

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

1 15 30 39 47
Meganumber: 19
Jackpot: \$... Million

FANTASY 5

2 5 8 17 35

DAILY 3

Daytime: 0 1 4
Evening: 0 2 6

DAILY DERBY

1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 02 Lucky Star

RACE TIME: 1:45.89

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

News of the Weird reported in 2002 on a rooftop brawl in Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre (under joint control of six Christian faiths, whose adherents sometimes get snippy with each other), when a cleric placed a chair in an area reserved for another faith. In September 2004, Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox clerics had a fistfight (resulting in at least five injuries) after a Catholic left a door open during an Orthodox service. (Coincidentally, on almost the same day in Bedford, Ohio, police said that more than 100 Sikhs were involved in a brawl over proper clerical dress at the Guru Gobind Singh Sikh Temple.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1965, Nikolai V. Podgorny replaced Anastas I. Mikoyan as president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet.

In 1979, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, the religious broadcaster, died in New York City at age 84.

In 1984, the five-day-old hijacking of a Kuwaiti jetliner that claimed the lives of two Americans ended as Iranian security men seized control of the plane, which was parked at Tehran airport.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"One half of the world cannot understand the pleasures of the other."

JANE AUSTEN
ENGLISH AUTHOR (1775-1817).

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Nick Ut/Special to the Daily Press

George Russell Weller enters Los Angeles Superior Court Wednesday for arraignment on charges related to his driving his car through a crowded Farmers' Market. Weller, now 88, pleaded innocent to 10 felony counts of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence in connection with the July 16, 2003, crash, which left 10 people dead and 63 injured.

Russell Weller pleads not guilty

By staff and wire reports

LAX COURTHOUSE — An 88-year-old man whose car careened into the Santa Monica Farmers' Market, killing 10 and injuring 63, pleaded not guilty Wednesday to 10 felony counts of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence.

Santa Monica resident George Russell Weller mistakenly stepped on the gas rather than the brake during the July 16, 2003 accident, according to federal safety investigators who ruled out mechanical failure, weather, alcohol or drugs, and fatigue.

Weller traveled 995 feet through the market on Arizona Avenue at speeds of up to 60 mph, avoiding parked cars but hurling pedestrians into the air before stopping, a California Highway Patrol report said. The 10 people killed ranged in age from 7 months to 78 years.

Days after the crash, Weller issued a statement saying he was distraught and heartbroken, and his attorney called it an accident.

Prosecutors filed the charges against Weller on Jan. 5, but he has since been free on bail on the

See WELER, page 5

New DNA evidence stalls Santa Monica kidnapping case

Lab results may clear Olympic silver medalist Danny Harris

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

LAX COURTHOUSE — Olympic silver medalist Danny Harris will remain in jail for allegedly kidnapping an elderly Santa Monica woman, despite DNA evidence released Wednesday that suggests he could be innocent.

Harris, 39, was arrested last month and charged with seven felony counts for allegedly twice kidnapping a 75-year-old Sunset Park woman this fall, robbing her, and threatening to kill her and burn down her house.

Trained bloodhounds led police to Harris using the scent from a wool cap left outside the victim's

house. That scent matched the scent from a shirt discarded by the kidnapper after fleeing the scene, prosecutors said. Both items led to Harris, a resident of the nonprofit Clare Foundation located off of Lincoln Boulevard.

However, lawyers on Wednesday cited lab results showing neither the cap nor the shirt belonged to Harris. Both contained the DNA of a convicted felon who state authorities refused to name, pending the results of a second round of laboratory tests.

Rather than drop the charges, prosecutors convinced Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Katherine Mader to keep Harris in custody while authorities investigate the new suspect.

A preliminary hearing in the case is scheduled for Friday, when Judge Mader may decide if enough

See DNA, page 5

SM retail stores accused of criminal overcharging

By Daily Press staff

CITY HALL — Six stores have been accused by city officials of overcharging their customers, it was announced Wednesday.

The Santa Monica City Attorney's Consumer Protection Unit has filed misdemeanor charges against six stores for charging more than the posted price on items in their stores. Each store is accused of charging at least \$1 higher than the posted price on one or more items in a random inspection by county inspectors, attorneys said.

The charges were filed under Business and Professions Code Section 12024.2, which makes it a crime for businesses to charge more than the posted price. Each violation carries a maximum fine of \$1,000. Also, under Los

Angeles County ordinance, each store that violates the law must post a notice of violation in its window for 60 days.

"It's unfortunate that it was only last year that Bebe, Carlton Cards, and the Gap were convicted of the exact same charges, and they still can't pass inspection," said Deputy City Attorney Eda Suh. Borders has been previously cited in Santa Monica and in other cities in the Los Angeles County for similar violations.

"During the holiday season, retailers get creative in how they attract consumers into their stores and get them to buy," Suh said. "Sales and mark downs last for a week, a day, or even hours. An item can be marked one price in the morning, and another in the afternoon."

See OVERCHARGE, page 6

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Working as a team might no longer be appealing. You want to forge new ground and need to be left to your thoughts and ideas. Do research and ask questions. Others respond. Ideas and brainstorming draw unusual concepts. Tonight: Spend time with a special friend.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Others seek you out en masse. What seems to be confusing in another's instructions proves to be inspirational as you attempt to figure out where and what. Accept someone's good will and efforts. Tonight: Go along with other's plans.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Emphasize what you can get done as opposed to how much you have to do. This positive attitude helps you clear out a lion's share of work, adding to your sense of accomplishment. Work late if need be. Tonight: Pat yourself on the back.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Your creative force and energy demonstrate their unique ability to solve problems. Still, you cannot help but toss in that touch of flirtation or humor that marks your mood right now. Be careful whom you flirt with; someone might take you seriously. Tonight: Pretend it is the weekend already.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Your ability to see what is basic and necessary emerges once more. Others might be confused by your actions. Carefully check out a piece of real estate. A family member or loved one expresses his or her caring. Tonight: Snuggle in at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ You tell it like it is, but somehow, a co-worker or associate doesn't get it. Confusion surrounds your day-to-day life. Handle as much as you can in the most precise manner possible. Your actions count. Tonight: Join a friend for munchies and a drink.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Your precision in financial matters will ultimately make a difference. You understand the role of spending money in order to make some. Be careful with a risk, be it emotional or financial. Take your time; think this through. Tonight: Treat yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Your positive attitude and magnetism mark your actions. You feel unusually giving but also have the gift of strong energy. What you say you will do, you complete. Others admire your follow-through. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ You keep a lot to yourself. As a result, you could distort information or what others say. You are in a period where you are super-sensitive. Don't make assumptions. Confirm opinions and meetings. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Friends push to have what they want. Use your focus and magnetism to achieve your long-term purpose. Others want to work with you and tend to naturally agree with you. Use caution with finances. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Your ideas might be hard for others to grasp. You might need to take action on your own. No one can follow through as well as you can when you have a project in mind. Only you can do it the way you want it done. Tonight: Out late.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Your perspective helps you clear out a premonition one way or another. Laugh and relax. News from a distance encourages more thought. Could a trip be in the offing? Investigate an option. Tonight: Be where the music is.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday

Phone: (310) 458-PRESS (7737) • Fax: (310) 576-9913

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Samohi musicians play to the top

By Daily Press staff

Members of the Santa Monica High School orchestras have taken top state and national honors.

This past weekend, 45 members of the Samohi orchestras participated in the California Orchestra Directors Association Honor String Orchestra and Honor Symphony in Visalia.

The students, led by Joni Swenson, director of the Samohi orchestra program, were among hundreds of California high school students who auditioned for seats in the honor orchestras.

Samohi students chosen for the CODA Honor String Orchestra are Patrick Deasy, David Farzam, Jennifer Farzam, Jarrett Furst, Lizzy Glennon, Mayura Jain, David Jang, Anthony Lai, Vincent Lai, Jonathan Lee, Michelle Matsunaga, Alan Miller, Jesse Nabel, Nicole Negrete, Skylar O'Connor, Marika Page, Giancarlo Ranaudo, Amaro Taylor-Weiner, Wyles Vance, Adrian Weishofer, Ellery Weiss and Pegah Yazdy.

Samohi students named to the CODA Honor Symphony are Ben Bartelt, Rebecca Bartelt, Sarah Boyle, Julianne Bruce, Joey Corral, Calvin Dacosta, Sarah Elbaum, Kerri Epps, Lauren Foust, Joanna Kaplan, Gloria Lim, Ryan Lin, Nicole Liner-Jigamian, David Litwak, Anna Nabel, April Paik, Mai Anh Perches, Andres Pichardo-Rosenthal, Kevin Poindexter, Devon Pratt, Henry Samuels, Carl Schoellhammer, Jules Sulpico, Ilana Summers, Zach Van Pelt and Matt Vincent.

Special congratulations are due to the following students who after a live audition were placed as section leaders in the CODA Symphony: April Paik, concert-master; Lauren Foust, principal violin II and Henry Samuels, principal bass. Ryan Lin, CODA Symphony Violin I, as well as the section leaders were awarded \$200 scholarships to various summer music camps.

Samohi Orchestra students also have been recognized at the national level. Joey Corral and Devon Pratt were selected for the National Honor Orchestra and will perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City next month. Joey Corral, David Litwak, Peony Pak, Henry Samuels and Zach Van Pelt were chosen to be members of the National High School Honor Orchestra which is scheduled to perform in Reno, Nev. in February.

On Tuesday, Dec.14, at 7 p.m. the Samohi string, concert, symphony and chamber orchestras will perform for their winter concert at Barnum Hall on the high school campus. The program will feature Brahms's Symphony No.1, in addition to holiday music. A percussion ensemble will provide entertainment during the intermission. General admission is \$7. Elementary and secondary students, as well as senior citizens 65 and over, will be admitted for \$3.

The Samohi orchestras are in the process of forming an organization for alumni. Members of the community who are Samohi graduates and who played in the orchestra are requested to contact Jack Epps at (310) 458-6430. All orchestra alumni will be given free admission to the winter concert.

Are you a poet and know it?

By Daily Press staff

The Talent Literary Guild is sponsoring an amateur poetry contest, free to everyone. There are 50 prizes in all, including a \$1,000 grand prize, with more than \$4,000 in total cash and prizes awarded.

"We are delighted to sponsor this contest," said poetry director Thomas Grey. "Poets deserve opportunities to showcase their work and get recognition. We hope our contest will encourage new poets to share their artistry with others. California has produced many wonderful poets over the years and I'd like to discover new ones from among the Santa Monica-area grassroots poets."

To enter, send one entry of 21 lines or less to: Free Poetry Contest, 1257 Siskiyou Blvd., PMB 4, Ashland, Ore., 97520, or go to www.freecontest.com.

Poems may be written on any subject, using any style. The deadline for entering is Jan. 14. The editors reserve the right to publish the winning poems in a pamphlet and send it free to all entrants, along with a winner's list.



SURF REPORT

On Thursday, there will be a mix of WSW wind swell, WNW (285-300+) ground/wind swells and some remnant Southern Hemi. Most Northern LA breaks have knee-waist high zone waves with some plus sets. South Bay spots see knee to waist plus surf at many breaks and chest to shoulder sets at top spots on the right tide. New WNW swell starts to show late Thursday then takes over on Friday. Look for light wind Thursday morning turning 6-12 WNW in the afternoon. NE winds due on Friday.

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

Today the water is:

59°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	9:12	3.2	9:20	0.9	4:18	4.0	1:52	3.9
SUNDAY	10:34	2.6	10:04	1.0	4:41	4.3	3:29	3.7
MONDAY	11:27	1.9	10:44	1.2	5:03	4.7	4:51	3.6
TUESDAY	12:11	1.1	11:23	1.4	5:28	5.2	5:58	3.7
WEDNESDAY	NA	NA	12:53	0.2	5:56	5.8	6:57	3.8
THURSDAY	12:01	1.6	1:35	-0.5	6:28	6.3	7:51	3.9
FRIDAY	12:40	1.8	2:18	-1.1	7:04	6.7	8:44	3.9

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The  Line

On Tuesday, the new slate of Santa Monica City Councilmembers will be sworn into office, as Bobby Shriver, Ken Genser, Herb Katz and Richard Bloom take the oath and usher in a new chapter for Santa Monica policy making. Within the next month or so, the council will take up the charge of anointing one of their own as the city's next mayor, to succeed Bloom for a two-year term.

Largely just a figurehead position, the

office of mayor puts a face on the city's elected representation.

This week, Q-Line wants to know: "Who should be appointed as the next mayor of Santa Monica, and why?"

Call (310) 285-8106 before 5 p.m. on Friday and we'll print your response in the weekend edition. Please limit comments to less than a minute. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

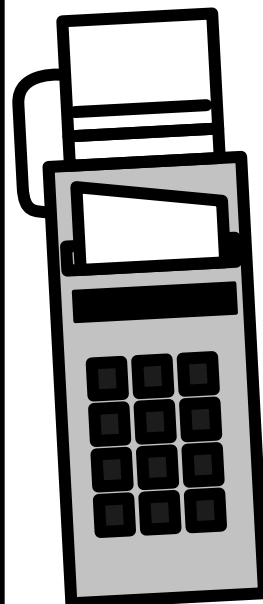
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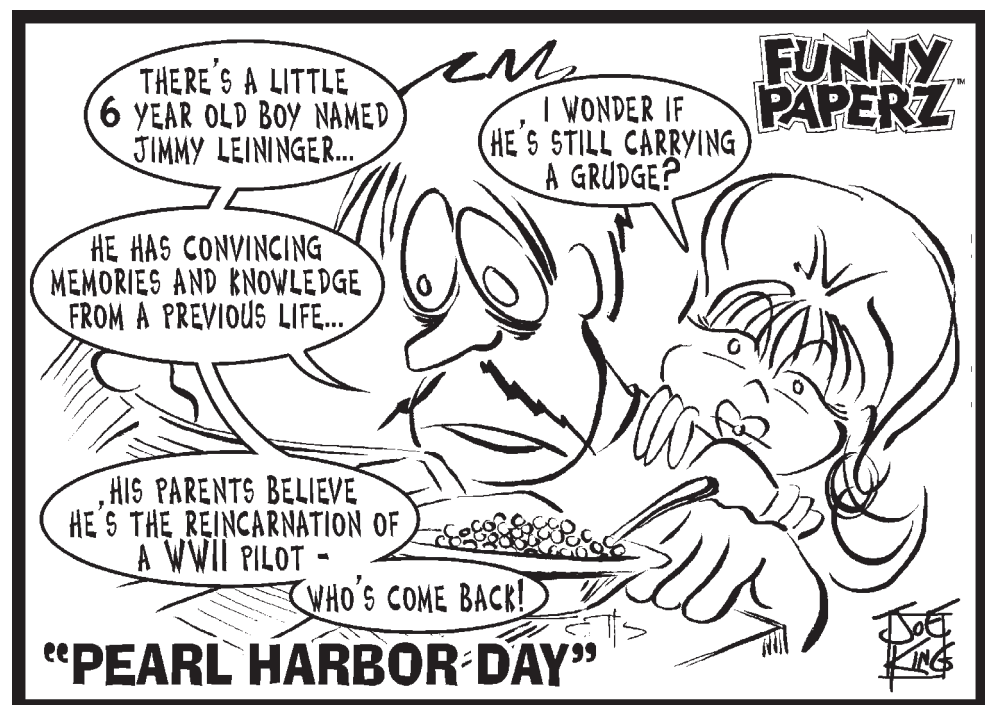
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OPINION



MAYBE OLD SOLDIERS REALLY DON'T DIE...

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The wisdom of Dancer

Editor:

U.S. Sen. Norm Coleman of Minnesota has called for the resignation of Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, because Coleman said the oil-for-food scandal in Iraq "happened on his watch." That's like saying National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice should resign because the tragedy of 9-11 happened on her watch, or Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld should resign because the scandal at the Abu Ghraib prison and the poor planning for our occupation of Iraq happened on his watch, or President George W. Bush should resign because of the mess in Iraq, causing the death of more than 100,000 Iraqis, as well as many of our own troops happened on his watch. When will Republicans demand accountability for mistakes made on their watch?

John Wisdom Dancer
Canoga Park, Calif.

Biting the hand that feeds

Editor:

The unsettling phenomenon of homelessness has long since worn out its welcome in my neighborhood. I don't want to save cans for my favorite aluminum junkies any more, nor do I feel compelled any longer to run out with blankets, or a cup of coffee on a cold day to offer my surly homeless neighbors. Why? Well, I like to think my codependency issues are under control, but more to the point — because I'm tired of being yelled at for not giving correct change, or for not giving enough change. One gal told me to give her two more bucks on top of the two I had already given her. I was walking my dog in front of Santa Monica Seafood, where three panhandlers grumbled something about me not carrying cash while walking my dog, and then gave me a sideways glance, followed by a audible sigh of disgust. I'm sorry. Did I miss something? Was there something in homelessness 101 that I didn't understand? If you are going to beg money out of the pockets of generous, hard working people like myself, ought not a kind word, like a "thank you," be in order? I don't know, I think it's better not to feed the bears.

Especially if they are going to wax rude, and hurumph around all over the place after being handed paper money.

Last time I checked, asking people for money in Santa Monica is illegal, not to mention annoying. We do have a panhandling ordinance in effect. Next time somebody asks me for money, I'll be a lot quicker to respond with a phone call to police, than a reach into my pocket. Times change, and though I'll still be working for solutions to get folks off the streets, I'll be donating my dollars elsewhere.

Ms. Justin L.B Gagnon
Santa Monica

Bent over Street

Editor:

I think all of your readers breathed a collective sigh of relief when Tony Street decided to leave our fair city and move to Bend, Ore. However, he still has to send letters that, unfortunately, you decide to print about what is happening on the various problems we have with regard to parking, homelessness, traffic, etc. We all know what they are and really don't need to hear from him regarding his fantastic solutions.

It was never very clear whether he grew up and went to school in Santa Monica, owned property here or was in business. He just appeared and evidently had nothing better to do than see his stupid, unflattering and biased opinions in your paper.

Tony, start in on Bend, and leave Santa Monica alone.

N.L. Miller
Santa Monica

Go north young man, but you better hurry

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



"As democracy is perfected, the office (of the presidency) represents, more and more closely, the inner soul of the people. We move toward a lofty ideal. On some great and glorious day the plain folks of the land will reach their heart's desire at last, and the White House will be adorned by a downright moron." — H.L. Mencken, *Baltimore Evening Sun*, July 26, 1920.

"What a moron." — Francoise Ducros, *Canadian Director of Communications*, as the president of the United States pitched his impending invasion of Iraq to the NATO summit in Prague, Nov. 21, 2002.

"Oh Canada, our home and native land, true patriot love, in all thy sons command." Beg your pardon, just going through the nightly reps, learning somebody else's national anthem, merely trying to become more fit, more of an internationally rounded citizen. Don't read too much into it. "Oh Canada, glorious and free, we stand on guard for thee."

Just because the Canadian immigration Web site had 115,000 hits from U.S. citizens the day after the election — a 500 percent increase from any old normal day — doesn't mean I was one of them hitting. Don't read too much into it.

Just because Canada has universal public health care, strict gun control with little violence on their streets, no troops in Iraq, no capital punishment, legalized medicinal marijuana, considers a woman's decision to terminate a pregnancy to be a medical issue, and sports seven consecutive surplus budgets — that's no reason to think anybody here on page 4 is considering "exploring the richness and diversity of our regions to find out why Canada is the perfect alternative for conscientious, forward-thinking Americans." That's how www.canadianalternative.com, one of the many new escape-to-Canada Web sites, has been enticing forlorn Americans who have come to the frightening conclusion that they barely recognize their own country any more. But don't read too much into it.

Because there might not be too much of a Canada left much longer, if you follow the drift — the drift coming from just to the south of it.

President Bush was in Canada last

week, his official mission the mending of fences with the thoroughly "blue" nation to the north, but with their every public policy seeming to fly directly in the face of everything Bushamerican, might he have had something else in mind — something like adding them to the official Axis of Evil-Doers list? Was he up there sizing them up for his next preemptive strike? Freedom is, after all, on the march, and these helpless, oppressed Canucks would surely greet conquering American marines on the streets of Toronto and Edmonton with flowers and candy, wouldn't they? They'd be free, free at last to wait in the emergency rooms when they get sick; free to own their own Uzi or AK-47 like their secure neighbors to the south do; free to be forced to carry to term unwanted pregnancies; free, free at last from the shackles of the wicked, full-blown liberalism that has them ranked by the United Nations for eight consecutive years as the best country in the world to live in. But then again, we, down around here, don't care too much any more for what the U.N. has to say, do we?

When the American commander-in-chief told Canadians during his visit that, "We must go out and meet our enemy before he reaches our shores, and defeat him before he attacks us, before our cities are laid to waste," our friends to the north must have shuddered, wondering, uh, who's he talking about now?

Think about it, they thought. If he's willing to send hundreds of thousands of his youngest and bravest halfway around the world to liberate a nation that laid in wait, ready for battle with presumed hordes of weapons of mass destruction, how easy would it be to come up in here and liberate this dysfunctional peacenik gang whose most advanced weaponry consists of something like a 12-gauge shotgun and a sharp knife? Like taking candy from a baby, baby and W. knows it, they're thinking. All he needs to do is pull out the satellite photos of a couple deadly giant bongos under construction over there in Quebec, or a couple deadly giant mad cows running wild over there in Calgary, and the new and improved "United States of All of North America" will be a done deal.

Instead of a 51st star added to the flag to hail the new conquest, a cute little maple leaf would be a real nice gesture, right up there in the corner somewhere.

They might not have too much to offer on the oil thing, but man, that juicy round bacon is to die for.

(To reach Ron Scott Smith, e-mail to edgeofthewest@aol.com).



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LOCAL



Civil lawsuits from 2003 market tragedy on hold

WELLER, from page 1

condition he not drive. If convicted on all counts, his sentence could range from probation to 18 years in prison, according to the District Attorney's Office.

The next court hearing in the case was scheduled for Jan. 26.

Dozens of civil lawsuits have been filed against Weller. Lawsuits also have been filed against the city of Santa Monica, the

Bayside District, which oversees the market, the Los Angeles County's agricultural commissioner and the state of California. Attorneys representing the plaintiffs argue the city should have had protective barriers at both ends of the market.

The City Attorney's Office argues that Santa Monica officials maintain that it was a tragic accident that couldn't have been foreseen. Police vehicles are now parked at both ends of the market.

Santa Monica attorney Geoffrey S. Wells, who represents more than 11 of the plaintiffs in their wrongful death or personal injury civil suits against City Hall, responded to Weller's plea.

"George Russell Weller's plea of not guilty to 10 counts of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence is not surprising given that he allegedly hit the gas pedal instead of the brakes, and thus lacks the intent to commit a crime," Wells

said Wednesday. "Now, it is up to a jury to determine Mr. Weller's fate, and we just hope that after more than a year-and-a-half of waiting this case will go to trial without any further delays.

"In the interim, our clients who have civil suits against Mr. Weller for personal injury or wrongful death must continue to bide their time until there is an outcome in the criminal case," he continued.

Kidnapping suspect to return to court on Friday

DNA, from page 1

evidence exists for the case to go to trial.

Matt Huey, Harris' public defender, called the decision a violation of Harris' constitutional rights. He had sought a complete dismissal and, failing that, asked Judge Mader to release Harris without bail while the investigation continues.

"I don't know what they're thinking," he said. "They have evidence that completely exonerates Mr. Harris and yet they want to proceed with this."

The counts against Harris relate to two separate incidents, one on Oct. 18 and the second on Nov. 4, but police said they suspect Harris in a string of other burglaries in the Sunset Park area. He is being held in lieu of \$1.44 million bail.

Deputy District Attorneys Kelly Fritz and Scott Millington said that while the DNA evidence suggested a different suspect, that person may have been working collaboratively with Harris. The victim and eyewitnesses saw only one suspect, but the kidnapper said he had two accomplices who would help him burn down the

victim's house, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors also argued Harris may have used a hat and shirt that belonged to another resident at Clare, which serves recovering drug and alcohol addicts. Harris, a standout track athlete who won the silver medal in the 1984 Olympics, wound up at Clare after struggling for years with a cocaine addiction.

"He could've borrowed the shirt from someone else who was at this drug treatment facility he was at," Millington said.

To build their case further, prosecutors pointed to evidence recovered from Harris' room at Clare that allegedly tied him to the kidnapping, and to eyewitness accounts. Both the victim's neighbor, who chased the kidnapper off with a handgun, and an eyewitness who saw the kidnapper leave behind the shirt, positively identified Harris in a police line-up.

Found in Harris' room was a commemorative set of collector coins, a pair of white sneakers and a screwdriver, detectives said. Prosecutors maintained that a set of coins had been stolen from the victim, adding the kidnapper was said to

have worn white sneakers and used a screwdriver to threaten the victim.

"We have sufficient evidence," Fritz told the court.

Huey countered that the coin set recovered at Clare is different than what was described in police reports. What's more, he said Harris had every reason to keep white sneakers because he worked as a personal trainer at Better Body Maker on Santa Monica Boulevard. As to the screwdriver, Huey said possessing the tool shouldn't count against Harris.

Judge Mader didn't comment on the evidence investigators collected at Clare, but said the eyewitness identifications precluded her from releasing Harris without bail. She instructed Huey to subpoena the California Department of Justice for

details about the new suspect, and scheduled the case to return Friday.

Asked by Judge Mader if he agreed to postpone his preliminary trial while investigators checked out the other suspect, Harris, who wore a blue, Los Angeles County Jail jumpsuit and black slippers, dropped his head and put his hand to his brow, apparently in frustration.

"Yeah," he said, after a pause.

While Harris waits, Huey said the system had failed.

"They did what they were supposed to do, they took the scientific evidence from the hat, and now they're saying the hat doesn't matter," he said. "They, the government ... wants to do a second test. Meanwhile, my client sits in custody."

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LOCAL □ NATIONAL

U.N. membership ought to be reserved, U.S. says

BY GEORGE GEDDA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Most people would say countries that tolerate slavery should be ineligible for membership on the U.N. Commission on Human Rights. Same goes for those guilty of crimes against humanity.

The presumption is that egregious rights violators have no business on a commission whose prime purpose is supposed to be to protect rights.

But in a report last week, a U.N. panel established by Secretary-General Kofi Annan rejected the notion that there should be any standards at all for membership on the Human Rights Commission, recommending that all 191 U.N. member states be allowed to join.

That means Sudan need not worry about losing its seat on the 53-member commission even though the country stands accused by the United States of committing genocide in its western Darfur province.

At the State Department, frustration over the commission is accelerating, and officials wonder how long the United States can justify its continued membership on the panel if current trends continue.

Of particular concern to Washington is an expected move next year to prohibit the introduction of commission resolutions aimed at specific countries.

That would bar the United States from proposing measures critical of human rights policies in China and Cuba, as Washington does virtually every year at the annual commission meetings in Geneva. If the ban should pass, the commission could do little more than approve resolutions condemning religious persecution or suppression of labor without identifying perpetrators.

Led by China, many lesser developed countries resent the emphasis on human rights by the United States and other industrialized democracies. Their priorities are economic rights and economic development. China's representative on the Annan commission made this view clear, with strong support from African countries, particularly South Africa.

It is not only poorer countries that consider U.S. economic sanctions against

Cuba unjust. Votes against the Cuba embargo in the U.N. General Assembly are routine every year. This year's vote was 179 to 4 against the four-decade old policy, with only the United States, Israel, the Marshall Islands and Palau in support.

The United States finds the General Assembly's record on Sudan especially appalling. Last month, the Assembly refused even to consider a Sudan resolution sponsored by the European Union to condemn Sudan's record in Darfur.

The outgoing U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, John Danforth, used highly undiplomatic language in describing what he regards as the Assembly's insensitivity to the suffering in Darfur, where well over 1 million black Africans have been uprooted from their homes by government-backed Arab militias.

"The message from the General Assembly is very simple, and it is: You may be suffering, but we can't be bothered," Danforth said.

At another point, he said persistent failures of U.N. members "to present a unified front against well-documented atrocities would represent nothing less than the complete breakdown of the U.N.'s deliberative bodies related to human rights."

Danforth announced his resignation in November after only five months at the U.N. post. He said he wanted to spend more time with his family, but he also had indicated beforehand that he did not intend to remain on the job very long because of frustrations over Sudan and other issues.

This past spring, the Africa bloc, showing disdain for Western concern over Sudan, nominated the Islamic government for a third consecutive term on the U.N. rights commission.

When the United States registered its disapproval, a Sudanese diplomat, Omar Bashir Manis, said it was ironic for Washington to raise objections in light of the "atrocities" committed by American forces at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

Election to a seat for Sudan "is not at all different" from the United States itself winning a seat, said Manis, who saw the Abu Ghraib scandal as a handy way to question whether Washington has the moral authority to criticize the rights performance of others.

Overcharges amount to \$54.22

OVERCHARGE, from page 1

"Also, shoppers are under pressure to buy a lot in a short period of time," she added. "These random inspections show that stores don't always charge the prices posted in the stores. It is really important that consumers check their receipts, especially during the holiday season."

The following stores are accused of overcharging:

1. Borders: Two out of eight items overcharged. Total overcharge: \$12.48.

2. Bebe: One out of four items overcharged. Total overcharge: \$21.

3. Carlton Cards (American Greetings Corp.): One out of seven items overcharged. Total overcharge: \$9.74

4. Video and Audio Center (M and J Mayer, Inc.): One out of five items overcharged. Total overcharge: \$2.

5. Second Spin (Record Town, Inc.): One out of seven items overcharged. Total overcharge: \$2.

6. Gap: One out of seven items were overcharged. Total overcharge: \$7.

The six stores were scheduled to be arraigned Wednesday in the LAX Courthouse.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 2!

STATE



Troops need support over holidays, Bush says

BY JENNIFER LOVEN

Associated Press Writer

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Standing before thousands of Marines, President Bush asked other Americans on Tuesday to make the war their own by helping battle-weary troops and their families.

“The time of war is a time of sacrifice, especially for our military families,” Bush said, wearing a tan military jacket with epaulets. “I urge every American to find some way to thank our military and to help out the military family down the street.”

In October 2001, shortly after the terrorist attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, Bush ordered the invasion of Afghanistan to rout the terrorist-protecting Taliban government. The military took on the additional burden of the war in Iraq starting with the U.S.-led invasion in March 2003.

In all that time, while traveling widely to visit military personnel and sit at the bedsides of the wounded, the president has asked little of the civilian public.

But with casualties increasing and the number of U.S. troops in Iraq slated to rise before next month’s planned elections there, Bush urged civilians to do more.

Speaking on the 63rd anniversary of Pearl Harbor, Bush’s call to sacrifice recalled President Roosevelt’s World War II-era requests for Americans to pitch in for the war effort. Citizens responded then by planting victory gardens, purchasing war bonds, contributing metals and transforming commercial factories into weapons-makers.

Bush, who flew across the country and back in one long day to a base that has seen one of the highest casualty rates in Iraq, suggested ways Americans now can support troops — and their left-behind families — by citing the example of several already doing so. Groups have been established to welcome home the wounded, collect thank-you letters, build homes adapted to disabled vets, and raise money for military families who must forsake home and jobs to stand beside a recovering soldier, he said.

“In this season of giving, let us stand with the men and women who stand up for America, our military,” Bush said.

The president spent the bulk of his visit to this southern California base behind

closed doors.

After his speech, he joined troops in a mess hall decorated for Christmas for a lunch of beef, noodles and rice. He then went into a base gymnasium to spend over two hours face-to-face with more than 50 families of the fallen. He awarded one soldier, left unidentified by the White House, a posthumous Bronze Star.

White House spokesman Trent Duffy said there was “a lot of emotion, a lot of hugs” between the president and the families.

According to a Camp Pendleton spokesman, Cpl. Patrick Carroll, 269 Marines from the base have been killed in action in Iraq. A total of more than 1,270 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war, including nearly 1,000 who have died as a result of hostile action.

In his public remarks, Bush sought to console the survivors.

“Words can only go so far in capturing the grief and sense of loss for the families of those who have died,” he said. “But you can know this: They gave their lives for a cause that is just. And as in other generations, their sacrifice will have spared millions from the lives of tyranny and sorrow.”

Recently, more than 21,000 Camp Pendleton Marines have been serving in Iraq’s al-Anbar province, including the battle to secure the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah.

Other missions have included being the first conventional forces to fight in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and rolling across Iraq’s border for the march to Baghdad that toppled Saddam Hussein’s regime.

Bush declared the Fallujah campaign a success, saying, “We have dealt the enemy a severe blow.”

But he warned that troops will see more attacks and, without saying it explicitly, more losses as Iraq’s Jan. 30 elections approach.

“The enemies of freedom in Iraq have been wounded, but they’re not yet defeated,” the president said. “We can expect further violence from the terrorists. ... The terrorists will do all they can to delay and disrupt free elections in Iraq. And they will fail.”

Bush promised, as he has repeatedly over recent days, that the elections “will proceed as planned.”

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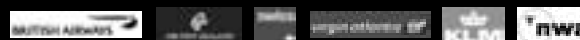
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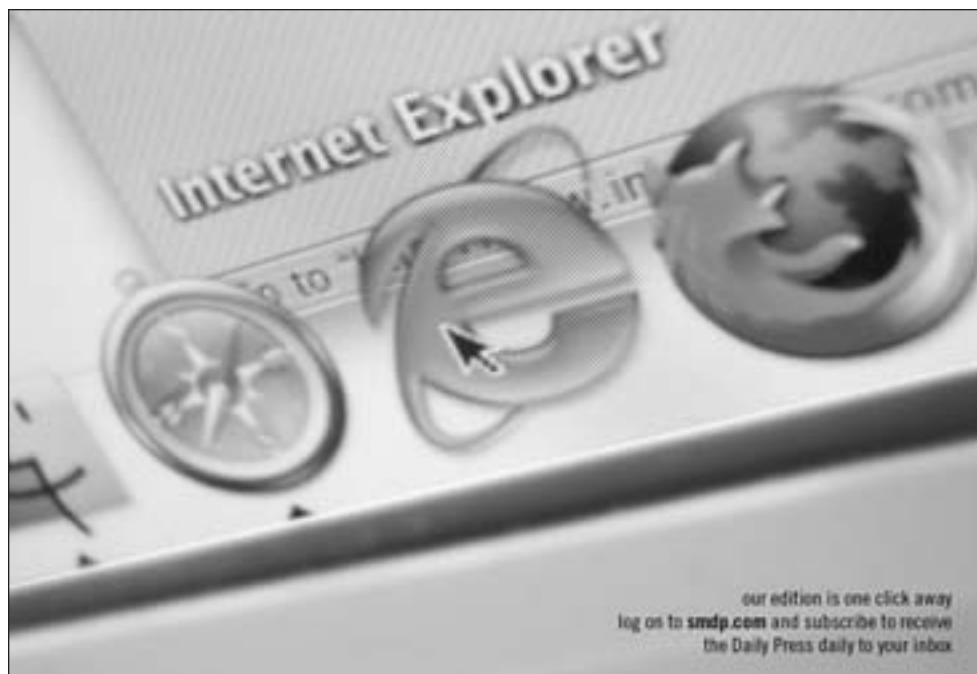
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NATIONAL

T-shirt company offers 'Go Canadian' package for European travelers

BY LESLIE HOFFMAN
Associated Press Writer

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Planning a European vacation and don't want to talk American politics with an inquisitive foreigner? A New Mexico T-shirt company suggests going Canadian.

For \$24.95, T-shirtKing.com offers the "Go Canadian" package, full of just the kind of things an American traveler can use to keep a vacation free of U.S. politics.

There's a Canadian flag T-shirt, a Canadian flag lapel pin and a Canadian patch for luggage or a backpack. There's also a quick reference guide — "How to Speak Canadian, Eh?" — on answering questions about Canada.

It's the brainchild of employees at the Mountainair, N.M.-based company known for comical T-shirts it sells worldwide on the Internet.

"It's not meant as a slight against the United States or Canada," explained T-shirtKing.com President Bill Broadbent. "It was meant as something Republicans could give their Democrat friends to say 'C'est la vie.' ... But maybe not c'est la vie because that's a French word."

This isn't the first time the company has poked fun at politics. They held a political slogan T-shirt contest for the election. Among the favorites: "Might as well vote Republican, because they'll say you did anyway."

The "Go Canadian" idea sprouted while Broadbent and several co-workers were chatting at the company's adobe-house-turned-office in Mountainair about a possible product to fill the gap between the end of their political slogan contest and another contest they plan for January.

One of Broadbent's colleagues heard of someone harassed about U.S. politics during a recent overseas trip.

Some people might not mind, but others "just want to be on vacation," Broadbent said. "So we were joking that they could just go as Canadians, and that just kind of evolved."

The package went up on T-shirtKing.com's Web site Nov. 12 and the company had sold a couple hundred — in New Mexico and elsewhere — in the first two weeks or so. Many of the out-of-state buyers were in Michigan, Illinois, and the Seattle area, Broadbent said.

When lifelong Democrat Dani Delaney saw the package, she was immediately sold. After the general election, she said, "if I could move to Canada, I would."

"I admire their liberal, progressive stand on things," said the 57-year-old, part-time writing instructor at the University of New Mexico. "And I thought, 'Well, that's a good way to peacefully protest.'"

Sylvia Dawson's boyfriend has been joking with the Ontario native that she needs to find him a Canadian flag for an upcoming trip to Spain. That's after his daughter, who is studying in Spain, warned that he might be questioned about politics when he comes to visit.

So the 45-year-old Bernalillo resident bought a package.

"I said, 'What are you going to do if someone asks you about the prime minister of Canada?' And he said, 'I'll study up,'" Dawson said.

Such questions are the reason for the package's comical quick reference guide, which offers tips in case an American in disguise gets quizzed on Canada.

When it comes to sports, the guide suggests: "This is easy to remember. There is only one real sport in Canada and it is called hockey. Regardless of any trivia question, the answer is 'Wayne Gretzky.'"

Cruise ship company to plead guilty to dumping

By The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A cruise ship company will plead guilty next Monday to discharging 20,000 gallons of untreated sewage from one of its ships while docked in Juneau harbor, federal prosecutors say.

In addition to paying \$200,000 in fines and \$500,000 in restitution, Holland America Line Cruise Ships will spend \$1.3 million on a plan to prevent similar accidents.

The Seattle-based company also will be placed on three years probation after the plea agreement is signed in federal court.

"It was a mistake and shouldn't have happened," said Rose Abello, a company spokeswoman. "We have taken significant measures to make sure it doesn't happen again."

Abello acknowledged the mishap resulted from "a series of human errors."

The 700-foot Ryndam is equipped with an advanced wastewater treatment system. The problem arose aboard the 1,258-passenger ship on Aug. 17, 2002, and was compounded when the crew ignored alarms activated when a sewage tank approached maximum capacity.

A Juneau resident noticed the discharge flowing from the ship into the harbor and alerted the ship's staff. However, they didn't respond immediately, allowing the sewage to continue to flow, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin Feldis. He said the plea agreement was a fair resolution of the case.

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Santa Monica Daily Press



Hispanics' personal racial ID 'goes beyond' just skin color, research shows

BY GENARO C. ARMAS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Hispanics who identify themselves as "white" tend to be better educated and less likely to be in poverty than those who consider themselves "some other race," according to a report released Monday by a private research group.

The Pew Hispanic Center analyzed data from the 2000 census and its own survey in 2002 and found foreign-born Latinos who became citizens were slightly more likely to consider themselves white than noncitizens.

"White" also was more popular among the U.S.-born grandchildren of immigrants than among the U.S.-born children of foreign-born Hispanics.

Sonya Tafoya, the Pew research associate who wrote the report, said, for Latinos, "race goes beyond physical characteristics and skin color."

Tafoya did not offer reasons on which Hispanics base their choices of race, although she noted that intermarriage between Hispanics and non-Hispanic whites may play a factor in the how second- and third-generation U.S.-born Latinos view themselves.

The census results showed that race among Hispanics appeared "to be a measure of belonging or of political enfranchisement. ... Those feeling more belonging to the American mainstream are more likely to feel white," she said.

The government considers "Hispanic" an ethnicity instead of a race; people of Hispanic ethnicity can belong to any race.

The 2000 census counted 35 million Hispanics. Since then, Hispanics have passed blacks as the nation's largest minority group.

The last census found the two most popular responses to the race question among Hispanics were white (48 percent, or 17 million people) and "some other race" (42 percent, or nearly 14.9 million).

Among Hispanic subgroups, Cubans were most likely to identify themselves as white (85 percent), while Dominicans most often selected "some other race" (58 percent).

In most groups, naturalized citizens were slightly more likely to choose white than noncitizens. For instance, 47 percent

of naturalized Mexican-Americans said they were white, compared with 44 percent of Mexicans who were not U.S. citizens.

"As an immigrant becomes more incorporated into the mainstream U.S. society, they have a higher tendency to identify themselves as white. In some ways, it's intuitive," Tafoya said.

Brent Wilkes, executive director of the League of United Latin American Citizens, a Washington-based advocacy group, urged caution in interpreting the census results because "there isn't a true opportunity for Hispanics to put down what their race really is."

A large number of Latinos have backgrounds that include combinations of white, African and indigenous ancestries, the Pew report said.

"Some other race" Hispanics typically have lower socio-economic status than white Hispanics. For instance, among Latinos age 25 and older, 54 percent of the "some other race" group had less than high school educations, compared with 44 percent of whites.

Hispanics who chose "some other race" were more likely than white Hispanics to be in poverty (24 percent to 20 percent).

According to the Pew center's 2002 "National Survey of Latinos," 23 percent of white Hispanics spoke only English, compared with 16 percent of "some other race" Hispanics. That survey also found that more white Hispanics (81 percent) than "some other race" Hispanics (66 percent) had ever voted.

Roughly 1 in 5 white Hispanics reported they were Republican, compared with about 1 in 9 "some other race" Hispanics.

The Pew findings were released as the Census Bureau ends testing into whether to delete "some other race" as an answer to the race question in the 2010 count. The test had rankled many civil rights groups, who felt the government was trying to force Hispanics into uncomfortable racial descriptions.

One rationale presented by census officials was that Americans in 2000 had more options than ever to identify their racial background since respondents, for the first time, could check off more than one race on their forms.



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Senate makes progress on key intelligence reorganization bill

BY JESSE J. HOLLAND

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Senate worked toward approval Wednesday of legislation transforming the nation's Cold War-era spy network into a more agile system aimed at preventing terrorist attacks like those on Sept. 11, 2001.

"We are rebuilding a structure that was designed for a different enemy at a different time, a structure that was designed for the Cold War and has not proved agile enough to deal with the threats of the 21st century," said Senate Governmental Affairs chairwoman Susan Collins, R-Maine.

Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., said, "For the first time in over half a century, we are going to modernize our national intelligence structure to meet the new challenges we face in today's world."

As debate in the GOP-controlled Senate opened, the chambers leaders predicted the bill would easily pass. Said incoming Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada, "This vote is not close or controversial in any way."

The House passed the bill overwhelmingly on Tuesday, 336-75, after Bush endorsed it and House Republicans satisfied themselves that the measure would not negatively affect the nation's military.

The president "greatly looks forward to Senate passage and ultimately to signing the bill into law," White House spokesman Trent Duffy said late Tuesday as the president flew back to Washington from a visit with Marines at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The legislation would:

- Create a new national intelligence director.
- Establish a counterterrorism center.
- Set priorities for intelligence gathering.

■ Tighten U.S. borders.

It would implement the biggest change to U.S. intelligence gathering and analysis since the creation of the CIA after World War II.

The bill also included a host of anti-terrorism provisions, which would:

- Allow wiretaps of "lone wolf" terrorists not associated with groups or states.
- Improve airline baggage screening procedures.
- Increase the number of full-time border patrol agents by 2,000 a year for five years.
- Impose new federal standards on information that driver's licenses must contain.

The Sept. 11 commission, in its July report, said disharmony among the nation's 15 intelligence agencies contributed to the inability of government officials to stop the 2001 attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people in New York City, Washington and Pennsylvania.

The new structure should help the agencies work together to prevent such disasters in the future, lawmakers said.

"This legislation is going to make a real difference to the security of our country," said Senate Governmental Affairs Committee chairwoman Susan Collins, R-Maine. "It is going to improve the quality of intelligence provided to our military and it will help to keep civilians safer here at home."

Senators said Tuesday they were confident the bill would pass. But because Congress had to hold a special session to get a final agreement, Wednesday's vote was expected to be extended to late in the day to accommodate senators rushing back to the Capitol from across the nation.



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INTERNATIONAL



Memo sheds new light on prison scandal

BY PAISLEY DODDS

Associated Press Writer

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — U.S. special operations forces accused of abusing prisoners in Iraq warned defense intelligence personnel not to talk about the alleged mistreatment they saw, according to a government memo to a top adviser of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

In the memo written June 25 after the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal had gone public, the head of the Defense Intelligence Agency complained about the harassment of DIA personnel, including one case where special forces confiscated photos of a prisoner they punched.

Defense intelligence workers also had their e-mails monitored and were ordered by a special operations task force “not to talk to anyone” about what they saw, said the memo, which was among internal documents released Tuesday by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Prisoners arriving at a detention center in Baghdad had “burn marks on their backs” as well as bruises and some complained of kidney pain, Vice Admiral Lowell E. Jacoby, the defense intelligence chief, wrote to Stephen Cambone, Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence.

Jacoby also told Cambone that special operations task force members also confiscated the car keys of defense intelligence personnel and ordered them not to leave the base.

FBI agents also reported seeing detainees at Abu Ghraib subjected to sleep deprivation, humiliation and forced nudity between October and December 2003.

The release of the ACLU documents came a day after The Associated Press reported that a senior FBI official wrote a letter to the Army’s top criminal investigator complaining about “highly aggressive” interrogation techniques at the U.S. prison camp in Guantanamo Bay dating back to 2002.

The memos and letter reveal behind-the-scenes tensions between the FBI and U.S. military and intelligence task forces running prisoner interrogations at Guantanamo and in Iraq as the Bush administration sought better intelligence to fight terrorists and the deadly Iraq insurgency.

“These documents tell a damning story of sanctioned government abuse — a story that the government has tried to hide and may well come back to haunt our own troops captured in Iraq,” said Anthony D. Romero, executive director of the New York-based ACLU.

The documents were released only after a federal court ordered the Pentagon and other government agencies to comply with a year-old request filed under the Freedom of Information Act filed by the ACLU, the Center for Constitutional Rights, Physicians for Human Rights, Veterans for Common Sense and Veterans for Peace.

A spokesman for U.S. Central Command in Tampa, Florida, which directs special military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, declined to comment on specific allegations.

“We take all issues of detainee abuse very seriously and where there is the potential that these abuses could have taken place, we investigate them,” Navy Lt. Cmdr. Nick Balice said.

Balice refused to describe the task force, which could include Army Rangers, Delta Force, Navy SEALs and other special operations forces soldiers working with CIA operatives.

Joe Navarro, a retired FBI agent who teaches interrogation techniques to the military and is familiar with interrogations at Guantanamo, said using threats only stands to taint information gleaned from the sessions.

“The only thing that torture guarantees is pain,” Navarro told the AP Tuesday. “It never guarantees the truth.”

Other memos released by the ACLU detail FBI interviews with detainees at Guantanamo who described CIA officer Johnny “Mike” Spann’s death in Afghanistan Nov. 25, 2001.

One detainee said Spann was “was jumped by an Arab or Pakistani male, but the armed man (Spann) shot the prisoner. People began running and chaos ensued.” Another detainee said “There was an explosion ... from a grenade.”

There have been scant details so far of Spann’s death at the prison riot in Mazar-e-Sharif.

Many memos refer to Maj. Gen. Geoffrey D. Miller, whose mission as head of the Guantanamo prison from October 2002 was to improve the intelligence gleaned from terror suspects. In August 2003, Miller was sent to Iraq to make recommendations on interrogation techniques there. He was posted to Abu Ghraib in March 2004.

One FBI e-mail released by the ACLU said Miller “continued to support interrogation strategies (the FBI) not only advised against, but questioned in terms of effectiveness.”

Miller left Iraq on Tuesday for a new assignment in Washington, with responsibility for Army housing and other support operations, and could not be reached for comment.

The Pentagon said the government “condemns and prohibits torture.”

“There have been eight major reviews, investigations, inspections and assessments based on more than 950 interviews and 15,000 pages of information,” Pentagon spokesman Maj. Michael Shavers said. “Three more reports still remain to be completed. There have been more than 18 congressional hearings and 39-plus congressional staff briefings.”

It was not clear what cases mentioned in the documents, if any, were under investigation or had been part of congressional briefings.

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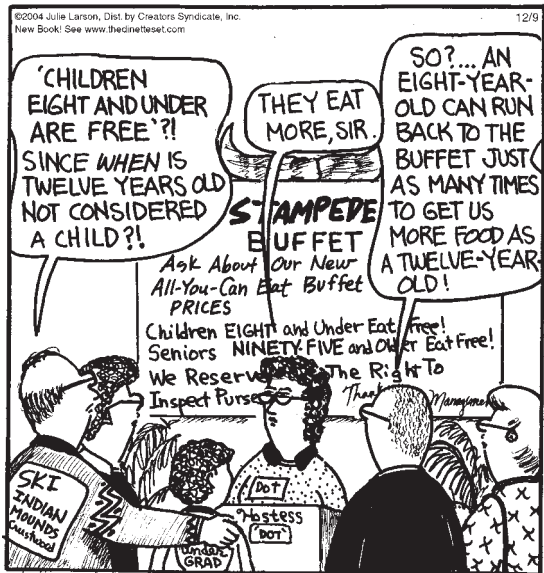
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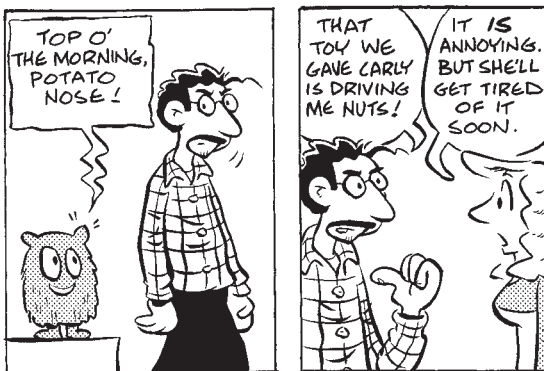


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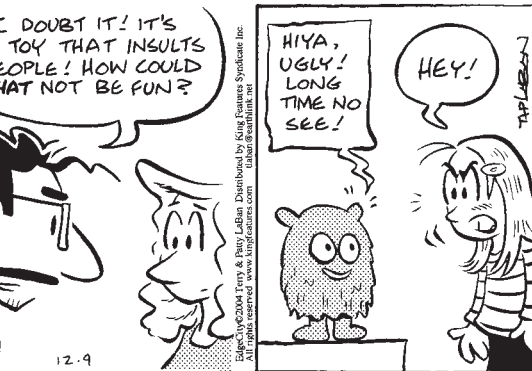
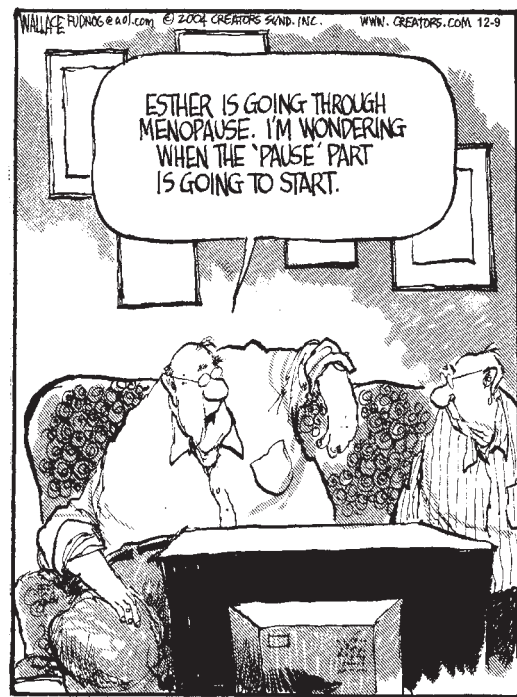
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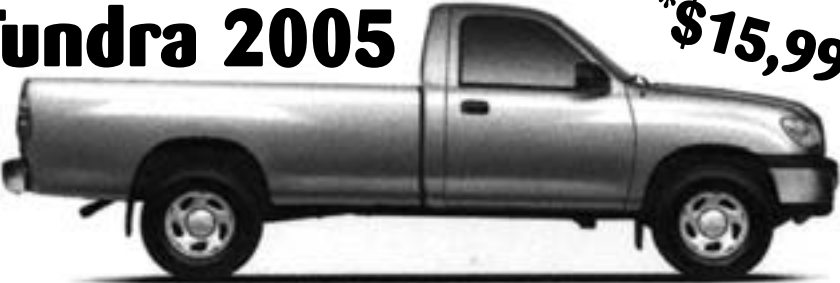


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bile Phloebotomy Service, 1136 W. 36th Place, LA
CA 90007. The full name of registrant(s) is/are :
Sherrel Rita Brown, 1136 W. 36th Place, LA CA
90007 This Business is being conducted by, an in-
dividual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to
transact business under the fictitious name or
names listed herein.. /s/ Sherrel Rita Brown
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of
LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTI-
TIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE
YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OF-
FICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS
BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRI-
OR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement
does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a
fictitious business name statement in violation of
the rights of another under federal, state, or com-
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10:00 a.m.

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Wednesday, December 15

2:30 p.m.

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Thursday, December 16

10:00 a.m.

Marie Callender's

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Tuesday, December 21

2:30 p.m.

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