

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Music to their ears



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

Two onlookers listen Monday as the Santa Monica High School Symphony Orchestra practices for the first time on the stage of Barnum Hall, which re-opens today after undergoing an \$8 million restoration. Tonight at 7 p.m., the symphony will be the first group to perform publicly at the auditorium since construction began more than five years ago. The high school's choir will also perform there on Thursday at 7 p.m.

Decline in affordable housing predicted

Current system isn't working, officials say

(Editor's note: This is the first part in a two part series examining affordable housing in Santa Monica. The first part looks locally, while the second part examines what's being done at the state level.)

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica next year is projected to build only a fraction of the affordable housing required by city law, a recent report shows.

Despite a voter mandate that 30 percent of all new multi-family housing must be deed-restricted for moderate to low-income families, only 9 percent will be built next year, housing officials predict.

Last year, 27 percent of all new housing in Santa Monica was affordable and this year it's estimated the city will build exactly the 30 percent required.

The number of building permits filed for new affordable housing projects for the upcoming year has fallen steeply, indicating a dramatic drop in new affordable housing development.

While Proposition R doesn't punish the city for failing to meet its requirements, officials have tried to shape the city's affordable housing policies to meet its demands. The language in the ordinance doesn't provide any penalty for not meeting the requirement. But officials are concerned they are not meeting the will of the people.

"Our current system ... is not meeting the demands of the voters," said Mayor

See HOUSING, page 5

Wedding photographer charged with fraud

Photographer claims city is out to get her

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

A Santa Monica wedding photographer allegedly bilked 17 newlywed couples out of about \$2,000 each, the city attorney's office said Monday.

But the photographer, Juli Anne Armitage, said the counts filed against her are bogus and called the city attorney's investigation a witch hunt.

The city attorney's office claims Armitage allegedly promised wedding photography packages but didn't provide



Juli Anne Armitage

the promised goods.

The complaint, filed in Superior Court, lists 17 separate couples who allege that Armitage collected money from them but didn't provide photos of their wedding or never showed up to the wedding at all — an allegation Armitage denies.

"I am proven guilty until innocent," she complained.

Unable to be reached for comment in person on Monday, Armitage left several responses to the allegations on a reporter's voice mail.

The city attorney's office said Armitage never returned the customers'

See PHOTOGRAPHER, page 6

NAACP may protest Shuttters on the Beach

Hotel has been trying to make amends

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

An alleged refusal of service to black community leaders two months ago may lead to national protests of a local luxury beach hotel.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People may

protest Shuttters on the Beach Hotel for allegedly refusing leaders of the Los Angeles African Methodist Episcopal church entrance to its restaurant.

After a meeting of its membership Saturday, the Santa Monica-Venice chapter of the NAACP voted to ask its regional office to investigate the event, which occurred in September.

"(Shuttters management) fails to grasp the gravity of what they have wrought,"

See NAACP, page 7

New 911 emergency system to be wired for Santa Monica

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

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

The city is getting a new 911 emergency system and only \$1,987 in local tax dollars will be used to pay for it.

The Santa Monica City Council is expected to approve an agreement tonight with Verizon California, Inc. to install a new system for \$319,875. Because the state provides funding to police and fire departments to replace their systems every five years, the purchase will largely be funded by the state.

About \$300,000 will be paid for by the department of

general services, telecommunications division of the state, and another \$17,887 will be paid for by a law enforcement block grant funds. The city's general fund dollars will come in the form of matching funds for \$1,987.

The system should be up and running by the time the new Public Safety Building behind City Hall opens early next year.

The council also is expected to approve a new lease for

See 911, page 7

15% OFF
INSTRUMENTS OR SUPPLIES

(310) 453-1928
1901 SANTA MONICA BLVD.
IN SANTA MONICA

\$59.95 NEW MUFFLER!
(Includes parts and labor.)

Pete's

SANTA MONICA AUTO CARE
1828 LINCOLN BLVD.
(Between Pico and Olympic)
310-314-1688

See Inside Expiration
Exp. Nov. 1, 2002

Holiday Gift Certificates
Give the Gift That Lasts Forever... Dance Lessons

The DANCE DOCTOR

1104 5th Street, Suite 100
Santa Monica, CA 90401
Tel: (310) 314-1688

ocean views steps to beach fully furnished kitchen

fitness center free maid service heated pool in suite washer & dryer in suite fax machine terrace

The Best Locations in Santa Monica.

The choice is yours.



425 Broadway
(Near 3rd Street Promenade)

- in suite washer/dryer
- 24-hour staff
- rooftop pool, spa, & cabanas
- reserved parking
- maid service*
- hi-speed Internet*
- most dogs & cats welcome*
- state-of-the-art fitness center
- two voice lines plus fax line



1915 Ocean Way
(At the Beach)

- satellite TV*
- dry cleaning/laundry service*
- concierge
- parking
- continental breakfast
- executive board room
- sun terraces
- HDTV screening room

*brand restrictions apply / opt local Italian

CITRUS SUITES
SANTA MONICA

Citrus Locations:
1915 Ocean Way, Santa Monica, California 90405 (Beach, across from Shutters)
425 Broadway, Santa Monica, California 90401 (Downtown, 3rd Street Promenade)
1455 Fourth Street, Santa Monica, California 90401 (Downtown, 3rd Street Promenade)

For availability call 1-800-410-0409
(30 day minimum stay)
www.CitrusSuite.com

5000 nationwide
WHENEVER minutes®

free nationwide long
distance and roaming

only \$99.99
a month

Motorola V165
Only \$99.99
(After \$10.00 mail-in rebate)

T-Mobile

You now officially
have all the time
in the world.

Introducing "Mobile. Get more" with the world's largest all GSM network.

■ ■ ■ **Infinity Wireless** 2014 Main St. Santa Monica 90405 (310) 452-0935 ■ ■ ■

got teeth?

visit: David Toff, D.D.S.
310-315-3676

- 20+ years of experience
- Evening hours + emergency services
- Root canals, crowns, veneers
- UCLA Graduate
- Most insurances accepted
- Cosmetic Dentistry

**Dental Exam
+ Cleaning
+ X-Rays**

\$45

(reg. \$129)
exp. 1/02 + 1/02

**At Home
Bleaching**

\$99

(reg. \$250)
exp. 1/02 + 1/02

UCLA Parkside Medical
2425 SANTA MONICA BLVD., SUITE 303 • SANTA MONICA

HOROSCOPE

Meet with your friends, Aries

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)
★★★★ Keep talks going even if you would like to put your foot down and scream "enough!" Realize what is important to your well-being. A friend could provide an unanticipated answer or solution. Now, that's more like it. Tonight: Meet with your friends.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Finances demand your attention. You might not be comfortable with how others choose to spend your money. Check all statements carefully. An error could appear. Unexpected developments allow you to surprise a parent or relative. Tonight: Nice and easy.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You might feel challenged by a partner or several people right now. Rid yourself of your bah-humbug attitude and open yourself up to new possibilities. Unexpected news heads in your direction, suggesting yet another option. Tonight: Say "yes."

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Keep pacing yourself, with an eye to what you need to complete. All work and no play is not the holiday message. Perhaps you need a day off just to do what you want. Quit pushing yourself so hard. Ask a partner for support. Tonight: Say "yes."

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Others surprise you with their negativity or resistance. You can and probably will come up with more than your share of answers. Others seem destined to surprise you in every way, shape or form. Flow. Tonight: Join a friend for dinner.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Pressure builds to another level. It seems that everyone wants something from you. You could easily opt for a minirevolution just to clear the air. Carefully decide on your priorities, perhaps with the help of a boss or family member you trust. Tonight: Away you go.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ A child or loved one acts up. You might not be exactly sure what will be effective when dealing with this person. Recognize your role in distancing this person. Perhaps he or she has had enough of your attitude. An apology might not count as much as action. Tonight: Be a better listener.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Listen to someone's suggestion earnestly. Sometimes you don't get someone else's priorities. Relax and deal with different demands and needs. The more easygoing you are, the better the net results, especially with a touchy associate. Tonight: Be responsive.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Others have an attitude, in your opinion. Stop. Listen. Unexpected developments add a new perspective to life and living. Manage your schedule and flex with others. You could really like what comes up for you. Tonight: Allow impulse to rule.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Handle your finances with strength and leadership. Use your intuition with others; understand what is needed to make someone more comfortable. Unexpected developments take you in a new direction. Tonight: Put your feet up.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Your unpredictability could cause some ripples in your life if you aren't careful. The key will be to stay in touch with your long-term focus and needs, despite someone pushing your buttons. Consider what you want before acting. Tonight: Allow playfulness in.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your understanding might be what is required from a boss or someone in charge. This person wants a "yes" and not your opinions. You might not like what you're seeing, though you have little choice. Touch base with a family member. Tonight: Retreat on home.

QUOTE of the DAY

"Women who miscalculate are called 'mothers'."
— Abigail Van Buren

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913
1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401

PUBLISHER Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com	CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE Angela Downen angela@smdp.com
EDITOR Carolyn Sackariason sack@smdp.com	CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE Paula Christensen paula@smdp.com
STAFF WRITER Andrew H. Fixmer andy@smdp.com	MEDIA CONSULTANT William Pattinosh william@smdp.com
NIGHT EDITOR Patrick McDonald PRMcDonald@aol.com	CIRCULATION MANAGER Kiutzu Cruz kiutzu@smdp.com
PRODUCTION MANAGER Del Pastrana del@smdp.com	SPECIAL PROJECTS Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT Alejandro C. Cantarero alex@smdp.com	STAFF MASCOT Maya Furukawa ross@smdp.com

LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Volunteers lend helping hand to homeless

By Daily Press staff

Volunteers from the Santa Monica Girl Scouts, National Charity League, Ticktockers, and Holy Trinity Parish were on hand at the annual Family Center and Food Pantry Christmas party last Saturday at St. Joseph Center in Venice, providing donations of food, toys, face-painting, and a photo with Santa Claus to more than 300 low-income families on the Westside.

The St. Joseph Family Center has provided emergency services, case management, educational activities, and housing assistance to nearly 1,000 families, including more than 3,000 children, teens, and parents.

St. Joseph Center provides life-building services for homeless and low-income individuals and families on seven sites in Venice, Santa Monica, and West Los Angeles. It holds 11 holiday events and parties in December, one for each of its programs. Volunteers provide decorations and party supplies, serve meals, and donate food, clothing and holiday gifts.

Use some common sense this holiday season

By Daily Press staff

In an effort to be jolly this season, many celebrators don't take into account common sense.

Dr. Wally Ghurabi, medical director of the Santa Monica-UCLA's emergency center, said if people took obvious precautions, he wouldn't see them land in the ER with injuries and illnesses.

So to remind people of the obvious:

- Keep holiday plants, such as holly and poinsettias, out of reach of small children and pets. Many parts of the plants are poisonous.
- Use shatterproof ornaments on the Christmas tree.
- Make sure tree and house lights are grounded to reduce the risk of electrical shock or fires.
- Have your tree fireproofed and place it in a safe distance from the fireplace, wall heater or vents.
- Trim any branches that toddlers might pull or trip over, causing the tree to tumble.
- Keep a fire extinguisher and first-aid kit in your home at all times.
- Consider safety in all gifts for small children, especially the ones that could cause them "to shoot their eye out." Also, inspect toys for removable parts or other unsafe features.
- Eat and drink in moderation. Overindulgence can cause gastrointestinal problems and other unhealthful consequences.
- Don't drink and drive.

Santa Monica-UCLA's 24-hour emergency center is located on 16th Street, a half a block south of Wilshire Boulevard.



surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

Beginners be weary, massive swell has made for some grailly overhead surf this week. We're talking about huge, heavy, hardcore waves, not for the timid.

Malibu is hitting three and four feet overhead.

South Bay is double overhead.

Venice is ridiculously huge; waves topping out about 15 feet, but closing out and virtually unsurfable.

Swell peaked Monday, so this is probably the biggest it will get, but while today and Wednesday may be slightly smaller, the swell is going to carry big surf at least through the end of the week.

Lifeguards will be on watch at throughout L.A. County, but this surfer still urges anyone in the water to be extremely aware of what they're paddling into. At least one surfer left the beach in an ambulance on Monday.



Today's Tides:

Low-	12:58 a.m.	1.94'
High-	7:12 a.m.	5.66'
Low-	2:32 p.m.	-0.24'
High-	8:46 p.m.	3.52'

Location	Tuesday	Wednesday	Water Quality
County Line	6-10'/Fair	6-10'/Fair	A
Zuma	6-10'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A
Surfrider	5-7'/Poor	5-7'/Fair	C
Topanga	5-8'/Fair	5-8'/Fair	B
Breakwater	10-14'/Poor	10-14'/Poor	A
El Porto	8-12'/Poor	8-12'/Poor	A

The Surf Report is sponsored by:

Today's Special:

1/3 lb.
Bacon
Cheeseburger
\$8 tax included

Daily Specials come with
french fries + drink



Store Hours:

Open
Daily from
11 a.m. to
10 p.m.

119 Broadway, Santa Monica
310.394.0100



The Q Line

As the new year approaches, many Santa Monicans have begun thinking about their New Year's resolutions and setting goals for themselves. And now that our political leaders — some old and some new — have been sworn into office, they are thinking about what their priorities for 2003 will be.

This week, Q-Line wants to know:

"What should your elected leaders focus on as their goals for the upcoming year?"

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

SANTA MONICA SCENE • CALENDAR EDITION
NEED SOMETHING FUN TO DO? CHECK PAGE 15!



Santa Monica Daily Press

We Print on 100% recycled paper!

So if you recycle your paper,
chances are you're reading it again.



"FRESH SEAFOOD FOR LESS"

Caspian Grill

NOW OPEN FOR LUNCH

Fish & Chips

\$4.95 w/coupon 12PM - 4PM

Call us for your office party.

205 Broadway, Santa Monica, California 90401
(310) 395-6695 FAX (310) 396-8808

TAXES

All forms • All types • All states

ADDITION • BACK TAXES • BUSINESS PLAN • SMALL BUSINESS

SAMUEL B. MOSES, CPA
(310) 395-9922

427 SANTA MONICA BEACH STE. 701 SANTA MONICA, CA 90401



OPINION

LETTERS

School district should cut adult programs

Editor:

With all the genuine concern these days about various budget shortfalls due to recent cuts by the Davis administration, most notably on the part of local educators, who say that elimination of programs and services for resident grade school students is sure to be necessary, I wonder how these educators can justify continuing to fund and offer programs to non-resident adults, such as "English as a second language" and "Preparation for a G.E.D." or "Immigration assistance" all provided absolutely free to (outside adults) at certain school locations in the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District?

Ought not those type of non-essential programs be the first to be eliminated when the budget monies start to dry up? Are all of the adult recipients of these overly generous school programs and services completely unable to pay for at least a portion of the cost of them? Or are they just taking advantage of "traditional" expensive local school pork projects which someone long ago (in a better financial climate no doubt) envisioned as a way to help beef up the local school budget, create yet another reason (of all the various reasons to date) to request more and more precious and increasingly scarce public funding, and thus in effect committing more precious teaching time better spent on local resident grade school students than to any special interest class such as the aforementioned adults. Will the new president and vice president of the school board be expected to cut and trim such programs that exist, or expand on them whether they are locally popular or not?

Thom Trybus
Santa Monica



© 2002 WWW.FUNNYPAPERZ.COM

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press
Attn. Editor: 1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202
Santa Monica • 90401 • sack@smdp.com

Constituents have a few wishes for their politicians



Editor's note: The following is the debut of "Think Twice," a weekly column with opposing viewpoints on the same issue from two friends who don't always agree in their politics. Evelyn Jerome, a four-year resident of Santa Monica and Todd Flora, a five-year resident, carry on the same types of conversations many would hear at the local watering hole or coffee shop. Flora and Jerome, both Southern California natives and Democrats — one perhaps more conservative than the other — plan to present their opinions on both sides of issues in the city, the state and the nation.



Todd Flora

■ A busy schedule of political inaugurations shares the limelight with our holiday celebrations in the next month. It is only fitting, therefore, that a holiday wish list of hopes and dreams be bestowed on our public leaders as they gear up for the myriad challenges we face.

To the Republicans in Congress, I wish for temperance despite yourselves. I hope you choose the middle path over mistaking your narrow victory for a policy mandate. Even following a true GOP tidal wave in 1994, the public rejected

your agenda within months.

To Democrats nationally, I wish upon you a willingness to show some guts and vocal opposition to this far-right administration. There has been far too much debate on whether the Party should turn toward a moderate or progressive view. You must continue to balance the big tent. But this do nothing, say nothing approach is unacceptable.

To Gov. Davis, I wish upon you a term as governor. Stop fundraising. As the San Jose Mercury News succinctly put it, "People notice." The level of perceived corruption in Sacramento is staggering, and you must look in the mirror. Endorsing public financing of campaigns should be a top priority.

To the Legislature, I wish for compromise and clarity. Programs must be cut and taxes raised. Work out a plan, and be clear with the people of California why your decisions are necessary. Republicans must not confuse principle with obstructionism. Nothing will be easy. Show some guts and the people will heal in time.

To our City Council members, I wish upon you a progressive city for decades to come. But you must go to greater lengths to educate the public on your success stories before the "vocal minority's" constant campaign against you starts to take hold.

To our school board members, I wish upon you wisdom and success. You are a

bright new class who clearly cares about our children. Again, it is a time for guts, and also a time for creativity and an appeal to the public for help. This time, craft a parcel tax with a more progressive "sliding scale."

Finally, I hope to serve as part of the solution to the many problems facing those that honorably ran for public office. What can I do?

Todd Flora serves on the steering committee of Santa Monica's Allied for Responsible Tourism (SMART), and is an active volunteer with Heal the Bay. To respond or to reach Flora, e-mail him at junkfood6@aol.com.



Evelyn Jerome

■ The chips have fallen in Washington and Sacramento, and here on Main Street. And as our new lawmakers are being sworn in, I've compiled a wish list of the things I hope to see from them in the next two years.

Here in Santa Monica, I hope that our City Council will find some common ground with the local Chamber of Commerce, and promote our local businesses year round. Each December, city officials adorn their cars and the light poles of our major thoroughfares with signs that say "There's No Place Like Home for the

Holidays," thinking that these signs will encourage us to shop in our own city. It would be nice to see the City Council take real policy steps to improve the business climate in Santa Monica, and to recognize that businesses provide stability to our city's financial base.

I also hope that the next time nearly 10,000 Santa Monica voters sign a petition, such as the one against historic districts, our City Council will honor their wishes. If 10,000 renters had signed a petition, the City Council wouldn't blink before passing an ordinance. Instead, the City Council will waste more than \$100,000 — that's our tax dollars at work — holding an election. Let's see how representative and responsive our gov-

ernment can be to all constituents in the coming year.

At the state level, I hope that despite the enormous power of the public employee unions, nothing will be considered "off the table" as our legislators consider the \$30 billion budget shortfall. It's time to take a long, hard look at the services that our state government provides, as well as increase efficiency and cut waste. No campaign contributions or all-expenses-paid-junkets should cloud our legislators' thinking as they determine how best to spend our taxpayer dollars.

And finally, I'd like to see President Bush follow through on just one of the promises he made two years ago. He promised to change the tone of

Washington, D.C., to reduce the partisan rhetoric and bickering. Of all the election reforms that Congress could put into place, demonstrating that Democrats and Republicans can really work together to improve our country would go a long way towards restoring voters' trust in the system. Maybe we would see turnout in the next election that we wouldn't have to describe as "paltry" or "pathetic."

I haven't seen that partisan tone change, but I'm looking forward to it.

Evelyn Jerome is a past president of the Los Angeles County Young Democrats, and a member of the New Democrat Network. To respond or to reach Jerome, e-mail her at evelyn_thinktwice@yahoo.com.

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

LOCAL



City faces tough decisions on affordable housing

HOUSING, from page 1

Pro Tem Kevin McKeown. "I think we must revisit our affordable housing policies and make some drastic changes."

System can't pay for itself

When Santa Monica voters in 1990 passed Prop R, which set the affordable housing mandate locally at 30 percent, the City Council enacted legislation two years later requiring developers of new multi-family complexes to include affordable housing in their developments.

But the ordinance was legally challenged because it reportedly made building multi-family housing in the city so unprofitable that it deterred developers from doing projects in Santa Monica, officials say.

After settling the lawsuit, the council in 1998 enacted new legislation requiring developers to either pay the city a fee of about \$15,000 for every unit constructed, build the units some place else in the city, or include them in the development.

"The idea was to give (developers) maximum flexibility," said Tad Read, a city housing analyst. "In terms of the benefit and accomplishing the goals of Prop R, the best option would be to build the units on the site and not pay the fee."

But to the consternation of city officials, the majority of market-rate developers have chosen to pay the fee.

Between July 2001 and June 2002, the city collected \$637,743 in affordable housing fees from 13 market-rate projects. During the same time, developers of four apartment complexes chose to include the affordable housing in their projects or build the units elsewhere in the city.

The money from developer fees is loaned out for housing projects, which typically combine the city's funds with federal, state and charity to come up with enough to build the affordable units.

Officials have realized the fees can't pay for the number of affordable housing units required. As a result, it has created a disparity between the number of market-rate apartments and affordable housing being built in the city. City officials say it costs about \$150,000 for each affordable housing unit, which is far more than they get from fees.

For example, a 10-unit apartment or condominium project — the average size of a complex in Santa Monica — should result in three units of affordable housing. But if a developer pays the fee of \$15,000 per unit, it nets the city \$150,000 — enough to build one unit of affordable housing.

"The fee must be set low enough not to frustrate market-rate housing production," said Joan Ling, executive director of Community Corp. of Santa Monica, the city's largest affordable housing developer. "As a result it pays for only a minuscule cost of producing an actual unit of affordable housing."

Few solutions on horizon

The only reason the city was able to come close to meeting the 30 percent obligation for the past four years is because there were many large affordable housing projects already planned before the changes were made, Ling said.

But it's not a simple solution to raise the developer fee, some city officials say. Even if the city hired a firm to conduct a very costly and technical study on how much it could raise its fees, the amount would be far below what's needed to keep up with the voter mandate in Prop R.

Even if the City Council voted to

increase the amount, it would likely spark another costly lawsuit that would ultimately result in the fee being lowered, officials said.

"There's not an easy answer," Read said.

Compounding the problem is that affordable housing developers — and other developers included — are getting bound in Santa Monica's notorious red tape when it comes to getting a project approved at City Hall.

While there is little the city can do immediately to raise its fees, the City Council can act quickly to change the city's policies, officials say.

Last month it enacted a law that exempts affordable housing projects with less than 50 units from going through a public review.

Instead of having to clear a Planning Commission known for its well-known knit-picking of potential impacts from development projects, the affordable housing projects only have to go through the Architectural Review Board, which is a public body limited to looking at design characteristics.

"I think we must revisit out affordable housing policies and make some drastic changes."

— KEVIN MCKEOWN
Santa Monica Mayor Pro Tem

And the projects are exempted from having to complete a time consuming and costly environmental impact report, which studies everything from pollution to traffic and parking impacts of developments.

The exemptions will make building small affordable housing projects — which typically take three years to complete in Santa Monica — less expensive and make them available quicker, officials said.

"We have projects coming in the door already because of the exemption," Read said. "We are already lending and helping new projects get off the ground, and we're looking at other projects in commercial areas, such as Broadway and Santa Monica Boulevard that would be sizable projects and could take advantage of the new exemptions the Council enacted."

Even so, Read acknowledges the exemption comes much too late to make a difference next year, and it will not likely raise the production of affordable housing production to the levels required.

"When we look ahead to future years," he said, "we see there's not going to be a lot of meeting the Prop R requirements."

Another option considered by city officials is changing the language in Prop R to allow the city to count older complexes it buys and redevelops into affordable housing. Under current law, only the construction of new units can be counted.

"When you have acquisition, you are buying them, fixing them up and restricting the deed long-term," Read said. "It's much cheaper than building new units and there's no real approval process to go through."

But Ling counters that when Community Corp. redevelops older complexes for affordable housing, they don't become available for many years because the current tenants in the building must be allowed to stay as long as they want.

Tenants can't be forced out and have the right to renew their leases.

And because the greatest need for affordable housing in Santa Monica is for families, who need two- and three-bedroom apartments, buying older complexes which typically have one- and two bedroom-apartments is not practical.

"We won't be able to buy housing appropriate for what the need is," Ling said. "And if we try to combine units to make them into two- or three-bedroom units, it's more expensive than building a new one."

Ling and other affordable housing advocates believe the city is doing everything it can to encourage affordable hous-

ing. But because land is scarce and extremely expensive, as well as officials being limited with legal restrictions, meeting Prop R requirements is going to be very tough in Santa Monica.

"What the city does is that it struggles and I don't believe there are any easy answers and what it's doing is trying to protect people and especially low-income people already living here and promoting housing that has a range of affordability," Ling said. "If they don't do it, no one will be able to live here unless they make \$200,000 a year and I don't believe that's the kind of community any of us want to see, including those who make \$200,000 a year."

DIVORCE LAW

THREE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT GETTING DIVORCED:

1. It doesn't have to be scary, ugly and painful
2. It doesn't have to cost a fortune.
3. A good lawyer calls you back with straight answers - TODAY

PISARRA & GRIST
310 / 664 - 9969

PANINI GARDEN
A BRICK-AND-MORTAR IN THE WORLD OF TAKEAWAYS

Come In & Experience
Our Grilled or Cold Panini
Sandwiches, Our Superb Salads
& Breakfast Crepes Daily

Panini Party Platters • Weekly Specials • Everything Fresh & Made to Order
Order Online at: www.paninigarden.com • Open for Breakfast • Dine-In Garden Patio • We Deliver

Open Daily from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
2715 Main Street • Santa Monica • (310) 399-9939 • Fax (310) 314-2634

Need a place to live? **Westside Rental connection**

- The Westside's premier rental listing agency
- 12,000+ listings updated daily
- Friendly, knowledgeable staff
- Free credit checks
- Pet friendly rentals
- On-site computers available to members
- 6 office locations
- Affordable membership

Houses • Apartments • Guest Houses • Condos • Townhouses • Rental Shares
www.westsiderentals.com

1110 Wilshire Blvd.
310-395-7368
Westside Corporate Office

FREE Cappuccino!

at the
NEWSROOM CAFE
corner of 6th and Wilshire in Santa Monica

Full breakfast menu!

- Salvadoran Pupusa and Two Fried Eggs
- Turkey Bacon, Smoked Cheddar and Spruce Omelette
- Chicken Sausage Scramble with Eggs and Onions

Portions may be modified and require additional toppings or other modifications.
Dinner service until 11:00 PM. All other times and other restrictions.
Good promotion expires at the end of year. Expires 1/31/03.

STUFF THIS IN YOUR STOCKING!

Celebrating SMDP's Anniversary!

- 110pp, signed by the Artist
- Softcover \$15/CD \$10/Both \$20

MAIL CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PLUS \$3 P&H TO:
JOE KING
2801 OCEAN PARK BLVD., #300
SANTA MONICA, CA 90405

Now Open For Lunch

New Hours 11:30am-11:00pm

Pub Quiz Wednesday Night 8pm

Quiz winner receives a \$75 Gift Certificate

*Live Music Nightly

O'Brien's

Irish Pub & Restaurant

2341 Main St., Santa Monica • (310) 396-4273 • www.obriens-restaurant.com

Santa Monica's best kept secret...
 Also: 2 Family photo studio, cafe and pub

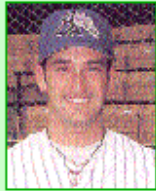


**Personal Training • Pilates • Nutrition
Vitamins • Sports Supplement**

- State-of-the-art studio environment
- Private training and nutritional counseling
- Specializing in sports performance and nutrition for life
- Electronic body-fat testing
- 2-week trial programs
- Personalized "Mommie & Me" programs (pre-natal and post-pregnancy)
- Featuring the "Store" at euphoria LA.

"When I'm not training at euphoria LA, I'm serving slices!"
— Matt Anisoff, Owner of 'The Slice'

517 Wilshire Blvd. • Santa Monica • 310-917-5027



santa's here!

he's waiting to hear your
holiday wishes • commemorative
photos and other keepsakes
available for purchase

★ 10am to 8pm
★ every day
★ center court



santa monica place

4th & Broadway
310.394.1049

a masterich company property

LOCAL

Armitage lists City Hall, Big Blue Bus as clients

PHOTOGRAPHER, from page 1

calls or letters.

Armitage stands accused of receiving full payment from the bride and groom before the wedding date. The amounts paid ranged between \$1,500 and \$2,900, according to the city attorney's office.

But Armitage said the city attorney's office is preventing her from completing the work for her clients. Because all of her property — including client files, her computer hard drive, negatives and all information relating to her business — has been seized by the city attorney's office, she hasn't been able to communicate with her customers or deliver the promised goods.

As a result, clients are upset, Armitage said.

She added that she was running late in delivering the photo albums because of personal family problems of her own.

"Truly this is a situation of running late and I had every intention of following through with my clients," Armitage said. "I would never intentionally fraud somebody and just take their money and not follow through."

"Everybody has been very patient about it," she added.

The alleged fraud occurred between 2000 and 2002, according to the complaint.

At least one couple's patience ran out. Alan Damasco and Caroline Damasco won a \$2,600 judgment from Armitage in Santa Monica small claims court earlier this month.

The couple testified on Dec. 5 that Armitage didn't send them several of their wedding albums from their October 2001 ceremony.

Armitage didn't appear in court to defend herself, and Commissioner Donna Groman made the award by default.

"Well, I hope at least your wedding was nice," Groman told the couple.

Alan Damasco responded, "Oh yeah, it

was real memorable."

Armitage said when Teresa Bransfield, a consumer specialist in the city attorney's office, came with a search warrant to her Santa Monica studio and seized her property months ago, she was acting on three written complaints filed by clients to the city's consumer affairs division. Armitage alleged that because Bransfield couldn't bring "real" fraud charges, she charged her with misdemeanors.

"She has put me in a situation that I can't communicate with my clients," Armitage said, adding the city attorney's office won't return her phone calls. "For months, (Bransfield) has kept me in the dark and put me out of business."

"They are making it worse for the consumer," Armitage added. "These people would love to have their albums before the holiday season."

The 17 grand theft counts are misdemeanors. Each carries a maximum penalty of one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

The criminal case against Armitage was filed in Santa Monica Municipal Court, where Armitage is scheduled to be arraigned on Dec. 18. She said she has hired an attorney to help retrieve her property from the city and will ask that the court hearing be postponed.

"I'm sure the charges will be reversed once we go back to court," she said.

Most of the couples included in the complaint had found Armitage on the Internet. Her Web site profiles her as a photographer who takes "unobtrusive candid shots with a touch of tradition" for weddings and events, as well as head shots for actors, fashion portfolios for models, children and families.

She has a client list which includes the City of Santa Monica, the Big Blue Bus, W.I.S.E Senior Services, Coldwell Banker Realty, Fred Sands Realty, UCLA Medical Center, Time Warner and Capital Records, according to the Web site.

Local Sports

Samohi Vikings soccer takes wins throughout the week

By Daily Press staff

The Vikings boys' soccer finished the Westside/South Bay Tournament this past week with three straight wins.

The Vikings on Dec. 10 hosted Inglewood and won 5-2. Two days later, they played at John Adams Middle School against Gahr High. The scoring began early in the third and fourth minutes with goals from senior Corey Prost and sophomore Omid Shokoufandeh. The Vikings won the game 4-0, giving senior goalkeeper Daniel Islas his first varsity shut out.

The following Friday Samohi hosted Crossroads for their only true home game of the year. Because of the construction at Samohi, the Vikings are forced to play their home games at John Adams Middle

School. The night game began at 6 p.m. and the Vikings immediately applied offensive pressure against the Roadrunners.

The Vikings out-shot their opponents 15-3 and won the game 3-0. Goals were scored by juniors Carlos Lopez, Daniel Dinay, and Barry Jackson. Junior Andrew Martinez assisted on the first two goals, and Dinay on the third. Senior goalkeeper Daniel Islas recorded his second consecutive shut out for the season.

The Vikings will play at home against Chaminade today at 3 p.m. at location John Adams Middle School. On Friday, they will compete in the South Holiday Tournament. They will play against San Clemente for their first round Game at 4:30 p.m.

The Vikings are 4-2 overall.

ADVERTISE!

Santa Monica Daily Press

310-458-7737

LOCAL



Hotel employees undergo sensitivity training course

NAACP, from page 1

said Darrell Goode, president of the NAACP's local chapter. "So we have to keep going to the next stages until they recognize the wrong that has been done."

A response from the regional NAACP organization in Los Angeles is expected by Thursday. The response could result in protests, including picketing and marches, or a letter writing campaign.

Shutters considers the event a "non-incident," said hotel spokesman Seth Jacobson, who also represents luxury hotels opposed to the living wage, which includes Shutters. The living wage would have mandated businesses in the coastal zone making more than \$5 million a year to pay their employees between \$10.50 and \$12.25, depending on whether health benefits were included. Voters narrowly defeated the ordinance on Nov. 5.

The AME religious leaders left the hotel's parking lot — where they were kept waiting about half an hour by hotel security guards — before word from management was received to allow the men to enter the restaurant.

Jacobson said the only reason the four AME figures were stopped in the first place was because they were coming from a living wage rally that had just occurred on Ocean Front Walk between Shutters and neighboring hotel Casa Del Mar.

Following the protest, Santa Monica AME Rev. Ronald Williams attempted to take Los Angeles AME Bishop H.H. Brookins to lunch at the hotel's restaurant, 1 Pico.

However, the hotel's director of security Guy Groves reportedly refused to allow Williams, Brookins and two other AME officials to enter the hotel until it was approved by the hotel's management, according to religious leaders.

Groves told the men he was scared to allow them in because "windows might get broken," according to Williams.

After waiting about 30 minutes in the hotel's parking lot, the four AME pastors left angrily, Williams said.

"I felt insulted and embarrassed," he said. "I had my presiding bishop with me — my boss was with me."

After previous living wage rallies, some protesters had entered Shutters and Casa Del Mar and caused disturbances, so the hotel had instituted a policy of not admitting protesters into the hotel, Jacobson said.

"The security guard, who is African American, stopped them because he wasn't sure of their intentions," Jacobson said. "He stopped them because he was doing his job."

"After talking with senior management they were cleared to enter the hotel," he added. "There is no insensitivity to African Americans or any other race. It is the position of Shutters that anyone can enter the hotel."

Even so, the NAACP's Goode said such a policy should be enforced with some subjectivity. He said the four men were dressed in suits and mild-mannered, and obviously posed no threat to the hotel.

"They had been sitting out there for a long time watching other people dressed like they were but of other colors walk in just fine," Goode said. "You have to go on their demeanor; not by the way they look or appear."

"There is no rhyme or reason for the way they responded to these individuals the way they did," he added.

The local NAACP chapter had tried unsuccessfully to negotiate a resolution of the incident over the past several weeks, Goode said.

At a meeting called by Tim Dubois — an executive at the company that owns Shutters and Casa Del Mar, hotel officials apologized for the incident, donated \$2,500 to the AME church, and paid a consultant \$5,000 to conduct a sensitivity training for those employees involved, according to both sides.

Goode said the hotel also committed to hosting a fund-raising dinner to help raise money for the local NAACP chapter.

However, after the Nov. 5 election when the living wage ordinance was defeated, Shutters went back on its word, Goode said.

Shutters officials tell the story differently. They say they agreed to help out with the dinner, but they were shocked when they received a letter from the NAACP asking for between \$70,000 and \$80,000 for the event.

Hotel officials agreed to provide five to 10 free rooms for the event's out-of-town guests and agreed to buy one table — a package Jacobson said hotel managers estimate would cost between \$17,000 to \$20,000.

"We are willing to come to the plate," Jacobson said. "That should be obvious from our actions."

Goode said now that the election is over and the living wage is no longer in the spotlight, he believes hotel officials think they don't have to answer for their actions.

"It's an insulting offer and it wouldn't address restitution or reparations of any sort of what we consider a discriminatory act," Goode said.




The First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica

invites you to these Christmas Eve worship services:

Christmas Eve Tuesday, December 24th

6:00 p.m. Christmas Family Service

Music by the Children's and Youth choirs
The Story of the Christmas Carol
"Silent Night"

—♦♦♦♦♦—

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

Patricia Harris, preaching:
"The Birth of Love and Hope"
Music by the Chancel Choir, Organ, and Harp

Free Parking available in our parking facility across the street

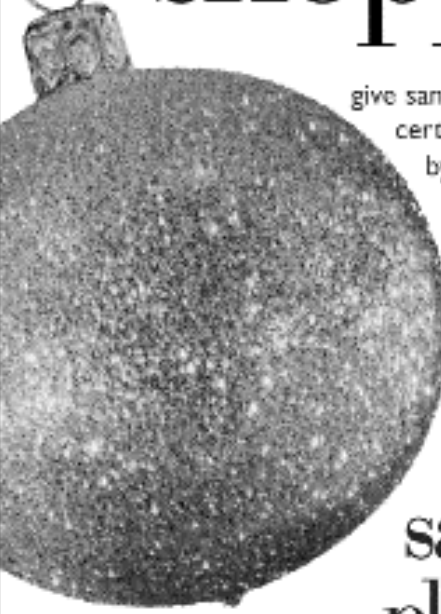
1008 11TH STREET (AT WASHINGTON AVE.)
SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA
(310) 393-8258
WWW.SANTAMONICAUMC.ORG



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church™

give the

gift of shopping



give santa monica place gift certificates * accepted by all santa monica place stores & restaurants * available at guest services, level 2

santa monica place

4th & broadway
310.394.1049

a macerich company property

Museum may be relocated

911, from page 1

the 28-year-old Museum of Flying, which was forced to close its doors this past summer because of escalating insurance and operational costs. Museum officials also said funding sources were no longer adequate to keep the operation going.

The landlord of the property, Supermarine of Santa Monica, leased the museum's 44,000-square-foot space to Simi Valley-based Volkswagen of America to use as a design studio.

If approved by the council, the museum would be relocated to Supermarine Hanger #33 directly across from its present location. The proposed location is 12,000 square feet, which is dramatically smaller than the original site.

But city officials say that even though it's smaller, it's expected that the new location will give greater interaction with aviation activities and more flexibility to provide the public access to aviation memorabilia through a regular program of rotating exhibits.



STATE □ NATIONAL

Tape from Enron company party has parallels to scandal

By The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Five years before Enron collapsed in a big accounting scandal, an executive joked at a party about making "a kazillion dollars" through something he humorously dubbed "hypothetical future value accounting," the Houston Chronicle reported Monday.

Videotaped jokes by some former Enron executives at a January 1997 party bear ironic parallels to events that helped bring down the energy conglomerate, the newspaper said.

The videotape, of a going-away party for former Enron President Rich Kinder, features nearly half an hour of absurd skits, songs and testimonials by executives and prominent citizens — including President Bush, the newspaper reported.

Enron, which two years ago ranked No.

7 on the Fortune 500, declared bankruptcy on Dec. 2, 2001, haunted by shady accounting, hidden debt and inflated profits. Stock that had traded at \$90 in August 2000 plummeted to pennies. Thousands of people were laid off.

The Chronicle did not identify the source of the videotape.

At the party, then-Texas Gov. George W. Bush pleaded with Kinder: "Don't leave Texas. You're too good a man." And his father, former President Bush, told Kinder, "You have been fantastic to the Bush family. I don't think anybody did more than you did to support George."

In one skit, former administrative executive Peggy Menchaca played the part of Kinder receiving a budget report from then-President Jeff Skilling, who played himself.

When the pretend Kinder expressed

doubt that Skilling could pull off 600 percent revenue growth for the coming year, Skilling described how it could be done.

"We're going to move from mark-to-market accounting to something I call HFV, or hypothetical future value accounting," Skilling joked as he read from a script. "If we do that, we can add a kazillion dollars to the bottom line."

Skilling abruptly resigned from Enron in August 2001 before news of its troubles surfaced, and has professed ignorance about much of what went on under his watch.

Three Enron workers have pleaded guilty to charges ranging from fraud to false tax returns, and former chief financial officer Andrew Fastow has been indicted on 78 charges.

On the tape, Richard Causey, the former chief accounting officer, referred jokingly to a practice that is frowned upon by securities regulators.

"I've been on the job for a week managing earnings, and it's easier than I thought it would be," Causey said. "I can't even count fast enough with the earnings rolling in."

Man jumps to his death while climbing 64-story skyscraper

By The Associated Press

HOUSTON — A man scaled partway up one of Houston's best-known skyscrapers Monday, then jumped to his death as a crowd watched, police said.

The man, using a small pick, had reached about the 30th floor of the 64-story Williams Tower when he plunged, said Jay Evans, a fire department spokesman.

Police said they recovered a driver's license and a note containing a message of a political nature. Authorities declined to reveal the man's identity or details of the note, other than to say it did not mention plans to jump.

The man had rosin to apply to his hands, and used the pick on the window molding as he moved higher, authorities said. But he apparently did not have a harness, belt or suction cup, "the normal professional equipment you'd normally see on someone trying to climb a building," Evans said.

Police received the first call about the climber at 6:53 a.m. and witnesses said he jumped from the 901-foot, black glass tower at 7:45 a.m. Evans said the man had somehow reached the outside of the building from the 10th floor and then climbed up the southwest corner from there.

Rescue personnel and a crowd of onlookers had gathered below, television helicopters hovered above and motorists from the West Loop freeway, the busiest in Texas, all had a view of the black-clad man as he climbed and fell.

Police tried to talk to the man from an open window but he continued to ascend. Witness Pat McGarey, a tower worker, said the man was yelling or singing and periodically waved his hands before taking an extended pause.

"It clearly looked like he jumped as opposed to falling," McGarey said.

The art deco-inspired skyscraper, formerly known as the Transco Tower, was built in 1983. It was designed by the architect Philip Johnson.

Avila goes to court



Nick Ut/Associated Press

Alejandro Avila, center, is escorted from the Orange County Jail in Santa Ana on Monday to appear in court for an arraignment. Avila is accused of kidnapping and killing 5-year-old Samantha Runnion from outside of her mother's Orange County condominium. Runnion was strangled and sexually assaulted. Avila has pleaded innocent to the killing and contends he was shopping at a mall at the time.

Vita Wellness Center

MAXIMUM FAMILY CARE IN ONE LOCATION

SPECIALIZING IN

Victoria D. Lucas, D.C., L.A. QME	Victoria Wexley, D.D.S.
• Acupuncture, Doctor of Chiropractic	• Board Certified in dental pain
• Herbal & integrative medicine	• Endodontics
• Weight Management	• Implants, crowns, dentures
• Treatment of allergies	• T-44 Crowns
• Musculoskeletal disorders	• Smoking and sleep apnea
• Sports, trauma, disc, etc.	• Needle free, Transcendental Neurology
• Personal injury	

310-449-1222

Spanish and Russian languages available

Lilia Wexley, M.D.

Family Practice

Lilia Wexley, DPM

Surgical and Conservative Treatment of Foot and Ankle Disorders

• Sprained ankles - Fractures	• Sports injuries
• Children's Foot Problems	• Carpal - Collar
• Ingrown Toes	• Nail Pain - Flat Foot

Hospital and emergency available

2222 Santa Monica Blvd. • Ste. 203 • Santa Monica, CA 90404

Looking for Health Insurance?

Then look to your good neighbor State Farm® agent. Through an unbeatable alliance with Fortis Health®, I'm offering flexible and affordable insurance coverage. If that's what you're looking for, come see me today:

Ron Villa, Agent
Lic.# 0692055
Santa Monica, CA
310-450-8833
ron.villa@statefarm.com

Call for details on coverage, costs, health and financial wellness. Coverage issued and underwritten by Fortis Insurance Company, a Fortis Health member company. All members of the State Farm family of companies. Insurance coverage available for the individual and family. Coverage provided by Fortis Insurance Company, a not affiliated State Farm.

STATE FARM INSURANCE

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there®

statefarm.com®

State Farm Mutual Insurance Company
Home Office: Bloomington, IL 61701

DSL

Internet Connections

Starting at \$59.45/mo!

each account includes:

- 24/7 Internet connection
- 2 IP addresses
- 7 days/week tech support
- 6MB personal web space
- free local dial-up acct
- over 4000 worldwide dial-up locations for laptop users who travel. (a metered service).

786k to 7.1M Now Available

LABridge Internet

Sign-up online at LABridge.com or call 310.823.6416

NATIONAL



Plaintiffs in settlement with money transfer companies to begin receiving benefits

BY DEBORAH KONG
AP Minority Issues Writer

Millions of Mexican immigrants who sent money back home soon will be able to receive modest discounts from wire-transfer companies that were accused of hiding fees for the transactions.

Class-action suits against the companies — Western Union, its subsidiary Orlandi Valuta, and MoneyGram — alleged they did not fully disclose that they got better exchange rates for pesos than they passed on to customers sending money from the United States to Mexico.

The companies were accused of pocketing the difference between the two rates on top of a service charge customers paid for sending the money in the first place.

The suits were settled two years ago. But up to 5 million plaintiffs who used the companies to send funds to Mexico between about 1987 and 1999 still haven't received any benefits because of a final round of legal wrangling.

Claim forms are now being mailed out, a process that will play out over the next month.

Those who sign the forms will get a choice of two \$4.25-coupons or one \$6-coupon for each transaction between 1993 and 1999. Customers can receive another coupon for every 10 transactions conducted before then.

The total value of the coupons is about \$375 million.

Many Hispanic immigrants wire funds to relatives in Latin America each month.

"It's a good settlement," said Luis Pelayo, a plaintiff who has been sending money to his parents since he arrived in the United States and began working as a dishwasher 21 years ago. "Very poor people were being ripped off. It shows the arrogance of companies such as Western Union. I trusted them doing the right thing."

Pelayo said he and others didn't know about the foreign exchange markup. That's the difference between the foreign exchange rate companies charge their customers and the more favorable, wholesale rate they pay for pesos.

Western Union Financial Services, Inc. has maintained that forms customers filled out to send money had adequate disclosures. Company spokesman David Banks said Western Union also added a more explicit explanation of the exchange rate fee after the suit was filed.

"This afforded us the opportunity to make some additional disclosures in the form, to be a good corporate citizen here and to make things even more clear to our customers," he said.

MoneyGram never intended to misleadingly advertise, said spokeswoman Angela Phoenix. It has already changed its ads to more clearly explain the exchange rate fee, as required by the set-

tlement, she said.

While a coupon or two may seem inconsequential, most plaintiffs will probably receive more than that, said Matt Piers, lead attorney in the federal suits. Many people sent money an average of 17 times a year, he estimated.

**"It's a good settlement.
Very poor people
were being ripped off. It
shows the arrogance
of companies such as
Western Union.**

— LUIS PELAYO
Plaintiff

"There are people who are literally going to get hundreds of these" coupons, Piers said, though he added it will be unlikely all \$375 million-worth will be redeemed. Coupons will be mailed out in May, he said.

The settlement also awards about \$10 million in plaintiffs' attorneys fees, to be split among a team of lawyers from eight firms.

Pelayo, who sent as much as \$300 to his parents in Guadalajara, Mexico every other month, said he never knew Western Union was charging him the exchange rate markup on top of the approximately \$30 service charge to wire the money. When he learned about the markup, the Chicago resident said he was so outraged he decided to sue.

In the last two decades, the amount Mexican immigrants send home has increased, reaching about \$9.2 billion last year, according to a report by Manuel Orozco, Central America project director at the Inter-American Dialogue, a policy research group in Washington.

Immigrants pay an average of about \$16 to send \$300 to Mexico, Orozco estimated. That includes an \$11 fee plus a \$5.40 foreign exchange charge.

Senders are often unaware of the exchange rate fee and said they were surprised the money delivered to relatives was less than they expected, according to a recent report by the Pew Hispanic Center.

Under the settlement, the companies set up toll-free numbers to inform customers of the day's exchange rate, so they know how much people at home will receive. They also created a \$4.6-million fund for organizations serving Hispanics in the United States.

M&R Co.

HOLIDAY SALE 20% OFF

Regular prices with this ad
thru 12/31/02

for Men, Women & Children



for Men & Women

Most colors & sizes available. We also special order

M&R Co.

New Location

413 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica
between 4th and 5th

(310) 451-2757

Open Mon-Sat 10:30-7pm / Sun 11-5pm

Celebrate a natural Christmas with
A LIVING TREE

Locally Grown

• ROSEMARY TREES

19" Tall \$11.99

• ALEPPO PINE

2-3' Tall \$19.99

Large Assortment of

MONTEREY & MONDELL PINES

2-6' TALL

Living Mixed Green

WREATHS

Fresh & Fragrant

From
\$14.99 to \$24.99

CHRISTMAS GARLANDS, GREENS AND
MISTLETOE. A SELECTION OF ORCHIDS,
FLOWERING HOUSE PLANTS & GIFT ITEMS

Blooming, Beautiful

POINSETTAS

4" Pot — 3-4 Blooms

\$4.99

6" Pot — 6-6 Blooms

\$8.99



Mon.-Fri. 9-5

Sat. 8-5 — Sun. 9-5

16th & Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica

310-452-1051

FIND OUT YOUR FORECAST IN
TODAY'S HOROSCOPE'S ... PAGE 2

Santa Monica Daily Press

SANTA MONICA SCENE

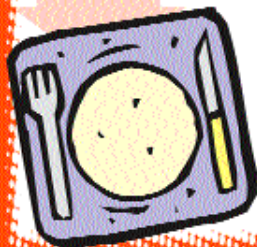
your complete guide to culinary entertainment

COMING SOON!

**Keep an eye out
for the most
comprehensive,
up to date *dining*
and *entertainment*
guide available in
Santa Monica.**

**BROUGHT TO
YOU EVERY DAY**

**For listing reservations
call your rep at:
(310) 458-7737**



NATIONAL

Gore: A 2004 rematch with Bush would be too focused on the past

BY AARON BEARD
Associated Press Writer

RALEIGH, N.C. — Al Gore said Monday he's "at peace" with his decision to forgo what could be his last shot at the White House, mostly because a rematch with President Bush in 2004 would force him to revisit the ordeal of their last go-round.

Gore, who won the vice presidency in 1992 and 1996 with Bill Clinton, announced Sunday he would not try again for the presidency, an office he first sought in 1988 and lost in the infamous recount of 2000.

"Because a race this time around would have focused on a Bush-Gore rematch, I felt the focus of that race would inevitably been more on the past than it should have been, when all races should be focused on the future," Gore said Monday at a news conference at a Raleigh hotel.

Gore said he's likely to endorse one of several Democrats considering a challenge to Bush, but hasn't made up his mind who that would be.

"I have not ruled anyone in or anyone out. I probably will endorse someone," he said. "I have contacted directly senators Edwards, Lieberman and Kerry, and each of them has asked for my support and I am grateful for that."

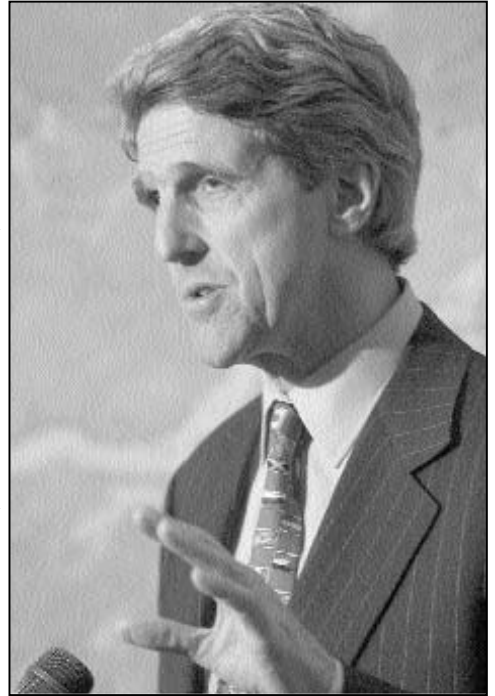
He added with a laugh: "It's not just my support. I'm very influential with my wife and children — and take it from me, a half a dozen votes could make all the difference in a presidential race."

Gore won the 2000 presidential popular vote by a half million ballots but conceded after a tumultuous 36-day recount in Florida and a 5-4 Supreme Court decision that tipped the state's crucial electoral votes to Bush.

The attention on that race was a chief reason he won't run in 2004, he said.

"I made the decision in the full awareness that that probably means I will never have another opportunity to run for president, and I'm at peace with that," he said.

Gore and his wife, Tipper, were in Raleigh to sign copies of their book, "Joined at the Heart: The Transformation of the



Chitose Suzuki/Associated Press

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., speaks during a news conference in Boston on Monday regarding former Vice President Al Gore's decision not to seek the Democratic nomination for president in 2004. Kerry said Gore's decision not to run does not affect his own political plans.

American Family." Their evening appearance was scheduled long before Sunday's announcement.

Gore's decision took many by surprise. Some close aides had expected him to make calls to political and financial advisers, then make his decision over the Christmas holidays.

Gore said he had those conversations in the past week as friends and family gathered in New York to watch him host NBC's "Saturday Night Live."

He told CBS "60 Minutes" reporter Leslie Stahl of his plans Friday, then kept the decision to himself until Sunday's broadcast. During the interview, Gore, 54, said he still has the energy and drive to run, but didn't want to put many in his party through the exhausting experience again.

With Gore out, the field of Democratic challengers will likely grow. Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina has been mentioned as a possible candidate, along with Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle, Missouri Rep. Dick Gephardt, Massachusetts Sen. John

Kerry, Vermont Gov. Howard Dean and U.S. Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, Gore's running mate in 2000.

Kerry said Monday that Gore's decision will not dramatically change his strategy.

"I'm going to do what I've been doing," he said at a news conference in Boston. "I have tremendous support. I feel very strongly as if the early efforts of my campaign are taking hold."

A poll this month showed Gore statistically even with Kerry among potential voters in New Hampshire, which traditionally holds the nation's first primary.

The poll by the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion, with a margin of error of 5 percentage points, showed Gore favored by 31 percent to Kerry's 28 percent. Among others, only Lieberman was in double digits with 10 percent.

Kerry, who has formed an exploratory committee, wouldn't speculate whether Gore's withdrawal makes him the front-runner.

INTERNATIONAL



Police fire tear gas, rubber bullets to clear blockades

BY ALEXANDRA OLSON
Associated Press Writer

CARACAS, Venezuela — Police fired tear gas to scatter opponents of President Hugo Chavez who were blockading highways around this capital Monday as part of a 2-week-old strike. The protesters fought back with rocks and debris.

Acrid clouds of tear gas wafted through the air as the heavily armed police dispersed the demonstrators at an intersection on Andres Bello Avenue in central Caracas. Some of the officers fired shots at buildings where protesters had been hurling objects at them.

The confrontation marked a deepening of the crisis surrounding the strike, which was called by labor and business leaders bent on forcing Chavez from office.

Protesters tried to choke off traffic routes in other locations around the country, using rocks, tree branches and flaming tires.

In southern Caracas, police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at midday, dispersing rival bands of rock-throwing demonstrators at an opposition barricade on the Prados del Este highway, a key artery.

An Associated Press reporter on the scene said about 500 opposition demonstrators and 100 Chavez supporters squared off across the median strip of the six-lane highway. As tear gas canisters exploded overhead, some demonstrators crouched under cars and Chavez supporters ran down the highway.

"The government will fall, the government is going to fall!" anti-Chavez demonstrators chanted gleefully before the violence erupted.

The new round of protests came after a weekend opposition rally that drew about 1 million people.

Chavez, who twice won elections but stands accused of misrule and running the economy into the ground, dismissed a call by the United States for early elections, saying such a step would violate Venezuela's constitution.

"Venezuela cannot permit any country's attempt to influence domestic affairs," Chavez said in a regular weekend broadcast, clutching a miniature copy of Venezuela's constitution. "No country can allow that. Venezuela is a sovereign nation and has its constitution and its laws."

Chavez made no mention of the weekend rally, the opposition's biggest show of strength since the strike began Dec. 2.

The strike has led to gasoline shortages, panic buying and shuttered shops, but Chavez has seemed unfazed in his televised appearances.

"The only thing we ask of you is to call elections now," strike leader Carlos Ortega, the president of Venezuela's largest labor confederation, said in televised comments directed at Chavez. "But you are not a democrat. You do not want elections. What you want is confrontation and violence."

Anger over Chavez's leadership has been building since before an April coup attempt that knocked the president from power for two days.



Esteban Felix/Associated Press

Venezuelan police officers form a line between opposition demonstrators, left, and supporters of President Hugo Chavez, not in photo, on a highway in Caracas, Venezuela on Monday. The police sought to keep an edgy peace by separating rival bands on the Prados del Este highway. The key artery on the south side of the capital had been blocked by the cars of opposition protesters bent on ousting the embattled president.

**"The only thing we ask of
(Hugo Chavez) is to call elections
now. But (he is) not a democrat.
(He does) not want elections.
What you want is confrontation
and violence."**

— CARLOS ORTEGA,
President of Venezuela's largest labor confederation

The president's critics blame his leftist policies for an unraveling economy that shrank 6.4 percent in the first nine months of this year. The jobless rate now hovers at 17 percent and inflation is expected to top 30 percent for the year.

He has been accused of polarizing the South American nation with his fiery leftist rhetoric.

Chavez says his adversaries are to blame for the recession, which he calls an "economic coup."

On Sunday, soldiers with rifles boarded a striking oil tanker and brought in a new crew.

The tanker Pilin Leon, carrying 9.6 million gallons of gasoline, has been idle for almost two weeks on western Venezuela's Lake Maracaibo.

North Korea escalates rhetoric, pressures U.S. to sign pact

BY PAUL SHIN
Associated Press Writer

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said Monday that the signing of a nonaggression treaty with the United States is the only way to prevent a war on the Korean Peninsula.

North Korea has repeatedly requested the nonaggression pact, but Washington has ruled out talks with North Korea unless it abandons its nuclear ambitions. Monday's remarks were similar to anti-U.S. rhetoric often issued by the communist country's state media.

Raising fears of a crisis along the world's last Cold War frontier, North Korea said last week it will reactivate plutonium-based nuclear facilities that U.S. officials believe could be used to make weapons.

"Now the situation of the Korean Peninsula is on the verge of war," North Korea's official newspaper, Rodong Sinmun, said in a report carried by the state news agency, KCNA.

"The only way to prevent a catastrophic crisis of a war ... is to conclude a nonaggression treaty between North Korea and the U.S. at an early date," it said.

South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, whose policy of trying to engage North Korea is under pressure because of the nuclear issue, appealed for a peaceful solution through dialogue.

"We oppose North Korea's possession of nuclear weapons but the issue should not be resolved through a war or by strengthening a Cold War system," Kim said at a lunch with military commanders.

Also Monday, the North accused the United States of blocking food aid after its announcement to reactivate nuclear facilities frozen under a 1994 agreement with Washington.

"The United States has so far claimed that aid to (North Korea) had nothing to do with the 'nuclear issue,'" a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said in another KCNA report.

"But ... even (U.S.) government officials are openly

asserting that it cannot give aid to the DPRK unless it meets such unreasonable conditions including the 'opening of the whole country,'" the unidentified spokesman said, referring to the North by its official name — the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Washington said earlier this month that its future food aid to North Korea will be linked to the communist country's willingness to open more of its territory to international workers to monitor distribution.

U.S. officials insist the new conditions on food deliveries are not connected with the nuclear issue.

With its economy in shambles, North Korea has depended on outside aid since 1995 to feed its 22 million people. The United States donates food through the U.N. World Food Program.

International aid workers complain that they are denied access to large areas of the country. Some suspect that outside food might be diverted to the North's military. The North denies it.

**Can't find the Daily Press in your neighborhood?
Call us. We'll take your suggestions.**

(310) 458-PRESS (7737)



SPORTS

Tennessee Titans over New England Patriots, 27-7

BY JIMMY GOLEN

AP Sports Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Titans can cancel practice: Steve McNair doesn't need it.

Playing for the third consecutive week without a full practice, McNair ran for two touchdowns Monday night and the Titans beat the New England Patriots 24-7 to move into a tie for the best record in the AFC.

Eddie George ran for 101 yards, Robert Holcombe had 85 and Jevon Kearse made an emotional return for the Titans (9-5). Holcombe also forced and recovered a fumble to turn an interception by the Patriots (8-6) into a first down and help set up McNair's second TD.

McNair, who injured his ribs in a Nov. 24 loss to Baltimore, has taken part in just one drill since then — a 7-on-7 session on Friday. But Tennessee has won three straight games in spite of it, and eight of nine.

The streak has erased a 1-4 start and propelled the

Titans into a first-place tie in the AFC South; they hold the tie-breaking edge over Indianapolis. Tennessee also moved into a four-way tie in the race for home-field advantage in the AFC playoffs.

New England dropped into second place in the AFC East, a game behind Miami. The Patriots, who had won three in a row and five of six, could still win the division with victories over the New York Jets next week and the Dolphins in the season finale.

Tom Brady went 14-for-29 for 134 yards and ran for a touchdown, scoring from 10 yards out on a quick-snap sneak and running through the wide open middle to make it 14-7 early in the third quarter. It was Brady's second career rushing touchdown, and his first in the regular season.

But Brady also threw an interception that deflected off David Patten. Safety Rich Coady waited for it to come down, then ran 24 yards to the end zone to give the Titans a 21-7 lead.

McNair was 11-of-24 for 136 yards and an intercep-

tion that didn't hurt him, because Holcombe stripped the ball from Terrell Buckley on the return and fell on it to give the Titans a first down.

Instead of the Patriots having the ball at the Tennessee 42 with a chance to tie the game early, the Titans drove to the 1 before McNair punched it over to make it 14-0.

McNair gave Tennessee a 7-0 lead early in the second quarter when he scrambled out of a collapsing pocket up the middle, slipping out of one tackle before he was crunched — too late — by two Patriots at the goal line.

Kearse hadn't played since breaking his left foot on the second play of the season opener. Before the game, the Titans introduced the defensive starters to give the fans a chance to applaud the "Freak," and he took advantage of the opportunity to ham it up.

Limping out of the tunnel, he took off his helmet and dropped to his knees to soak up the cheers, thrusting his hands up in the air. With that, he got back up and ran full-speed through the row of teammates as they welcomed him back.

Winter meetings: Alfonzo signs \$26M deal with Giants

BY JOSH DUBOW

AP Sports Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Days of talking finally turned into dealing at the winter meetings.

After an agonizingly slow start to baseball's annual swap meet, Edgardo Alfonzo signed with the San Francisco Giants, four trades were made, and the Montreal Expos closed in on finding a destination for Bartolo Colon.

In Sunday's biggest move, Alfonzo agreed to a \$26 million, four-year contract with the Giants. Early Monday, The New York Mets agreed to a \$9 million, three-year deal with left-handed reliever Mike Stanton, who helped the Yankees win

three World Series.

A four-team trade sent Erubiel Durazo from Arizona to Oakland, pitcher Elmer Dessens from Cincinnati to the Diamondbacks, shortstop Felipe Lopez from Toronto to the Reds, and a player to be named to the Blue Jays.

Boston acquired Jeremy Giambi from Philadelphia for pitcher Josh Hancock; Tampa Bay got Rey Ordonez from the New York Mets for two players to be named; and St. Louis received Brett Tomko from San Diego for Luther Hackman in a swap of right-handed pitchers.

The biggest potential deal would have payroll-slashing Montreal trading 20-game winner Colon to either Boston or

the New York Yankees.

A trade involving Colon would have major ramifications in the AL East race. It also possibly could end Roger Clemens' tenure in New York and lead to his return to Boston.

Expos general manager Omar Minaya, under orders from the commissioner's office to keep his team's payroll at about \$40 million, has become the central figure in the meetings.

In exchange for Colon, Minaya asked the Yankees for pitcher Orlando Hernandez, first baseman Nick Johnson, outfielder Juan Rivera, another prospect and money to pay Hernandez's salary, a baseball official said on the condition of anonymity.

Minaya asked Boston for pitcher Casey Fossum, third baseman Shea Hillenbrand and another player, according to a second baseball official.

If the Yankees obtain Colon, they would cut off negotiations with Clemens. The six-time Cy Young Award winner, who is 40, is seven wins shy of 300 and wants to stay with New York.

Clemens, 13-6 with a 4.35 ERA last year, also could be interested in rejoining Boston, his team from 1984-96, or the Mets, a team he has feuded with since beaming Mike Piazza more than two years ago.

Alfonzo's signing could signal the departure of former NL MVP Jeff Kent. The Giants already have signed free-agent second baseman Ray Durham, but it's possible Durham could be put in the outfield with Kent remaining at second.

"I'm not used to this — acquiring players. Now I have to wait for more," joked

new Giants manager Felipe Alou, who spent years watching his stars depart cash-starved Montreal.

The Mets accomplished two of their goals of the meetings, trading Ordonez and signing Stanton to replace Mark Guthrie. Stanton, who spent the past six years with the Yankees, went 7-1 with a 3.00 ERA and six saves in 79 games this year, and became an All-Star for the first time.

Ordonez spent seven years with the Mets, earning three Gold Gloves. New York, which will pay about \$4.5 million of Ordonez's \$6.25 million salary, soured on him last season, as his usual offensive struggles were joined by inconsistent fielding.

Oakland spent a long time putting a deal together to obtain Durazo, likely to be a designated hitter and the backup to first baseman Scott Hatteberg.

Durazo, 28, hit .261 last season with 16 homers and 48 RBIs in 222 at-bats, missing time with injuries.

Lopez, 22, batted .227 with eight homers and 34 RBIs. Dessens, a 30-year-old right-hander, went 7-8 with a 3.03 ERA in 30 starts.

He fits into the rotation behind co-aces Curt Schilling and Randy Johnson.

Giambi will have a chance to be Boston's regular first baseman. If not, he will fill a hole at DH and possibly help out in left field.

Free agent shortstop Deivi Cruz agreed to a one-year contract with Baltimore, while Pittsburgh reached a preliminary agreement with outfielder Matt Stairs on a one-year deal worth \$900,000.

Bat boy age to be at least 14

BY JOSH DUBOW

AP Sports Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Darren Baker will have to wait even longer than he thought to get back into the dugout as a bat boy.

Commissioner Bud Selig will issue an edict next month requiring bat boys to be at least 14 years old. That comes in response to the near-accident at home plate in the World Series involving Darren Baker, the 3-year-old son of former San Francisco Giants manager Dusty Baker.

"The minimum age for bat boys will be either 14 or 16 years old," Sandy Alderson, the executive vice president for baseball operations in the commissioner's office, said Monday. "The commissioner will make that ruling."

At last month's general managers meetings, Alderson said he expected the

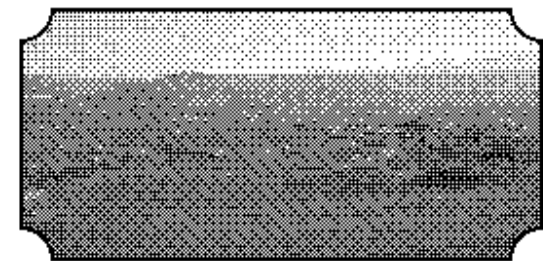
minimum age to be at least "double digits." But after looking at labor laws and discussing the issue with the GMs at the winter meetings, he said the age would be higher.

Selig is expected to announce his decision at the owners meetings in Scottsdale, Ariz., on Jan. 15-16.

While Dusty Baker left San Francisco to become the Chicago Cubs' manager, the Giants still have several young bat boys who are the sons of players, and Baker hoped to have his son be a bat boy for the Cubs.

During Game 5 of the World Series, Darren Baker wandered into a play at the plate and almost got run over before J.T. Snow scooped him up.

Darren Baker was allowed to work the last two games of the Series, but Selig decided he would change the rule for next season.



Enhance your Golf Experience at Tierra Rejada Golf Club

In the rolling foothills of Eastern Ventura County, internationally recognized golf course architect Robert Cupper created a true masterpiece of playability and scenic beauty. Tierra Rejada Golf Club boasts:

- Par 72 championship golf course
- Impeccable presentation and conditioning.
- The latest in golf merchandise and apparel.
- World class food and beverage in TJ's Grille,
 - Personalized service.
 - Attention to detail and
- Absolutely spectacular views from every location on the golf course.

At Tierra Rejada our commitment is to "give you so many different ways you will have to enjoy at least three or four of them."

For additional information regarding our members and special event planning and scheduling, Annual Play Programs or ongoing promotions, contact Marketing and Sales Director Lisa Hubler at (805) 531-9300. Ext. 416



***Easy 40-Minute Freeway Accessible Drive from the Westside.**

15187 Tierra Rejada Road, Moorpark, CA 91351

Phone: (805) 531-9300, Fax: (805) 531-9303

www.tierrarejada.com

COMICS



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Lukewarm
 - 2 Business fair
 - 3 Actor Brad
 - 4 Alliter words
 - 5 Tyrant
 - 6 Breakfast choice
 - 7 Edge
 - 8 Alley
 - 9 Formerly
 - 10 Tennis legend
 - 11 Spot
 - 12 Photographer Walker
 - 13 Adequate
 - 14 Cal's mom
 - 15 Billy setting
 - 16 Not in any way
 - 17 Utah aid
 - 18 Marketing point
 - 19 Entry form
 - 20 London weather
 - 21 Fund
 - 22 Choice
 - 23 "Town"
 - 24 Violinist's need
 - 25 Practical
 - 26 "The Waste Land" writer
 - 27 Flooring material
 - 28 Transmute
 - 29 Morise partner
- DOWN**
- 1 See the signs
 - 2 Gear part
 - 3 Greedy
 - 4 Cloud
 - 5 Gummy
 - 6 Cornie
 - 7 actor Don
 - 8 Deer home
 - 9 Twosome
 - 10 Keels
 - 11 Tacit okay
 - 12 Pub brew



Yesterday's answer

35 Barber symbol

36 Pollux, for one

38 Muffin type

39 Director

40 A question of time

42 Tacit okay

43 Pub brew

edge city by TERRY & PATTY LEBAN



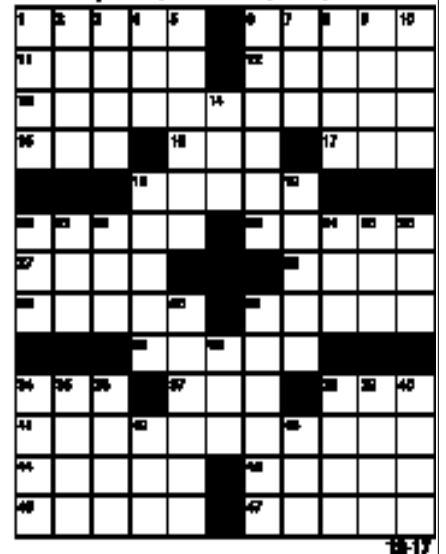
Reality Check® By Dave Whammond



Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



NEW CROSSWORD BOOKS! Word (4.95) (puzzle) by Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 53475, Orlando, FL 32854-0475



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-328-3168 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only) A King Features service, NYC.



NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Officials warn students to quit cheap high

■ Officials at Somerville (N.J.) High School warned students in October to stop trying to get high by choking each other into unconsciousness. (With the so-called "California Knockout," a student holds his breath for 10 seconds to get light-headed, after which a pal squeezes his neck to put him out.)

■ And University of Pennsylvania researchers found that the average price of a black-market human kidney in India has dropped (despite insufficient supply) from the equivalent of (U.S.) \$1,603 to \$975, suggesting that wealthier, kidney-needing people have learned how to put the squeeze on impoverished donors.

NO ARTIFICIAL FLAVORS, COLORS OR PRESERVATIVES ADDED. NEVER PROCESSED, PICKED FRESH DAILY. 100% ORGANIC NEWS ...

Santa Monica Daily Press

310.458.7737
Fax: 310.576.9913



CLASSIFIEDS

Sell those old skis. Classifieds for \$2.50 per day.

up to 15 words, 20 cents each additional word
call 310-458-7737 and sell your old sporting goods to someone who will actually use them.

Creative

Artist Brainstorm Sessions: Experimenting, new media, clarifying ideas, distribution of your art.

Creative Braintrust
(310)452-0851.

Employment

EXPERIENCED TELEMARKETERS ONLY
Needed to set appointments for salvage pickup for non-profit organization. Work at home. Potential \$400 per week. Call (310)753-4909.

FUNDING COORDINATOR

Dynamic individual needed for established co. to direct school funding programs. Help PTA's, teachers, coaches, students. 1st yr. \$38-46k (813)782-9112

PART-TIME BARTENDER WANTED

for local SM sports bar. Please contact Craig @ (310) 908-8445

PART-TIME REAL Estate. \$12 to \$25 per hour. Santa Monica. See details and apply at www.nsreal.com.

TEACHER NEEDED: Topanga Co-op preschool. Design, direct, expanded classes and toddler programs. Must be credentialed. Begin now. Flex hours. E-mail resume to: ces9801@hotmail.com. Cessile (310)455-9801. Join our fun!

THE SANTA Monica Daily Press is looking for Advertising Account Executives. Print advertising and consultative/solution based selling experience a plus. E-mail resume and cover letter to Ross at ross@smddp.com or fax it to (310) 576-9913

For Sale

50'S WESTWOOD Stove, 50" width. Oven, broiler, and grill. With shelf, clock and timer. White. Original owner. Immaculate. \$2500.00 or best offer. (310)273-7272

Furniture

SOLID PINE Sleighbed. Queen-size, hdbdr/ tbrdr/ frame. Mint condition, beautiful piece. \$450.00 Great deal! Brooke @ (310)203-8005

TWO HAND painted armoire's, baby furniture, table, clothes and other furniture items. (310)471-1499

Wanted

CASH FOR ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, ESTATE JEWELRY, DISHES, PHOTOS, X-MAS DECORATIONS. 40 YRS. OR OLDER BUYING ESTATES OR ONE ITEM.
(310)393-1111

PARKING or SPACE for Modern MOTORHOME WANTED on vacant land or beside residence. With or without utilities. Santa Monica/Malibu close. Writer/Mediator/Philosopher. Age 59. Code 4567. Pager (323)433-4848. E-mail: zenawake@yahoo.com.

For Rent

BEVERLYWOOD ADJACENT \$1050.00 Large 2bdrm/1ba upper front unit w/lots of natural light in 12 unit building. Fresh paint and carpet. 1 car off street parking. Laundry in building. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443, ext. 102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

SM NEW Town Homes! 3 + 2.5. All appliances, W/D included. 2 parking spaces. Security building. \$2950 to \$3250 (310)261-2093.

For Rent

BEVERLYWOOD ADJACENT \$525.00 Bachelor in quaint smaller building. Fresh paint and carpet. Lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

BRENTWOOD 2BD/BA \$1250.00 New paint and carpet, free laundry, 2 parking spaces, electricity /gas incld, pets OK. 822-1/2 Wellesly h(310)820-0038 w(310)938-6046

FABULOUS, REMODELED, Resort style condo, 1bdrm/1ba, ocean, mountain views. Security building, all appliances included. Available immediately. \$2,300 Call (310)230-3700.

MARINA PENINSULA 2bdrm/2ba, 2 car parking on quiet street. Amazing views. Steps to beach, shopping & restaurants. New paint and carpet, fireplace, dishwasher, stove. 2 units available. \$1,495.00 to \$2,395. (310) 396-4443 x102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

MDR ADJACENT \$1395.00 2+2, fireplace, dishwasher, stove, large private patio, new paint & carpet in newer gated building w/gated, subterranean parking, AC, quiet neighborhood, laundry room. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)578-9729.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

MDR ADJACENT \$610.00 Large single upper with private balcony. Full kitchen with gas range and 2-door frost-free refrigerator. Very light, freshly painted, no pets. (310)828-4481.

MDR ADJACENT \$825.00 Gated building with gated, subterranean parking. Newer building with courtyard area, quiet neighborhood. Laundry room, parking, 1 year lease, no pets. (310)578-9729

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

NEW STUDIO Apartments available from \$1295.00 to \$1355.00. Six blocks from the beach. Three blocks from Third St. Promenade area! (310)656-0311. www.breezesuites.com

SANTA MONICA \$1350 Roomy 2bdrm/1ba lower. 19th near SM Blvd. Large private patio. Attractive 6-unit building. Redecorated, new carpets. Appliances incl., gas range, 2-door refrig., dishwasher. Consider small pet. (310)828-2002.

SANTA MONICA \$550 Bachelor, pet ok, utilities included, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$567 Bachelor, refrigerator, stove, 1 block to Promenade, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$695 Bachelor, neat beach, laundry, utilities included. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$725 Studio, refrigerator, stove, utilities included, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$775 1bdrm/1ba. Refrigerator, stove, patio, yard, laundry. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$775 Studio, pet ok, refrigerator, stove, hardwood floors, yard, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$900 1bdrm/1ba. Pet ok, laundry, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

VENICE \$895.00 1bdrm/1ba w/garden views and parking. Hardwood floors, new paint. 1 year lease. No pets. (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE \$995.00 2bdrm/1ba Bright & airy. Quiet upper unit w/new carpet and paint. 2 car parking off street. Close to beach/shops/restaurants. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH \$1050.00 Large 1bdrm/1ba w/ new paint, carpet and 1 car parking off street. Close to beach and restaurants. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)577-0206.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH \$1495.00 1bd/1ba with ocean view. Very sunny apartment, fireplace, dishwasher, stove, 2 balconies, 1 car garage. 1 year lease, no pets. (310) 396-4443x102

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH \$850.00 Single w/lots of charm and original hardwood floors. 1 block from the beach. Close to shopping and restaurants. 1 year lease, no pets, paid parking available. (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

For Rent

VENICE BEACH \$945.00 1bdrm/1ba, Douglas Fir floors, bright and airy, 1/2 block to beach, all utilities paid, 1 year lease, no pets. (310) 396-4443 x102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

VENICE BEACH \$2,400.00 Residential loft, completely renovated. 1bdrm/2ba, oakwood floors, high ceilings, rooftop patio, balcony, 2 car parking, lots of windows, lots of storage. Great looking unit. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 x102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

W. LA \$900.00 Extra large 1bdrm/1ba w/garden view. Great centralized location and private parking. Laundry room, carpet, private entry. 1 year lease, no pets. (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

Houses For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$100 Guest house, pet ok, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$795 Guest house, refrigerator, stove, carpet, utilities included, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

SANTA MONICA \$850 Guest Room, N. of Wilshire, utilities included, parking. Westside Rentals 395-RENT.

VENICE CANALS House \$3,250 3bdrm/2ba, 2 car garage, canal front patios and views, fireplace. Great location! Repainted inside and out, new carpet downstairs, new wood trim, new garage door, new deck, new windows. 1 year lease. No pets. (310)396-4443 ext. 102.

Elly Nesis Company, Inc.
www.ellynesis.com

Roommates

S.M. SHARE 2bdrm furnished apt. 9th & Wilshire. \$2200.00 a month, You pay only \$675.00!! (310)394-1050.

SANTA MONICA \$1200.00 Spectacular three story house, prvt. bedroom/bathroom. Ocean views, skylights, high ceilings, balconies, quiet. (310)403-6959

VENICE \$900.00 plus utilities. House to share. Room plus bath. Pets ok, yard, garage. (310)980-7075.

Commercial Lease

SANTA MONICA office units available. Some with Ocean view. 1318-1322 2nd St. Parking available. RTH Management Co. (949)946-1430.

Real Estate Loans

0% REFINANCING through small town company with competent, honest broker and low overhead. Local contact. (310)260-9140.

Storage Space

GARAGE FOR Rent. Car or storage. Central Santa Monica location. \$150/mo. (310)828-6621

GARAGE WANTED! 2-car street entrance. W. Los Angeles, Santa Monica. \$200.00 (310)442-9595.

Massage

BLISSFUL RELAXATION! Heal your body, mind, spirit. Therapeutic, Swedish, Deep-tissue, energy balancing, non-sexual. Introductory specials from \$45.00/hr. In/out. Lynda, L.M.T. (310)749-0621

REVITALIZE & Rejuvenate. Body, Mind & Spirit with a therapeutic Swedish/Deep-tissue massage. Laura (310)394-2923 (310)569-0883.

STRONG & SOOTHING deep-tissue massage. Near Promenade. Intro: \$35/90min. Paul: (310)741-1901.

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE, Swedish, Accupressure, Deep-tissue, Sports Massage, Reflexology. For apt call Tracy at (310)435-0657.

Services

HOUSE CLEANING Janet's at Your Service! House, yards, garage. Parties w/hot dog cart! (310)367-5436 (818)545-8914

HOUSE CLEANING - Available 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Windows, laundry, general house cleaning. References available. Responsible. Reasonable prices. Call Lalo (310) 313-0848.

MATH TUTORING in your four home any levels, ages, SAT preparation. Good experience. Nina (818)785-8579

PROFESSIONAL, RELIABLE Female Bartender for your private parties. House-sitting/ house-cleaning services also offered. Jill (310)582-1120.

Attorney Services

SPIRITUAL ATTORNEY Conscious caring help. 32 years experience. Low cost: Divorce, Support, Criminal, Business. (310)837-0801.

Classified Advertising Conditions : **REGULAR RATE:** \$2.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. **PREMIUMS:** First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. **TYPOS:** Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. **DEADLINES:** 4:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 4:00 p.m. **PAYMENT:** All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. **CORRESPONDENCE:** To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310)458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. 202. **OTHER RATES:** For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310)458-7737.

CLASSIFIEDS



Be in the middle of it all!

Professional office space available on the Third Street Promenade.



950 square feet of office space conveniently located downtown, a walk away from shops, restaurants and the beach. Bright office space with high ceilings, natural light, two large private offices and a spacious reception area. Quiet location with a shared kitchen. New paint and carpet. Parking. Available now.

Call (310) 458-7737 ext. 104

SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2002

TODAY'S EVENTS

The annual Santa Monica Nativity Scenes is on display at Palisades Park along Ocean Avenue near Arizona. The 14 lighted scenes with life-size figures depicting events surrounding Christ's birth will remain on display through January 1. For more information please call (310) 453-4445.

Toddler Time, 10 a.m. Barnes & Noble at the Promenade and Wilshire. (310)260-9110.

Dodd Art Gallery showing Dafne Nesti "Paintings" and Dodd Jolsapple "New Works". Nov. 17th through Dec. 16th, 5pm to 8pm, 1650 20th Street, Santa Monica. For more information please call (310) 828-5825.

Santa Monica Strutters, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica.

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Harvelle's Blues Club present Sports Happy Hour, 5pm to 8pm. 100 inch movie screen with high definition LCD projector, JBL surround sound, drink specials, \$3.00 Happy Hour Buffet. 1432 4th Street. Between Broadway and Santa Monica Blvd. (310)395-1676

Conversations with God study group in Santa Monica every Monday night 7-8:30 pm, sequentially exploring and implementing the concepts of the "with God" books authored by Neale Donald Walsch. Meets in an ocean front condominium, donation \$5. For further information call Grant at (310) 399-8982.

Unurban Coffee House presents Hot Topics Night hosted by Ali every Monday evening. Signup is at 8pm. Open panel discussion and open forum. 3301 Pico Blvd. (310)315-0056

TUESDAY

The annual Santa Monica Nativity Scenes is on display at Palisades Park along Ocean Avenue near Arizona. The 14 lighted scenes with life-size figures depicting events surrounding Christ's birth will remain on display through January 1. For more information please call (310) 453-4445.

Ongoing support groups for people 55 and older. Current openings in, So, What Are You Going to Do With the Rest of your Life? Tuesdays, 10:00 to 11:30am. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS AT SMC'S EMERITUS COLLEGE. Santa Monica College offers free bereavement support groups in the summer session through it's Emeritus College, a widely praised program designed for older adults. Two support groups will meet Tuesdays on an ongoing basis. One group will meet from noon to 1:50 p.m. and the other from 7 p.m. to 8:50 p.m. For information and registration, call Emeritus College at (310) 434-4306.

Crossroads Schools in Santa Monica invites local musicians (grades 3-7) to join orchestra rehearsals. Rehearsals are ongoing and are held each Tuesday of the school year, from 3:15 to 4:15. Students may join at anytime. Cost is free, students must bring their own instruments. 1714 21st Street, SM. For more information please call (310)829-7391

Santa Monica College Emeritus College Band invites adult musicians who play a band instrument to join the band. Rehearsals are held each Tuesday evening in the Band room at Lincoln Middle School, 14th and California Streets from 7pm to 9:15pm. Concerts are given during the year. For more information call (310)474-5271.

MOVIE °GUIDE

LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY CINEMA

1441 Third St. at Broadway
Empire (R) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00. **Solaris** (2002) (PG-13) 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30. **About Schmidt** (R) 12:15, 1:15, 3:15, 4:15, 6:15, 7:15, 9:15, 10:15

MANN CRITERION

1313 Third St.
The Ring (PG-13) 12:45, 3:45. **Punch-Drunk Love** (R) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:30. **Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets** (PG) 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:45. **Extreme Ops** (NR) 12:15, 10:05. **Friday After Next** (R) 2:45, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30. **Adaptation** (R) 11:00, 12:30, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:15, 8:00, 10:15, 11:00.

AMC THEATRE SM 7

1310 3rd Street
Analyze That (R) 11:15, 1:40, 4:20, 7:30, 10:00. **Die Another Day** (PG-13) 12:45, 4:10, 7:20, 10:25. **Drumline** (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45. **Maid in Manhattan** (PG-13) 11:30, 1:20, 2:15, 4:05, 5:15, 7:10, 8:00, 9:50, 10:35. **Star Trek: Nemesis** (PG-13) 11:00, 11:45, 1:50, 2:35, 4:45, 5:30, 7:45, 8:30, 10:40, 11:30.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd.
Bowling for Columbine (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7:30, 10:15. **Far From Heaven** (PG-13) 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30.

LAEMMLE MONICA

1332 2nd St.
Real Women Have Curves (PG-13) 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00. **Rabbit-Proof Fence** (PG) 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55. **Frida** (R) 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:05. **Evelyn** (PG) 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15.

AERO THEATRE

1328 Montana Ave.
Bloody Sunday 5:00 **Secretary** 7:30, 10:00



BACK PAGE



Wheelchair speeders beware

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Wheelchairs users beware: You could be ticketed for speeding at Valley College.

Campus officials recently set a speed limit of 4 mph for wheelchairs, hoping to keep pedestrians from being hurt.

"It's a safety issue, pure and simple," said Tom Jacobsmeier, vice president of administration, who proposed the regulation after seeing a student nearly hit by a woman "going very fast" in a wheelchair.

Some students find the regulation absurd.

"It's like a bad joke," said Lynn Eller, one of several students who use a wheelchair or electric cart on campus. "People who aren't disabled should be warned to be considerate of wheelchair users."

Campus officials said last week they will warn offenders at first, but chronic violators could be cited, suspended or expelled.

Imposter Santa steals pain killers

By The Associated Press

CHESTER, Va. — Police are looking for a man with a familiar description who robbed a drug store at gunpoint: long white hair and beard, a white-fur-trimmed

red suit and hat, black boots, prominent belly.

Police Capt. Mike Spraker said the Santa Claus lookalike obtained an undisclosed amount of the painkiller OxyContin from the Eckerd Drug Store in Chester on Saturday night.

"An individual dressed as Santa — beard, hat, the whole works — just walked to the back of the store to the pharmacist, displayed his weapon and asked for the OxyContin," he said.

Spraker said the robber fled on foot. A canine unit tracked his trail to the parking lot of a nearby apartment complex, where police believe he got into a car and drove away.

"No reindeer or sleds were observed in the area," said Spraker, who said he wanted any children hearing about the incident to know "we immediately contacted the North Pole and verified Santa was there. This Santa was definitely an imposter."

Thief atones for taking coin collection

By The Associated Press

CARTERET, N.J. — A man whose coin collection was stolen 20 years ago has received a \$400 money order from the remorseful thief, who wrote in an anonymous letter that he was sorry for his youthful misdeeds.

Vincent Calabria, 73, of Carteret, said he didn't even know the coin collection was stolen, but was pleasantly surprised to receive the letter after so many years.

"I think it's a message from God that not everyone is bad or loused up," Calabria said last week. "There are good people, and there are people that have made mistakes and feel the need to atone."

The letter-writer wrote that he felt guilty about stealing the coins, which he found in Calabria's garage when nobody was home.

"I have grown up to be a good father and churchgoing man," the person wrote. "I know this money will never undo the pain I caused you, but I truly hope it will restore a small piece of your faith in humanity."

Calabria, a retired grandfather of five, said he had thought he simply hid the coins so well that he couldn't find them. He said the collection of coins was almost certainly worth less than \$400.

Women re-take Catholic college

By The Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Picking out Barry Good at graduation ceremonies for the College of St. Mary wasn't hard to do. He was the only man in a cap and gown.

Good was not just the only man collecting a degree during the Saturday commencement in Omaha, he is the last man to graduate from the Roman Catholic women's college.

Good, an applications engineer, did not stand out as much in 1993 when he embarked on his degree at the college's Lincoln program. Back then, the college was accepting male students as well as women.

The college broke with its all-women history in the early 1980s, after accepting a federal grant to buy equipment for its nursing school. But in 1994, when the grant's nondiscrimination requirements no longer applied, the board voted to revert to accepting only women.

Existing male students were allowed to stay on until graduation. The others eventually finished or dropped out. Only Good remained.

Good never considered dropping out, even as his classes became increasingly more female-dominated.

"I just tried to sit in the background and blend in, tried not to make any waves," he said.

DID YOU KNOW?: Mercedes cars are named after an Austrian girl.

3 NEW Ways To Live, Love, Eat!



Weekend Breakfast

every Saturday and Sunday from 8am to 11am. All of your favorites, Wolfgang style!



Happy Hour

Monday through Friday from 4pm to 1pm. Selected Wines, Beers and Appetizers only \$2.95 each!



Jazz Night Every Tuesday

From 8 until closing, the swinging Gregory Alper Jazz Quartet plays LIVE. No Cover.

WOLFGANG-PUCK CAFE

1

One FREE Breakfast Entree

with the purchase of another breakfast entree of equal or greater value. One coupon per guest. Not valid with any other offer. Offer does not include tax or tip. Only valid at Wolfgang Puck Cafe - Montana Avenue location. Expires 12/31/02

2

One FREE Bar Appetizer

with the purchase of any beverage during Happy Hour, Monday-Friday. One coupon per guest. Not valid with any other offer. Offer does not include tax or tip. Only valid at Wolfgang Puck Cafe - Montana Avenue location. Expires 12/31/02

3

One FREE Dessert on Jazz Night

during January Jazz Night hours. No purchase necessary. One coupon per guest. Not valid with any other offer. Offer does not include tax or tip. Only valid at Wolfgang Puck Cafe - Montana Avenue location. Expires 12/31/02

1313 Montana Avenue, Santa Monica (310) 393-0290

hiring guarantee!

***Run an ad in the classified section of the Santa Monica Daily Press for 4 weeks and we'll guarantee that you'll find the perfect employee.**

***We guarantee that if you don't find the right employee after 24 days, we'll run your ad until you do at no additional cost. Classifieds are \$2.50 a day up to 15 words, 20¢ per word thereafter. Call for more details (310) 458-7737.**

Santa Monica Daily Press