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call (310) 829-7081.
Montana Library, 1704 Montana Ave.

City Council Meeting

The public is welcome to attend, learn about local issues, and voice opinions at a free City Council meeting tonight

at 5:45 p.m.
Council Chamber, 1685 Main St.

CULTURE

Holiday Hoopla

The Ocean Park Library will host a puppet show and present stories to celebrate Hannukah, Kwanzaa, winter and Christmas. This program is for children, ages 3-7, and will take place at 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Tickets are free but must be picked up at 12 noon today. There are no phone reservations, for more information, call (310) 392-3804.
Ocean Park Library, 2601 Main St.

Winterlit Theatre

The seasonal Winterlit Theatre will be showing "Jay the Jet Plane Holiday Specials" and "Winnie the Pooh" for children from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. The theater is located at the Third Street Promenade and Wilshire Blvd. For more information, call (310) 393-8355.

Snowwhite

The Santa Monica Playhouse presents the musical, Snowwhite, based on the classic European fairytale. Written and directed by Chris DeCarlo & Evelyn Rudie. There are Saturday and Sunday showings at 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. through Feb. 29. Tickets cost \$10 for kids 12 and under, and \$12 for adults.
Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 Fourth St.

A Winter's Tale

The Morgan-Wixson Theatre presents a musical based on Charles Dickens' A Christmas Tale. Directed by Anne Gesling. There will be a showing on Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. For reservations or more information, call (310) 828-7519.
Morgan-Wixson Theatre, 2627 Pico Blvd

Cinderella

The Santa Monica Playhouse presents Chris DeCarlo & Evelyn Rudie's version of the romantic musical classic, Cinderella, as part of their Fall Twilight Series. The performance begins at 6 p.m. and will be shown every Friday until Dec. 21. Tickets for kids 12 and under cost \$10 and \$12 for adults. For more information or reservations, call (310) 394-9779, ext. 1.
Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 Fourth Street

ENTERTAINMENT

Temple Bar

Here visitors can enjoy concoctions like White Chocolate Martinis, a Gingirini or a Razzmatazz. Those who are really hungry can enjoy a Chicken Tamale Plate with Fried Plantains. Temple Bar even offers vegetarian options like veggie eggrolls and burgers. But no good bar would be complete without live music. Tonight the Temple Bar features the following: Quincy at 8:30 p.m., Jillian Speer at 9:45 p.m. and New Moonson at 11 p.m. \$5.
1026 Wilshire Blvd., (310) 393-6611

MOVIE °GUIDE

AMC SANTA MONICA 7

1310 Third Street Promenade

Bad Santa - 12:50, 3, 5:20, 7:40, 10 p.m.

Brother Bear PG - 1:25, 4:35, 7 p.m.

Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat - 12:40, 2:40, 4:50, 7:10, 9:25 p.m.

Elf PG - 1:35, 4:15, 7:15, 9:40 p.m.

Gothika - 1:15, 4:25, 7:30, 9:55 p.m.

The Haunted Mansion - 12:30, 2:45, 5, 7:20, 9:45 p.m.

Master and Commander R - 1, 4, 7, 10 p.m.

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The Cooler - 12, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10 p.m.

In America - 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 p.m.

Lost in Translation - 2:30, 7:30, 10 p.m.

Shattered Glass R - 12:15, 2:40, 3:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55 p.m.

The Street Sweeper - 12, 5 p.m.

The Station Agent R - 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10 p.m.

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21 Grams R - 4, 7, 10 p.m.

Pieces of April PG-13 - 4:45, 7:30, 10 p.m.

LOEWS CINEPLEX BROADWAY CINEMAS

1441 Third Street Promenade

Kill Bill: Volume 1 R - 11:15 a.m., 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:15 p.m.

Love Actually R - 11:30 a.m., 12:30, 2:45, 3:45, 6:15, 7:30, 10:15 p.m.

Mystic River R - 12:45 p.m., 3:50, 7:15, 10:20 p.m.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Oprah's top two reasons for avoiding Letterman ...

By The Associated Press

■ **CHICAGO** — Oprah Winfrey doesn't have a Top Ten list of reasons why she hasn't appeared on David Letterman's show recently. She has just two — her two previous appearances.

"Both times I was sort of like the butt of his jokes," Winfrey tells Time magazine for its Dec. 15 issue. "I felt completely uncomfortable sitting in that chair, and I vowed I would not ever put myself in that position again."

The "Late Show" host isn't shy about making references to Winfrey. He has had stagehands read transcripts of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" and has made a running gag of his desire to be a guest on the daytime program. For weeks he kept an "Oprah Log," recording each day that passed without Winfrey calling.

Winfrey insists she's not snubbing Letterman and has "a great deal of respect for his talent."

When Letterman's girlfriend gave birth to his son last month, Winfrey said she sent Letterman the best baby gift she has ever given: "It was a tub of children's books."

■ **SAN FRANCISCO** — William H. Macy was more than a little nervous about doing nude scenes with co-star Maria Bello in his new movie, "The Cooler."

"I was scared to death," Macy admitted to the San Francisco Chronicle in an interview published Sunday.

Macy, who is married to actress Felicity Huffman and has two young daughters, was so concerned that he insisted on meeting with Bello before production began.

"He said, 'How about those sex scenes?'" Bello said, recalling how Macy broke the ice when they got together at a restaurant.

In the film, Macy plays Bernie, a loser hired by a casino to cool off "hot," or winning, tables. His bad luck changes when he begins an affair with a cocktail waitress, Bello's character.

Macy wasn't sure at first he wanted to be yet another misfit. Perhaps his two best known roles are the car sales-

man in " Fargo " and the husband in " Boogie Nights ."

"I'm the luckiest palooka, but I did play a lot of misfits and losers, and I had just had a conversation with my agent that I don't want to play that role anymore," Macy said.

■ **WELLINGTON, New Zealand** — Janet Frame, one of New Zealand's most celebrated authors, has revealed she is terminally ill with cancer.

In an interview with the Sunday Star Times newspaper, the reclusive Dunedin writer said she has acute myeloid leukemia, a cancer of the blood and bone marrow, and is being kept alive by blood transfusions.

Frame, whose account of her childhood and experiences in mental hospitals inspired Jane Campion's 1990 film "An Angel at My Table," said she was diagnosed with cancer on Aug. 28 — her 79th birthday.

She was reported to be on the short list for a Nobel Prize in literature at the time.

Frame, who has always found inspiration in life's traumas, said she was finding the blood transfusion process "quite interesting."

"I haven't gone into a sudden decline, which I might go into. I'm feeling just a bit tired," she told the newspaper.

"The prospect of having one's tomorrows cut off — at first it was quite alarming but I've got used to it now."

After being wrongly diagnosed with schizophrenia in her 20s, Frame spent eight years in psychiatric hospitals and was given 200 electric shock treatments.

She narrowly escaped a frontal lobotomy brain operation when one of her stories received critical acclaim, causing doctors to change their minds.

She went on to publish 11 novels and autobiographical works and five collections of short stories.

■ **RENO, Nev.** — Actor and longtime conservationist Robert Redford criticized the Bush administration's energy legislation, calling it one of the worst bills he's seen in his lifetime.

At a news conference before attending a fund-raiser for Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., Redford said the bill was flawed from the start.

"It's one of the greatest disgraces in my time," Redford said Sunday. "It's a bad bill, it's a horrible bill."

"I think the American people are being really ill served right now and I think nowhere is it more disgraceful than in how the environment is being treated," the 66-year-old added.

Redford said the legislation places too much dependence on fossil fuels and not enough stress on alternative energy sources and conservation measures.

Republican congressional leaders have vowed to return to the measure early next year after falling two Senate votes short of sending a bill to Bush in November.

About 150 people attended Reid's \$500-a-person fund-raiser at the south Reno mansion owned by John Harrah, son of casino founder Bill Harrah. Reid, who's up for re-election next year, has raised about \$5.1 million.

■ **THE HAGUE, Netherlands** — Flags hung in profusion over Dutch streets and the sheer volume of congratulating messages overwhelmed the Web site of the royal family, as the Netherlands celebrated the birth of a baby girl who likely will someday become its queen.

Princess Maxima, wife of Crown Prince Willem-Alexander, gave birth Sunday afternoon to the princess, who has not yet been named, sparking celebrations around the country, peals from church bells and a 101-cannon salute from the Dutch royal guard.

The Dutch line of succession makes no distinction between boys and girls; the baby is second in line to the throne after her father.

"She's like a cloud," Willem-Alexander said, cradling his newborn for reporters Sunday. He shook hands with dozens of people in a small crowd that gathered in subzero temperatures outside the Hague hospital where the princess was born.

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