

FREE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2001

Volume 1, Issue 27

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Del Pastrana/Daily Press
Santa Monica firefighters survey the damage to a car that was engulfed in flames on the 10 Freeway near Fourth Street. Apparently a woman hit a sign and the car immediately went into flames. The unidentified driver was taken to UCLA Medical Center. Her condition is unknown.

Santa Monica City Council listens to rape victims' pleas

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Special to the Daily Press

Six years ago, an 82-year old woman was brutally raped at gun point in the back seat of her car while her husband was helplessly locked in the trunk, forced to listen to every scream.

Though her name will never be revealed, she will forever be the third victim of alleged "Southside Rapist" Israel Hardin, who is currently serving a life sentence on another crime he committed.

Her words, which were brought to the Santa Monica City Council Tuesday night pre-recorded, hid none of the pain. But each syllable was intoned with the courage of a woman who has experienced the worst in humanity, and survived.

The elderly couple was returning home from a late night of cards with friends. It would have ended with a quick block and a half trip home if it hadn't been for the man with the gun. Maybe it would have been different if they had enough money when he robbed them, the woman suggested.

But recent evidence has come to light suggesting that her rape, and the agony of the following six years, could have been entirely avoided.

According to Karen Pomer, who was raped for six hours in Sunset Park by the same accused man, she had identified the attacker two months before the elderly woman was raped.

"I want somebody to take responsibility for this screw up," said Pomer, addressing the city council Tuesday. "A lot of tragedy could have been avoided if the police had listened to the victims."

See VICTIMS, page 3

SMC buys land; struggles with state budget cuts

BY BEATRIZ E. VALENZUELA
Special to the Daily Press

While Santa Monica College struggles to afford basic teaching materials for its instructors, it recently spent \$30 million for a new parking lot and buildings for new classrooms.

The college's trustees voted unanimously last week to purchase the BAE Systems property at Santa Monica Airport. The college will buy the property at 3171 Centinela Ave. — a 10.4-acre office and light manufacturing site which offers a parking lot and four buildings for a future satellite campus.

Yet Santa Monica College's administration, along with all other community colleges in California, is struggling under budget cuts handed down by California Governor Gray Davis. The school expects even more cuts in its state funding next year.

SMC spokesman Bruce Smith said the money used to buy the BAE property comes from a capital fund that is earmarked specifically for facilities. College officials are banking on the property being paid for by a \$160 million bond measure that

will be in front of voters next year. If the bond doesn't pass, the property may be funded through other sources.

"If the bond does not pass, we will have to look to our general fund," Smith said.

Specific state cuts

Meanwhile, state funding must be used for specific budget items that must be used for operations. However, money can be pulled from one budget to another under certain circumstances, Smith said.

Earlier this year, Gov. Davis cut \$127 million originally allocated for California's community colleges. After legislators and community leaders rallied together to recover some of it, Davis restored about \$46 million.

"Initially the college stood to lose \$1.4 million from its budget," said Dr. Piedad Robertson, president of Santa Monica College. "But we were able to recover \$250,000 after the restoration."

With about 80 percent of Santa Monica College's annual

See SMC, page 3

Many Los Angeles cities fight tougher rules on storm water

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Dozens of cities within Los Angeles County are fighting a new plan intended to regulate storm water that officials say will place an unfair financial burden on the municipalities.

"The rules were not well thought out as to whether we can accomplish them," said Los Angeles Councilman Nate Holden. The rules will cost the city an estimated \$73 million over five years.

Environmentalists say the new plan, which the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board is set to vote on Thursday, are necessary to toughen water quali-

ty rules that have been ineffective because of lax enforcement.

Cleaner storm water is important to protect the ocean for wildlife and beachgoers, said Mark Gold, executive director of the environmental group Heal the Bay.

"Everybody uses the beach ... that's where LA goes to escape the pressures of the region," he said.

More than 35 of the nearly 90 cities in Los Angeles County oppose the rules, saying they place too much of the regulatory burden on them.

The move would require cities to inspect many indus-

See WATER, page 5

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ You feel unusually inspired, resulting in a slew of calls, meetings and new appointments. You act as if there is no tomorrow; you're such a ball of fire. Understand someone's limitations and why this person responds as he or she does. Pitch in and help. Tonight: Are you tired yet? Slow down.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Success heads your way if you deal with others directly. Unexpected news at work energizes and helps you solve any problems on the way. Listen to important information or feedback from someone you deal with financially. Tonight: Take a break from all the holiday gatherings and people.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Don't rebel just because it works for you. Establish better groundwork leading into an idea. Let others reveal their true colors, and your decisions will be much stronger. Let go of insecurity. Step back from yourself. Tonight: Go along with someone's plans.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Your ability to handle money comes from your own tenacious crablike need for security. You don't have to announce this fact, but monopolize on this skill. A situation might make you feel insecure. Don't allow feelings or fatigue to get the best of you. Tonight: Early to bed.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ A friend could disappoint you when you least expect it. Laugh and be light with a loved one or child. Don't kick the cat because you're mad at the dog. Express how you feel, and you will gain some release. Allow fun in; let go of anger. Tonight: Express your frisky side.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★ Tension builds at work or revolving around a health matter. You cannot be too thorough or too careful. You could be accident-prone. Express your frustration and anger. Stop, take a walk and center yourself. Restart your day from a new mental perspective. Tonight: Head on home.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Others misunderstand you. You need to clear up a misconception or circumvent it by confirming what you hear. Don't stand on ceremony; rather, seek people out. Your voice puts a smile on someone's face. Tonight: At a favorite haunt.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You need to put a halt to a self-destructive pattern that might very well impact your wallet. You cannot count on someone's support anymore. Step up to first base and know that you're on your own. You can do it, too! Let go of negative habits. Tonight: Settle in at home.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You might want to show off your stuff, and you will. In the face of change and surprises, you come through like a champ. Initiate conversations. You know what to do to bring out those around you. Your big personality could make someone jealous. Tonight: You get what you want.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★ Share more of your inner thoughts. Sometimes you make judgments that might not be valid or anchored. Feedback strengthens your ideas, helping you see loopholes. Fatigue causes you to be less than effective. Know when to say enough! Tonight: Early to bed.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Friends cheer you on. Seek out information that could involve others. Meetings prove to be helpful, though a loved one or child could be upset by your lack of attention. Someone special might be having difficulties and could use some of your time. Tonight: Consider cloning yourself!



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ All eyes turn to you. You're under the gun as many make demands that you might not be prepared to meet. Don't take it personally, but look for better organization. Call home and explain a delay or change in plans to a family member. Tonight: Burn the candle at both ends.



WEATHER

Today ... Sunny with a high of 61°F. Winds from the South at 7mph.

Tonight ... Partly Cloudy with a low of 45°F. Winds from the West at 4mph.

Tomorrow ... Mostly cloudy High—57°F Low—43°F



QUOTE of the DAY

“It is no use to blame the looking glass if your face is awry.”

— Nikolai Gogol

Santa Monica Daily Press

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

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa ext. 104

EDITOR
Carolyn Sackariason ext. 102

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Del Pastrana ext.106

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE
Angela Downen ext. 101

TEST SUBJECT
Dave Danforth ext. 103

LOCAL



SMC financing plan hinges on voter approval

SMC, from page 1

budget coming directly from the state, the cuts were a major blow to the school, said Smith.

According to Davis' office, the state cuts went across the board and are mainly because of the soft economy.

"With the recession we are currently in, it has been and will be a tough budget to get out."

— **HILLARY McLEAN**
Gov. Gray Davis representative

"With the recession we are currently in, it has been and will be a tough budget to get out," said Hillary McLean, a representative at Gov. Davis' office.

Thanks to some creative shuffling of monies and some belt tightening, SMC was able to avoid major budget problems, said Smith. He added that cuts were made in certain areas of the budget like teaching materials and maintenance of the college's facilities.

"Because the cuts were made in specific areas, it wasn't like we had to cut across the board," he said, adding the state funds the school by category.

One of the areas cut, however, was basic instructional materials like chalk and paper. Many instructors have had to reach into their own pockets in order to provide basic materials to the college's 32,000 students.

"Our real problem is, what's going to happen next year?" said Robertson. "The economy isn't getting any better and we know that there are going to be more cuts."

Some of the concerns for the upcoming year involve the status of part-time educators, as well as building repairs and improvements.

"We understand that the entire state is in a recession," said Robertson. "We want the governor to understand that when people lose their jobs one of the things they do is go back to school." Without proper funding, many community colleges in California will not be able to accommodate them, she added.

Davis will introduce his proposed budget in January of 2002, said McLean.

"At this time there is still no telling how deep the newest rounds of cuts will go," she said. "We're still crunching the numbers."

Banking on the bond measure

In order to insure that the college will not be short of funds in the future, the Santa Monica College board of trustees is attempting to place a \$160 million bond initiative on the March 5 ballot.

That may help pay for the \$30 million chunk of land it just bought.

"Our constituents have told us in polls that they believe that additional student parking, including at sites off our main campus, are very important," said Patrick Nicholson, chairman of the trustees. "This college has worked hard to establish satellite campuses to reduce traffic and parking problems on our main campus. The BAE land purchase is a golden opportunity to continue that work and to enhance our educational programs."

In an October poll, 52 percent of Santa Monica and Malibu voters indicated that providing additional student parking, including off the main campus, was important to them. In addition, the college's facilities assessment plan developed this summer recommends purchase of property off the main campus.

The need for additional parking is particularly pressing because a current SMC student satellite parking lot at Santa Monica Airport — which is leased from the city of Santa Monica — is slated to be turned into a park sometime in the next few years. The BAE site has space for parking that is estimated to be 1 1/2 times the space currently used by the college at Santa Monica Airport.

On the BAE property are four structures, totaling nearly 200,000 square feet, including a four-story and a two-story office building.

"It's very rare that an opportunity of this kind comes up," said Robertson. "We've been looking for space for a long time, and this provides us what we need, as well as a way to reduce traffic on the main campus and meet student parking needs."

Funding structure complex

The land acquisition will be financed with 20-year "certificates of participation," a form of borrowing available to schools that generally have more favorable interest rates than conventional loans.

Under the complex financing plan approved by the SMC board, BAE will stay on the site and lease it from the college for 18 months to two years.

After that, the college plans to pay back the certificates with funds from the \$160 million bond, if the bond is approved by Santa Monica and Malibu voters. If the bond doesn't pass, the college has the option of refinancing the debt to spread it out over a longer period of time, as well as try to find money in other places.

In addition, SMC will save about \$500,000 a year it currently spends renting space in an office building on Santa Monica Boulevard for its work force and fundraising office — which will likely be moved to the BAE site — and for the Santa Monica Airport satellite parking lot.

SMC will spend the next two years planning the specific educational use of the property, aside from parking. Smith said the satellite campus most likely will house the college's economic development program. SMC is one of 108 community colleges in California.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Santa Monica Place gets into the holiday spirit.

City manager to conduct report on rape procedures

VICTIMS, from page 1

Pomer asked the city council to investigate what happened in her case. She wants to know why, when she identified the attacker from a police line up, the lead was never pursued.

"It was right there all the time," she said. "I told them two months before the 82-year-old woman was raped."

Instead, the investigation would take over four years and become one of the costliest in city history.

Ultimately Pomer said the blame rests with Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts, Jr., who she said has stone-walled her for the past six years.

Half way into Pomer's address, the police chief slipped into the council meeting, but left without making a comment or giving interviews.

Repeated phone calls to Lt. Frank Fabrega, spokesman for the SMPD, for comment on

Pomer's statements went unreturned Wednesday.

Historically, the police department has not commented on the matter.

The city council responded by directing city manager Susan McCarthy to conduct a report on the police department's rape policies and procedures, outlining how it has changed over the past six years.

"It's my impression that the department at the time did significantly alter its procedures," said Councilman Ken Genser, who was on the council in 1996 when Pomer first addressed the board. "I look forward to reading this report. We should circulate it. I think it will be very healthy for us."

But for Pomer, that's not good enough. She wants the city to implement an independent review process established to oversee the police department's rape investigations.

"I know the department has changed its rape policies," said Pomer. "It went from four paragraphs to an entire chapter."

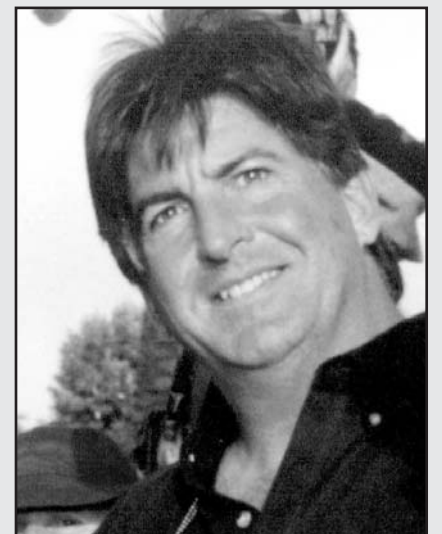
Councilman McKeown is 'second' Santa Monica mayor

By Daily Press staff

Councilman Kevin McKeown was named Santa Monica Mayor pro tem Tuesday night.

McKeown will serve in the mayoral role when full-time mayor Mike Feinstein is unavailable. McKeown replaces Councilman Richard Bloom in the position.

"Thank you to the council and to our community for this opportunity to serve in an expanded context," he said. "Our city and this city council have a lot of work before us, and I'll help in any way I can."



Kevin McKeown



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Associated Press

A man wounded in a Palestinian attack on an Israeli bus in the West Bank is wheeled into Beilinson hospital in Petach Tikva, Israel, on Wednesday. In twin attacks on Jewish settlers, Palestinian militants killed at least 10 Israelis and wounded about 30 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Bus ambush kills 10, sets off attacks

BY DAN PERRY

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — A bus ambush killed 10 Jewish settlers Wednesday, prompting Israeli warplanes to strike back. Yasser Arafat then bowed to long-standing Israeli demands by ordering closed the offices of the militant Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

The day of unrelenting violence — starting with a midnight Israeli helicopter strike that killed four Palestinian militiamen in response to mortar fire on Jewish settlements — tested the teetering peace mission of U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni.

Zinni, who was dispatched to the region as part of a push by the United States to end 15 months of violence, had sought two days of calm to rebuild trust.

Nevertheless, Palestinian militants ignored Arafat's calls for a cease-fire. Israel reserved the right to strike back at the Palestinian authority for attacks by the militants and dismissed as a sham Arafat's recent arrest of 180 militants.

Hamas said it was responsible for the late-night bus attack, which also injured 30. The ambush hit the crowded vehicle as it climbed a winding road near the Jewish settlement of Emmanuel in the

West Bank, 25 miles north of Jerusalem.

Two bombs planted on the roadside exploded, immediately killing four bus passengers, said the regional police commander, Shahar Ayalon. One or more gunmen then opened fire from surrounding hills.

Israelis troops fired back, killing one gunman and launching a search for others. Ayalon said the gunman had explosives strapped to his body. Palestinian security officials identified him as Mohammed Reihan, 25, a Hamas activist, whose brother was recently killed by Israeli troops.

The explosion blew out the windows of the bus, which started its journey near Tel Aviv. A body covered by a blanket lay by the side of the road. Windshields were shattered in nearby cars, one drove into a ditch.

At virtually the same moment but well to the south in the Gaza Strip, two suicide bombers blew themselves up near the Gush Katif settlement bloc, wounding several people, the army said. The assailants jumped on a car leaving the settlement and detonated the explosives, TV reports said. The passengers in the car escaped with minor injuries. The suicide bombers died.

New California cash giving New York a run for its old money

By the Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — In a clear portrait of California's ascending corporate power and wads of new money, the state's fast-growing philanthropic foundations are closing in on that dominant center of old money: New York.

Following a decade of booming stocks and creation of thousands of successful new information-age companies, the state's charitable and grant-making foundations now rank second nationally in giving, states a new report by the New York-based Foundation Center.

The center, in its first profile of rising California philanthropy, says the state now accounts for 15.2 percent of \$448 billion in foundation assets nationally and 12.4 percent of \$23.3 billion given away in 1999.

New York, home to older, established manufacturing and financial companies, continues its long dominance in the realm of philanthropy. Its foundations hold 18.2 percent of assets nationally and account for 19 percent of U.S. giving.

Steven Lawrence, the Foundation Center's director of research, says California's growth is "particularly impressive when you consider the age and depth of philanthropy in New York."

"It's a westward tilt in philanthropy," echoes James Ferris, director of the Center on Philanthropy and Public Policy at the University of Southern California.

The Foundation Center reports that California spawned 1,500 new foundations during the 1990s, becoming the fastest rising sector of the foundation world. Its foundations, ranging from billionaire family funds to small community grant makers, gave away \$2.9 billion in 1999 compared to \$893 million in 1991.

Giving grants to causes from the environment to family planning to the arts also doubled in the last half of the 1990s as the state's prosperity and stock values skyrocketed.

Says Ferris, "It's Silicon Valley and the Bay Area. It's Los Angeles. It's in areas where there are new industries. It's not just computers. It's information. It's entertainment. It's the information age trend. These are the areas of growth in the '90s, areas where there's been a lot of wealth creation."

While recession and plunging stock values eroded many foundations' nest eggs — the Packard Foundation's \$13 billion in 1999 is lately worth about \$7.5 billion, Packard officials say — wealth watchers are bullish on California's long-term future.

"The California-dominated technology industry, while in a short-term slump, retains the greatest possibilities for wealth creation among any sector of the U.S. economy," the Foundation Center states.

"It's Silicon Valley and the Bay Area. It's Los Angeles. It's in areas where there are new industries. It's not just computers. It's information ..."

— JAMES FERRIS

Director of the Center on Philanthropy and Public Policy, USC

Like the Rockefellers and Morgans of old, California's Hewletts, Packards, Gettys and Irvines have already endowed their foundations with billions of dollars. By law, foundations give away 5 percent of earnings every year to charitable and other causes every year in exchange for the money being nontaxable.

Ferris says while the state's top 10 foundations control a "phenomenal amount of the wealth, half the state's 4,200 foundations have less than \$1 million in assets. Many are community and family foundations.

The Foundation Center's report also notes the differing priorities between California funders and their national counterparts. While California foundations give a fourth of their money to health-related issues, all U.S. foundations rank education as their first priority.

Similarly, California foundations do 12 percent of their giving to the environment and animal causes, twice as much as U.S. foundations.

Measure will improve local beaches; water quality

WATER, from page 1

trial and commercial facilities for storm water violations, develop cleanup plans and examine storm water systems for illegal hookups.

"Cities can't be asked to do it all alone, but between federal and state government it's trickled down to us," said Ken Farfing, city manager for Signal Hill.

The city is part of a coalition of municipalities and building and petroleum

industry groups asking the water board to delay its decision while consulting with local governments.

Farfing said the cities want the water board to treat storm water as a regional problem, rather than requiring them to pay millions of dollars to tackle the problem.

If the water board approves the permit, cities could appeal the decision to the State Water Quality Control Board.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

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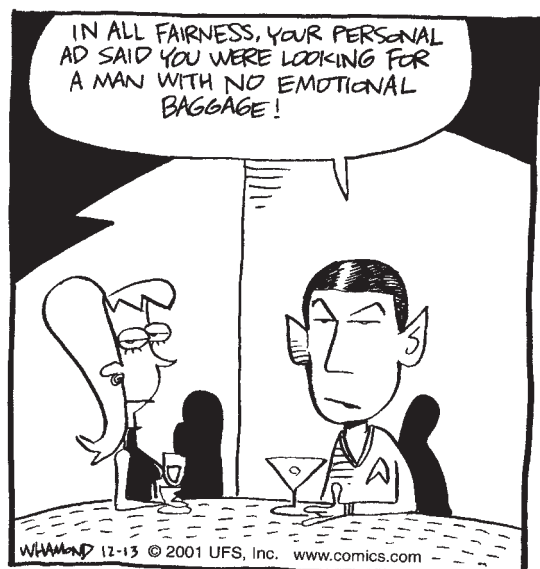
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



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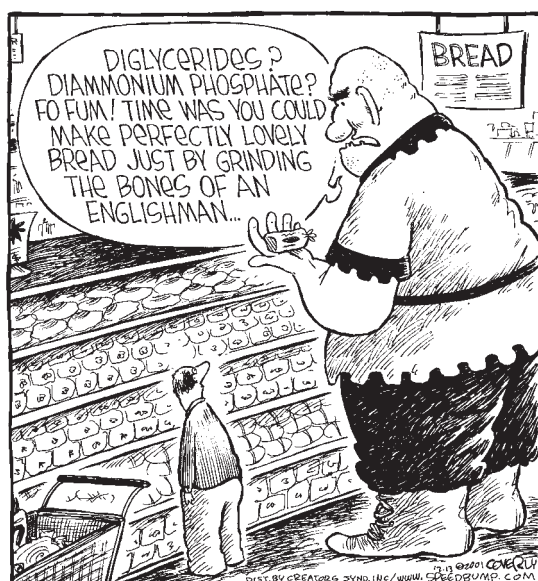


By Russ Wallace



Mitch became suspicious when he asked Michelle for her number and she gave him a fraction.

By Dave Coverly



By THOMAS JOSEPH

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Yesterday's answer



Dr. Robert M. Anderson

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Sexual dysfunction ruled not a disability

• In October, the U.S. Supreme Court turned down Antonio Contreras' appeal, thus ending his lawsuit under the Americans with Disabilities Act, in which he claimed that he was fired as a forklift operator despite his federally protected disability, which he says is "sexual dysfunction." Contreras said he used to have sex five times a week but that injury has limited him to twice a month and that is the reason Suncoast Corporation of Illinois no longer thinks he's a good worker.

- Katherine Norfolk, 19, and her parents filed a lawsuit in September for about \$250,000 against Hurstpierpoint College (West Sussex, England), claiming it did not instruct her well enough in Latin, causing her to score too low on exams to get accepted at Oxford, thus ruining her career and diluting the "earning power" that comes with a degree in Latin.

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BACK PAGE

Stolen Rockwell painting recovered after 23 years

BY DAVID B. CARUSO
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA — The last of seven Norman Rockwell paintings stolen from a Minneapolis art gallery 23 years ago have been recovered from Brazil and will be returned to their owner, the FBI said Wednesday.

The three works, worth more than \$700,000, were among those stolen from Elayne Galleries during an exhibition in 1978. All three appeared to be in good condition, authorities said.

One of the paintings, "Spirit of '76," depicts an Edison, N.J., Boy Scout troop

marching down a dirt road carrying drums and an American flag. The skyline of New York City, including the then newly opened World Trade Center, is visible in the painting's lower right corner.

A second work, "So Much Concern," shows Scouts tending to a sapling. The third, "A Hasty Retreat," depicts two shoeless men and a dog running past a "No swimming" sign. Rockwell died in 1978.

Two of the stolen paintings were recovered in 1999 after a Brazilian man tried to have them appraised and sold at a Philadelphia gallery. Two more were

returned to gallery owner Bonnie Lindberg after she found them at a gallery in Rio de Janeiro.

Investigators have known the location of the last three paintings for two years, but had been unable to pursue the case because of treaty problems between the United States and Brazil, U.S. Attorney Patrick Meehan said.

A new law enforcement cooperation agreement, approved in February, cleared the way for the paintings' return to the United States, he said.

Authorities still aren't sure who had the paintings between 1978 and 1994, when Brazilian art dealer Jose Maria

Carneiro contacted the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Mass., and offered to sell two of the works. The museum turned down Carneiro's offer and alerted Elayne Galleries.

The last of the paintings were recovered in early December after Carneiro admitted to FBI agents that he had hidden the paintings in a farmhouse.

Carneiro has not been charged and cannot be prosecuted in the United States under current extradition treaties with Brazil, Meehan said. Authorities declined to say whether he was a suspect in the theft.

Trump scales back plans to build world's tallest building

By the Associated Press

CHICAGO — Donald Trump scrapped his plan to build the world's tallest building after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, opting instead for a 78-story skyscraper on Chicago's riverfront.

The 1,073-foot glass-covered building, called Trump Tower Chicago, would be the city's fourth-tallest skyscraper. Trump said in July he was considering building the world's tallest building on the site now occupied by the Chicago Sun-Times building.

The tower's size was reduced after the attack on the World Trade Center, but scaling back also made business sense, said Charles Reiss, senior vice president of development for the Trump Organization.

"Tragically 9/11 telescoped a decision that probably would have been made anyway," he said. "There is just so much inefficiency in extremely tall buildings."

"Tragically 9/11 telescoped a decision that probably would have been made anyway. There is just so much inefficiency in extremely tall buildings."

— DONALD TRUMP

The New York developer briefed Chicago officials Tuesday on the office and luxury condominium tower. The skyscraper would have a total of 2.3 million

square feet of space, including ground floor shops.

The project is a 50-50 partnership between Sun-Times parent Hollinger International Inc. and the Trump Organization.

Trump still has to get tenants and financing for the project, which could be difficult because of the recession and a fear some people have expressed since Sept. 11 of living in very tall buildings.

Trump would like to begin construction in 2003 and complete the skyscraper as early as 2005, said Mark Kipnis, vice president and counsel of Hollinger.

Sun-Times Editor-In-Chief Michael Cooke said Wednesday the newspaper has not decided where staff will move during construction or whether the newspaper will have offices in the Trump building. He said the news staff will remain downtown. The Sun-Times recently opened a printing facility elsewhere in the city.



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