

FREE

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Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Santa Monica College grounds manager Tom Corpus digs through food waste to bring thousands of worms to the surface of the school's new Vermitech machine, which will transform the garbage into compost.

Wiggling to recycling

SMC buys 300,000 worms to turn waste into fertilizer

By staff and wire reports

Santa Monica College is using 300,000 worms to turn garbage into fertilizer.

The worms crawl in, they crawl about, and the college's food waste gets composted through the invertebrates' mouths.

If all goes as planned, the Red Wigglers that went to work at SMC a couple of weeks ago will consume 150 pounds of food garbage daily, producing an organic fertilizer the college may one day sell at a profit.

But for Tom Corpus, the college's grounds manager, the "vermicomposting" is really a lesson in recycling and not a money maker. He wants to raise the awareness of how many different ways there are to recycle material, including food.

The college invested \$60,000 for the "vermicomposting" site in back of the school cafeteria. Corpus already has reduced the school's waste disposal bill from \$100,000 annually to about \$35,000.

The campus recycles about 37 percent of its waste, mainly paper and cardboard, drink containers, green waste, and con-

struction and demolition material. The worms will be its first venture into recycling food waste, which accounts for about 7 percent of its overall garbage.

"We are eager to see what the results will be," said college president Piedad F. Robertson at a dedication ceremony earlier this week that featured servings of fresh carrot cake — not the results of any experiment — as well as distribution of small giveaway bags of fertilizer.

The city paid \$25,000 and got a matching grant for the same amount from the Esper A. Petersen Foundation. The college put up the remaining \$10,000 for an awning and electrical connection system. Officials hope it turns a profit in two years. And city officials are considering taking more worms and a new machine to the Third Street Promenade, where there is an abundance of food waste from the restaurants.

The metal Vermitech machine is temperature controlled and has 300 pounds of worms. It was sold to the school by Simply Worms of Playa del Rey. Another machine shreds food waste, cardboard and paper towels, and then dumps it into the mass of worms, which consume it and drop from the bottom of the machine their "castings." The fertilizer can be converted into "worm tea," which can be used as a bug deterrent. The worm waste also serves as compost material and may

See WORMS, page 3

Party politics: Two to take on the 'five'

Councilmen take matters into their own hands

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER

Special to the Daily Press

The Santa Monica City Council may be facing a revolution from within its own ranks.

Concerned that council members are politically lopsided and are out of touch with residents, two of its seven members have taken a grassroots approach to governing.

Councilmen Bob Holbrook and Herb Katz believe a large rift has formed between what residents want City Hall to do and what the city council thinks is important.

Holbrook, Katz and 25 supporters founded Santa Monicans for Responsive Government about two months ago with the goal of increasing resident participation in government. The group appears ready to tweak, if not challenge, the prevailing political party on council: Santa Monica Renters' Rights.

Katz is emphatic that the new group will not become politically active. Instead, he's proposed to limit it to educating residents about the often-complicated issues before the council.

Whether he can make good on his pledge to keep the group out of politics is an open question, as he seems to subtly concede.

"I'm getting concerned the few in power are trying to govern us without input," Katz said. "It's not meant to be political. We're not going to run candidates. It's about getting more residents involved."

But it is political. According to Katz,

the politics of City Hall are in the hands of a powerful few.

"These same five council members are running this whole thing uniformly and singly," he said. "I wouldn't want five or six of me on council. That's not healthy. We need more diversification."

The group started with a mail survey asking for comments about conditions throughout the city.

"These same five council members are running this whole thing uniformly and singly."

— HERB KATZ

Santa Monica city councilman

"We said, 'let's pick 20 or so items to get a flavor of what's going on and get a more global concept of our city.' You'll have people with different agendas who will disagree with each other," said Katz. "But it will get us together and make us discuss things."

Holbrook said the high cost of running a local election and council meetings that typically stretch into the early morning hours prevent a lot of residents from participating.

"The dynamics are that (Santa Monica Renters Rights) have professional campaigners who raise money. That war chest is spent on those SMRR endorses for council," said Holbrook. "If you're just an average working person, you don't have that kind of backing. You just don't stand

See COUNCIL, page 3

Curbside service at Los Angeles airport restored

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Motorists this weekend will be able to pick up and drop off passengers at the curbs outside Los Angeles International Airport's nine terminals.

Mayor James K. Hahn said Thursday that curbside drop-offs and pickups by passenger cars will begin at 5 a.m. Saturday. As a security precaution since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the airport banned people from pulling private cars up to the curb.

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- Breakfast Counter
- Coffee Bean
- Wildflower
- Joe's Diner
- B&B Delicatessen
- Santa Monica Library
- Surf Liquor
- Mani's Bakery
- Peet's Coffee Patio
- L&K Market
- Star Liquor

This is not a complete list.
You can find more copies in these areas:

- Montana Avenue Commercial Zone
- Santa Monica Boulevard
- The Downtown Commercial Core (including Third Street Promenade)
- Wilshire Boulevard
- Lincoln Commercial District.

Additional circulation points include:

- Major Hotels on Ocean Avenue
- Retail businesses on the Boardwalk and Santa Monica Pier districts
- Commercial zones on Pico and Ocean Park Boulevard.

If you are interested in becoming a distribution point (it's free and gives your customers just one more reason to come in), please call 310-458-PRESS (7737) x 104



HOROSCOPE

Scorpio, stick to your resolution

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You reverse gears when dealing with others at a distance. You sense a change in the wind, or perhaps a new possibility heading your way. New beginnings become possible, though you might need to clear out an albatross in your life — the sooner, the better. Tonight: Do something totally different.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Your opinion of a partner or a source of funds could radically change in the next six months. You might not be comfortable with all that you are hearing from an associate. A personal decision sticks; however, be ready to adjust to new information. Tonight: Follow your favorite person.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ A solar eclipse in your chart could impact your relationships, but not necessarily at this very moment. Look for an event or change in one month, three months and six months. If attached, someone could be changing right in front of your eyes. Let a loved one talk as much as he or she need to. Tonight: Make merry.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You don't want to continue pushing so hard. Everyone has limits, you included. Whisper to a co-worker and ask him or her to pitch in. Let others fill in for you where you might not be absolutely necessary. Decide to make this a resolution. Tonight: Put up your feet.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ If single, good news will head your way in the next few months. If attached, your relationship will change, but not necessarily in a negative sense. Work with a child who might be growing in leaps and bounds. Cheer him or her on. Don't fight transformation. Tonight: Relish the moment.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ What you want to do on the home front becomes possible faster than you believed. Remain optimistic and positive with a transition at work that you might not have anticipated. Say "yes" to new beginnings, even if it's your nature to walk away from them. Tonight: Order in.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Your positive feedback and understanding mean much more to another than you can imagine. You grasp more of the essence of this person and see him or her differently as a result. You'll be making a decision soon about a computer or another mode of communication. Tonight: Celebrate Friday.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You could dump your piggy bank out trying to meet everyone's expectations. Stop! Think about each person and special ways to please these people. Not everything has to be material. Consider giving gift certificates for a back rub, to wash the car or whatever you can conjure up. Tonight: Make a resolution and stick to it.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ A new moon and an eclipse in your sign signal a new beginning, which you will greet in one month, three months or six months. The whole tale won't be told for a while. Avoid snap judgments. Express your intensity to a loved one. Greet change positively. Tonight: It's your call.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★ Slow down and test your ideas on others. You could act far too quickly and make an error. Even financially, you could be prone to making a mistake or using bad judgment. Decide to no longer be a workhorse. Take your time. Tonight: Do your thing.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Recognize your limits within a friendship. You can prod and push, but you cannot force this person to transform or make needed changes. Adopt a different attitude, standing back. New beginnings become possible with this accepting perspective. Tonight: Where the gang is.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You push hard to accomplish what you want to work for you. However, you cannot push a parent or a boss. Accept the status quo and you might be greeted by a surprise. See everything differently. Open up to new possibilities through a laissez-faire attitude. Tonight: In the limelight.



WEATHER

Today ... Mostly Cloudy with a high 57°F. Winds from the West Southwest at 12mph.

Tonight ... Clear with a low of 42°F. Winds from the North Northwest at 8mph.

Tomorrow ... Sunny High—58°F Low—40°F



QUOTE of the DAY

“All I need to make a comedy is a park, a policeman and a pretty girl.”

— Charlie Chaplin

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LOCAL



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Hundreds of children lined up in front of the Police Activities League in Santa Monica to receive Christmas presents from Santa Claus on Thursday. As part of the league's ongoing community efforts, PAL's staff bought more than 500 gifts. For some kids, PAL's gift may be the only one they receive this year. More than 2,000 children are part of the PAL program in Santa Monica, located on Olympic Avenue and 14th Street.

Councilmen want to hear what you have to say

COUNCIL, from page 1

a chance.

"Plus you can't have meetings that run until 3 a.m. and expect your average working person to be able function at work the next day," he said. "The Santa Monica City Council has become a hopeless scenario for any working person."

Holbrook also said he sees the same handful of people at council meetings, leaving the views of the vast majority of residents in the dark.

"On many, many issues we end up hearing from the same four or five people at our meetings," said Holbrook. "Out of 90,000 people, we hear from only a few."

For that reason, Holbrook wants to stir up residents and make them realize the severity

of city decisions.

"We would love to hear from a couple hundred people to see what they think," he said. "We want to find unfamiliar sources, so we're asking questions on every thing from crosswalks to traffic."

So far the response has been far better than Katz expected. Though he wouldn't speculate on how many responses his group will get, he said the surveys are flowing in by mail and fax. Soon the survey will be up on the group's web site, as well.

"It's starting to become a formal organization," said Katz, adding that he recognized the need for an organized membership and fund-raising.

Other members of the council were not immediately available for comment.

Worm droppings to serve as fertilizer; bug repellent

WORMS, from page 1

one day be used for biological control against insects.

The first Vermitech machine, developed by Canadian entrepreneur Al Eggen, was installed in Toronto Metropolitan City Hall in 1994. Since then, 10 machines have been installed at schools, universities, military bases and hospitals in the United States. SMC's Vermitech machine is the second one in California. The first is at the Jewish Academy in San Diego.

Corpus said it's still a work in progress and isn't sure how hungry the worms, imported from Utah, will be.

"How much can move through it? I don't

know," said Corpus, adding the first harvest will be in January and the machine's impact will be felt further down the road. "It's not what it looks like today, but talk to me in 25 years."

The worms will eat anything except metal, glass, plastic, rubber and Styrofoam, said Bill Selby, coordinator of the college's Center for Environmental and Urban Studies.

The worms typically reproduce in about a month and can double their population every three months. But they will not over-reproduce and overrun the campus, promised Simply Worms owner Chris Wilson.

Corpus said the worms seem satisfied with their three weekly feedings.

"The worms are happy," he said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Christmas art on display

By Daily Press staff

Selections from the Peter Norton Family Christmas projects are currently on display until Jan. 4, 2002, at the Main Library, second floor lobby area, 1343 Sixth Street.

Retired computer entrepreneur, Peter Norton, is a contemporary art collector, as well as an active participant in civic and philanthropic affairs. The Norton Family Foundation is located in Santa Monica. In 1988, he and his wife Eileen began commissioning artists to do original, multiple edition works that are mailed as holiday greetings to their friends and colleagues. Santa Monica community activist and art collector, Doris Sosin, donated the Norton Christmas Projects on exhibit to the library so that these unique art editions could be seen in a public space.

The Norton Family Christmas projects on view are by artists known locally and internationally, including Lawrence Weiner, Luciano Perna, Lorna Simpson, Pae White and Brian Eno, and Takashi Murakami. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

Sweetness delivered by cops and firemen

By Daily Press staff

Santa Claus is coming to town and Santa Monica's firefighters and police officers are helping on his way. Santa and his public safety helpers will be distributing good cheer and thousands of candy canes as part of the 10th annual "Candy Cane Drive" on Sunday, Dec. 16. Santa's scheduled stops are:

10 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Marine Park- Marine Street and 17th Street

11 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Virginia Park- Virginia Ave and 22nd Street

12 p.m.-12:30 p.m. Clover Park - Ocean Park Boulevard and 25th Street

2 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Douglas Park- California and 25th Street

2:45 p.m.-3:15 p.m. Reed Park - California Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard

Santa Monica children are encouraged to look and listen for the lights and sirens of the public safety vehicles, while parents are encouraged to bring their cameras.

Papel picado open to kids

By Daily Press staff

Students in grades 6-8 are invited to an introduction to "papel picado," (Mexican paper cutting) at the Main Library, 1343 6th Street, at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 18 or at the Fairview Branch Library, 2102 Ocean Park Boulevard, (at 21st Street) at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 20. Participants will learn this decorative Mexican folk art as well as other holiday paper crafts. Pre-registration is encouraged. For more information call Catherine Ronan at the Main Library at (310) 458-8976 or Sylvia Anderele at the Fairview Branch at (310) 450-0443. These events are free and supported by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the state librarian.

LETTERS

Confused on freedoms

Editor:

I wish to voice my opinion in your paper of general circulation about a notice that was "sent" by e-mail to subscribers of the city's "WIN" program on the web. My concerns are voiced because I am confused by the inconsistencies that exist when trying to understand the "Staying Informed/Getting Involved Public Process in Santa Monica," a publication issued by the city manager's office, as of October 2001. My confusion is as following:

Privacy issue:

I wanted to have responded to their (city) suggestion via their e-mail "normal" channels, but did not because I was asked to give my "password" as part of my suggestion. Why? Is this not an invasion of privacy or a defeat of the reason why a password was created? I assume that the city attorney's office has suggested that all e-mails must be "specific and direct," and therefore a password would appear to be a logical requirement in corresponding with the protector's of our civil liberties.

Freedom of religion:

In the "Hot Topics" article one talks about the candy cane distribution by the police and firemen, in the little red trucks. (Remember Kelly Olsen who received undeserved "heat" from the city council when he suggested to buy new red trucks for the city). First, why don't you also have a "Blue & White car race across the screen — I want equal time for Jim Butts and company. Secondly, in the name of being politically correct, some years ago the city made the holidays "neutral," or gave them a "vasectomy." Therefore, is the reason why the heroes of Santa Monica can't give out Hanukkah gelt, when giving out candy canes. Would that be a bribe, or are the dentists concerned that chocolate is less likely to cause cavities and reduce the need for their services to help the mayor's economy push.

Happy holidays from Mr. Flashlight turned Mr. Scrooge.

Thomas D. Carter
Santa Monica



www.santamonica.com



Angered Americans watch bin Laden video

BY DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

Watching a smiling Osama bin Laden assess the Sept. 11 terror attacks, a man who was in the World Trade Center that day said he wanted to smash his TV screen. Said a Marine who also watched bin Laden, "He needs to be taken out."

For many other Americans, seeing the tape Thursday confirmed their already solid belief in bin Laden's guilt and hatefulness.

Some American Muslims worried that release of the videotape, showing bin Laden and top aides cheerfully discussing the attack's outcome, would provoke a new wave of harassment and vandalism against them, while the father of a Sept. 11 victim wished it had never been made public.

"Whenever I saw it on television I changed the channel," said Anthony Gambale, whose daughter, Giovanna, was killed at the World Trade Center.

"It should be filed away and let the government and the CIA take care of it," Gambale said. "Let everybody rest in peace. Let us get on with our lives."

Mark Finelli, an investment banker who was on the 61st floor of one of the twin towers on Sept. 11, wasn't surprised by what he saw. Nonetheless, the 25-year-old from Tucson, Ariz., felt "very violent and enraged. ... I just wanted to punch the screen."

"I'm a very strong supporter of capital punishment, but in this case, with someone who wants to die, I'm very much in favor of letting him rot."

In San Diego, Marine Lance Cpl. Tate Parmer said he and his colleagues had never doubted bin Laden was responsible for the attacks.

"I figured it was him all along," said Parmer, 30, of Salt Lake City, a military policeman at Marine Corps Air

Station Miramar. "He's an evil man. He definitely needs to be taken out."

In New York City, scores of people gathered on the sidewalk in Times Square to watch the tape.

"I can't believe they're actually praising their god for this," said David Castellano, 27, a computer technician from Brooklyn. "They seem overjoyed by the fact that it was a worse tragedy than they anticipated."

Tad Heitmann, a public relations executive from Laguna Beach, Calif., watched bin Laden on a TV in a Philadelphia hotel lobby.

"If that translation is correct, he's our man, definitely," Heitmann said. "This must be very painful for people who lost loved ones."

Sarah Eltantawi, communications director for the Washington-based Muslim Public Affairs Council, said the council shared the view that bin Laden masterminded the attacks. But she worried the video would stir up anti-Muslim sentiment among some Americans.

"The harassment has calmed down since the immediate aftermath of the attacks," she said. "But whenever there is a new alert, we see a jump in hate crimes. We worry about the releases of tapes like this."

In Dearborn, Mich., home to an estimated 20,000 Arab-Americans, Lebanese-born Lamia Hazimy, 32, struggled to understand the conversation on the tape, but said it proved bin Laden's guilt.

"I don't know much about bin Laden, but I know I do not like him," she said.

Imad Hamad, director of the Dearborn regional office of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, said the U.S. government translation on the tape seemed accurate.

"It's clear in the tape that he had the prior knowledge," Hamad said of Bin Laden. "And he was happy about it."



Associated Press

New York City firefighters, Lt. Tom Woods, left, Bob Bryan, center, and Battalion 8 Chief Bill Vanwart, right, watch the Pentagon-released Osama bin Laden tape on television Thursday. The midtown Manhattan fire station, home to Battalion 8, Ladder 2, and Engine 8, lost 10 members in the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

This is insane."

In Indianapolis, firefighters at Station No. 13 said the tape reinforced their feelings on to deal with bin Laden.

"He's just admitting to it and boasting," said Matt Hahn, 30. "What we're all looking for now is a swift, stern, exact punishment."

Lt. Scott McCarty, a firefighter for 19 years, was a member of an Indiana task force that helped in the recovery effort at the World Trade Center.

"We had a lot of good friends that we lost in New York," said McCarty. "It doesn't matter what he said. It doesn't bring those people back."

bin Laden video empowers U.S. allies to seek justice

BY THOMAS WAGNER
Associated Press Writer

LONDON — America's key allies in the war on terrorism said Thursday the newly released Osama bin Laden videotape justifies the military campaign in Afghanistan to root out those responsible for the Sept. 11 suicide attacks.

However, in the Mideast, many Arabs said the scratchy video doesn't provide evidence of bin Laden's guilt and may even have been fabricated.

"By boasting about his involvement in the evil attacks, bin Laden confirms his guilt," said British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw. "This totally vindicates the action that we, the U.S. and the international coalition have taken in Afghanistan."

Straw said the video provided "chilling evidence of his complete disregard for human life."

Despite the poor quality of the video, the British government said it had no doubt it was genuine. It had been subjected to numerous tests by U.S. scientists who compared bin Laden's voice and image to those in previous tapes, Downing Street said.

"This totally vindicates the action that we, the U.S. and the international coalition have taken in Afghanistan."

— JACK STRAW
British Foreign Secretary

"The matches in every case were identical. So, we have no doubt at all about the authenticity of the tape," Prime Minister Tony Blair's office said.

In Pakistan, the chief government spokesman, Gen. Rashid Quereshi, said the sight of bin Laden praising the suicide attacks and saying the destruction exceeded his estimates proved that Islamabad had made the "the right decision" in supporting Washington.

Before U.S. and British forces drove Afghanistan's Taliban government out of power, Pakistan had strongly supported the Islamic regime, which allowed bin Laden, a Saudi exile, and his al-Qaida network to train terrorists in the South Asian country.

But once U.S. forces and Afghanistan's northern alliance began fighting the Taliban after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, Pakistan's military government joined the campaign, playing key support roles.

Elsewhere, the governments of Canada and Israel also praised the release of the video, with Raanan Gissin, an adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, condemning bin Laden for laughing and rejoicing over the deadly deeds.

For Samir Rantisi, a senior adviser of Palestinian Ministry of Information, the tape proved that bin Laden and al-Qaida were solely responsible, ending reckless speculation that Palestinians had been involved.

In the videotape, released by the Pentagon on Thursday and shown on TV around the world, bin Laden said he had been "the most optimistic of them all" in

calculating how burning jet fuel from the two hijacked jetliners would damage World Trade Center. Thousands of people died when the twin towers were destroyed. Bin Laden also called the hijackings a martyrdom operation that "benefited Islam greatly."

It was not immediately possible to gauge public reaction to the video in the heavily damaged Afghan capital of Kabul, where a nightly curfew was in force and most people don't have access to satellite TV.

In the Mideast, however, some viewers said the video did not convince them of bin Laden's involvement in the terrorist attacks. The sound quality on the tape was so poor that even native Arabic speakers had to rely on the U.S.-provided translations, undercutting its impact in the Arab world.

"Of course it is fabricated," said Dia'a Rashwan, a Cairo-based expert on Islamic movements, as he watched the tape on the Qatari satellite channel Al-Jazeera.

"If this is the kind of evidence that America has, then the blood of thousands who died and were injured in Afghanistan is on (President) Bush's head," he said.

Troops to do 'whatever needed to be done' in al-Qaida

BY ROBERT BURNS
AP Military Writer

WASHINGTON — The United States has sent more special operations forces into the Tora Bora region of eastern Afghanistan, where they could engage in direct combat with al-Qaida fighters who may be protecting Osama bin Laden, defense officials said Thursday.

Intense bombing and advances by U.S. commandos and anti-Taliban rebels have reduced substantially the area in which bin Laden and his forces can operate safely within the cave-dotted mountains near Tora Bora, U.S. officials said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

Officials believe bin Laden is in the Tora Bora region,

but admit he may be elsewhere in Afghanistan.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said there has been "something above a modest increase" in the number of special operations troops in the vicinity of Tora Bora, an area riddled with fortified caves.

The special operations forces are acting as spotters for U.S. planes strafing and bombing al-Qaida positions while Afghan tribal forces advance in a snowy mountain canyon. Rumsfeld said U.S. troops are now doing more than acting as advisers to the Afghan forces, but he offered no details.

To effectively call in airstrikes against al-Qaida forces, the U.S. troops must position themselves close to the battlefield. Thus they could become engaged in direct com-

bat, as some did earlier in the war during battles for control of the city of Mazar-e-Sharif.

Other U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the few dozen U.S. troops in the Tora Bora area are prepared to engage in direct combat if necessary and to take possession of senior al-Qaida leaders. These officials said it was not clear Thursday whether the U.S. troops had engaged in direct combat in the Tora Bora region.

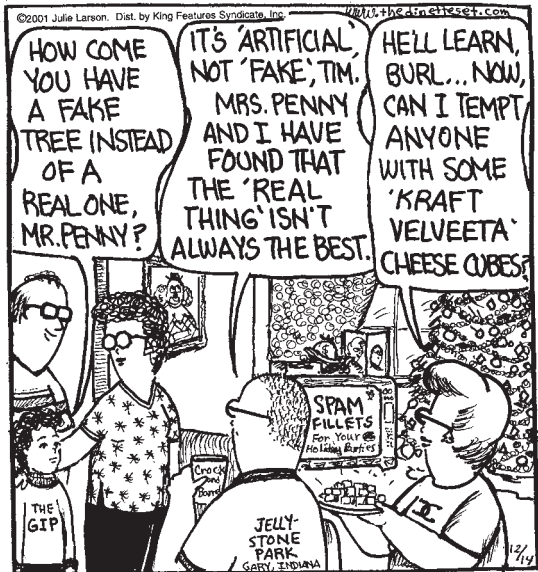
Rumsfeld said those troops would do "whatever needed to be done to get their hands on" al-Qaida fighters.

The defense secretary said some bin Laden loyalists in Afghanistan already have escaped to other countries to regroup and probably rearm.



COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson

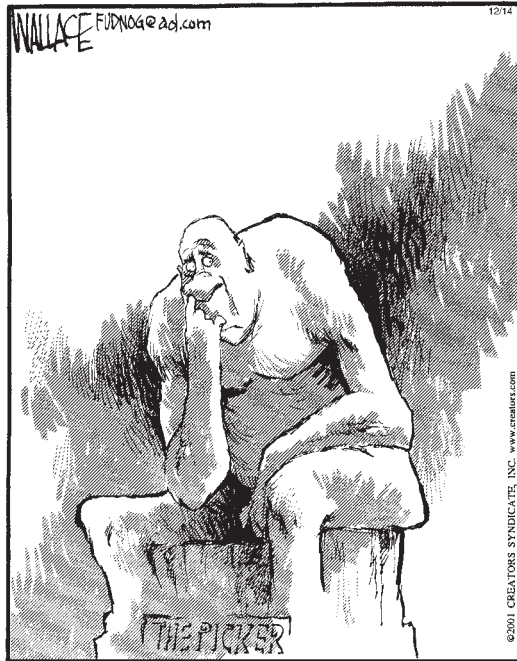


BY TERRY & PATTY LABAN



Natural Selection®

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By Dave Coverly



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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11 Alaska native
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34 Bond rating
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- 43 Trig concern
44 Kitchen fixture
45 Beam producer
46 Playful mammal

DOWN

- 1 Loving touch
2 "Twelfth Night" role
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4 Bill word
5 Sipping aid
6 Pre-fax messages
7 Currier's partner
8 Harvey Keitel film
9 Mystery awards
10 Prom attendees
17 Has permission to
22 Corrode
24 Call for help
26 Less common
28 Actress Ryder
29 Crone
31 Grove product
32 Glib talk
35 Houston player
38 Man, for one
42 Boater or bowler

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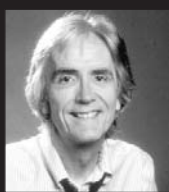
Yesterday's answer

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12-14

STUMPED?

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Keeping nudity in the family

• Naturists Robert and Christine Morton finally achieved closure in October in their longstanding quest to be able to bring their three kids to the clothing-optional Hippy Hollow park, near Austin, Texas, when the U.S. Supreme Court rejected their appeal challenging the park's anti-nudity rule for children. The state and county agencies that run the park, which is open to everyone (including, presumably, well-behaved voyeurs and pedophiles), had ruled that nude children were especially vulnerable, but the Mortons, oblivious of the danger, had insisted on frolicking nude as a family.

• In August in Bartlesville, Okla., Douglas Dean Bryant Sr., 39, and Douglas Dean Bryant Jr., 19, were charged with rape in separate incidents; Dad's alleged victim was a year younger, at age 14, than the son's. And in August in Tylertown, Miss., David Earl King, 66, and his son, Nathan Paul King, were convicted of sexually molesting the same 14-year-old boy and received prison sentences of 36 years and 18 years, respectively.

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BACK PAGE

Actress Winona Ryder arrested for alleged shoplifting

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN

AP Entertainment Writer

BEVERLY HILLS — Actress Winona Ryder has been arrested for illegal drug possession and shoplifting from a Saks Fifth Avenue boutique, police said Thursday.

Security guards at the Wilshire Boulevard store detained the Oscar-nominated star of "Little Women" and "The Age of Innocence" about 7 p.m. Wednesday after discovering her trying to steal "numerous items of clothing," Beverly Hills police Lt. Gary Gilmond said.

He said the items were worth \$4,760 and included hair accessories.

Ryder was booked on felony charges of grand theft and possessing pharmaceutical drugs without a prescription.

Her lawyer Mark Geragos denied the allegations. He said Ryder has a prescription for the painkillers found in her possession and receipts for the items she allegedly stole.

"It's a misunderstanding on the part

Gilmond said store security officers saw Ryder remove tags from items, place them in her bag and leave the store.

The waifish actress was released from custody about 11:40 p.m. Wednesday

"Heathers," "Beetlejuice" and "Reality Bites."

Her latest starring role was in last year's satanic thriller "Lost Souls," in which she played the survivor of a childhood exorcism.

Ryder, who has dated actors Matt Damon and Johnny Depp, has maintained a grueling film schedule that she has blamed for causing occasional mental breakdowns.

She has been hospitalized several times for exhaustion and has told reporters she sometimes tried to drown her anxiety attacks and depression in alcohol.

The actress's mental problems have occasionally hurt her career. She lost a pivotal role in 1990's "The Godfather: Part III" days before filming began because of anxiety and exhaustion.

"It's a misunderstanding on the part of the store."

— MARK GERAGOS
Ryder's attorney

of the store," he said, adding that Ryder was merely carrying items between store departments.

Gilmond said Ryder may have a prescription for the drugs but she was booked because she couldn't immediately produce it.

after posting \$20,000 bail.

Mara Buxbaum, Ryder's publicist, said the actress had no immediate comment on the arrest.

Ryder, 30, is best known for playing ponderous, melancholy characters in movies such as "Girl, Interrupted,"

Ex-postal worker splatters animal feces on former colleagues

By the Associated Press

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A former postal employee admitted he splattered porcupine feces and worms on co-workers after he was fired for poor job performance.

James M. Beal pleaded guilty Tuesday in U.S. District Court to four counts of assaulting or impeding a federal worker. He faces three to 12 years in prison when he is sentenced in March.

Beal, 62, told Judge Gordon J. Quist that he was angry

about being fired Oct. 17 as relief postmaster in Empire, a town about 225 miles northwest of Detroit. The next day, he returned with two 5-gallon buckets filled with feces and worms and splattered his former co-workers. He had gathered the sludge in the woods.

"I let my anger with this sort of overrule my judgments," Beal told the judge.

Beal's attorney, Paul Denenfel, told Quist that his client should receive six months or less in prison because it was Beal's first brush with the law.

Quist called Beal's actions "reprehensible" and "extraordinarily demeaning," adding, "People die from this kind of stuff."

Though some disc jockeys made fun of the incident, Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Courtadehe called it "a pretty despicable act. It was in their pockets; it was in their shoes."

The assault halted local mail delivery for a day. A hazardous-materials team cleaned and repackaged mail that was hit with a note explaining the damage.

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