FREE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2001

Volume 1, Issue 36

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Volunteers wrap thousands of packages on the Third Street Promenade Sunday, with benefits going to the Westside Special Olympics.

SM airport safety an issue in Washington

Congressman goes to bat for airport neighbors

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Last month's plane crash at Santa Monica Airport has gotten the attention of Congressman Henry Waxman, who has urged the Federal Aviation Administration to make the airport safer for area residents.

Waxman wrote a letter to the FAA last month expressing his concern over the length of useable runway space and how that could translate into larger jets coming in and out of the airport.

The FAA is proposing that the airport could use more of its runway space, which would permit big business jets to take off and land. But residents in the area want the runways to be shortened at both ends, creating a buffer zone.

"It concerns us greatly because there isn't a buffer zone there even now," said Caroline Denyer, a resident who lives near the airport.

Residents in the area asked for an airport safety review after a Cessna 340A skidded off the runway and burst into flames Nov. 13, killing both aboard. Some of the residents live only 220 feet away and are worried that larger planes would bring a new level of threat to their homes.

"Since the accident, I cringe every time a jet goes over head," said Ellen Mark, who lives three houses from the western end of the runway. "It is frightening to think what would have happened if that accident would have been a jet instead of a prop plane."

"Since the accident, I cringe every time a jet goes over head. It is frightening to think what would have happened if that accident would have been a jet instead of a prop plane."

— ELLEN MARK
Airport neighbor

The proposed rule change would lesson the access restrictions currently in place for charter companies and allow fractional share companies to operate under general aviation regula-

See AIRPORT, page 3

Identity of bomb-wearing passenger remains unclear

BY JAY LINDSAY
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON — Preliminary FBI tests found explosives in the sneakers that a passenger tried to ignite aboard a Boeing 767 jetliner, and the man was charged Sunday with the federal crime of assaulting a flight crew.

His identity remained unclear. He was listed in court papers Sunday as Richard C. Reid, the name on his British passport. French authorities identified him as a Sri Lankan named Tariq Raja. In London, Scotland Yard said they believed the suspect was a British national.

Reid, 28, was charged Sunday in a federal criminal complaint with intimidation or assault of a flight crew causing interference with their duties. He faces a maximum 20 years in prison if convicted.

An initial court appearance was set Monday morning, the FBI said. Reid was being held under constant watch Sunday in a jail in Plymouth, according to Mike Seele, spokesman for the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department.

French police opened an investigation Sunday to determine how Reid eluded increased security measures at Charles de Gaulle airport outside Paris, where American Airlines Flight 63 took off Saturday.

Passengers on the flight said they had noticed the tall, ponytailed man standing alone and stone-faced before boarding.

"He had a blank look," Nicholas Green, a 27-year-old French trader, said. "The people who had seen him, remembered him."

During the flight, the suspect, who was sitting behind the wing in the coach section of the Boeing 767, tried to light a fuse protruding from one of his shoes, according to American Airlines spokesman Al Becker.

A flight attendant intervened and the 6-foot-4 suspect

See BOMBER, page 3

Ali asked to film announcement

BY DANNY POLLOCK
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — A Hollywood entertainment industry group is recruiting Muhammad Ali to film a public-service announcement explaining America's war on terrorism to Muslims around the world.

The boxer, who converted to Islam in the 1960s and refused to serve in the military when drafted during the Vietnam war, has been asked to film a one-minute spot to be aired on international networks, said Hope Boonshaft, executive vice president of external affairs for Sony Pictures Entertainment.

"He has agreed in concept," said Boonshaft, who heads the international committee of what is known as the Hollywood 9/11 group.

The organization includes studio executives, producers, directors and writers trying to aid the war

See ALI, page 3

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Let your enthusiasm speak as the moon in your sign makes you the shiniest of stars. If you're honest with yourself, you especially love the last-minute cheer and business. Remember to call someone very special to you. Bury the hatchet and reach out for someone. Tonight: Think Santa.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Step back and think about who might be forgotten in the last-minute hubbub of the holiday. Someone you know might not even have someone to celebrate with. Make an effort to draw this person closer into your family or immediate circle. Tonight: Chip in with last-minute details.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Find your friends and head out the door. Your sense of celebration goes way past your family. You express your affection to the many people that make your life so special. Last-minute actions make a big difference, whether someone lets you know how he or she feels or not. Tonight: Don't forget to leave cookies out for Santa.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Take charge where others flutter away in confusion or last-minute partying. Reach out for someone at a distance; your efforts mean everything. You remember someone, though not in your immediate family. Check in with a co-worker. Tonight: Bring others together for caroling.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Your mind might be on other things or someone at a distance. Why not make a special phone call? Reach out for others and catch up on their news. Put on some Christmas music, infusing your environment with even more holiday spirit. Tonight: Remember the real meaning of Christmas.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Someone appreciates your focus and time. Others, however, also need your attention. Reach out and invite them to a last-minute Christmas-Eve buffet. Your good humor touches a family member. Refuse to make assumptions, please. Tonight: Share a gift with a loved one.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Others dominate and make requests. You might be put out by someone who pushes his or her way into your day, perhaps dropping one more errand or responsibility on you. Allow your gentleness to shine through conversations, even the hard ones. Tonight: Let someone have his or her way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Your efforts count, don't kid yourself. Go out of your way for a family member or co-worker. Don't worry about last-minute spending, especially for someone who would otherwise feel left out. Allow your caring side to mark decisions. Tonight: Be more playful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You cannot hold back. You feel like a child at Christmas, even if you're in your 80s. A loved one or partner might enjoy teasing you about the holiday and expectations. Play along with this person. This person lets you know how he or she feels very soon. Tonight: Just smile.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Basics count right now as you do what you can to make your family more comfortable. Listen to what someone shares, or carefully realize your limits. Others reach out for you. Make calls and touch base. Your good mood cheers the masses. Tonight: Express your feelings.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Share more of yourself with someone. You might not realize just how much your contact means. Make sure someone isn't alone by inviting this person to "holiday" with you. Stop and buy several last-minute items for people that you might not have thought about. Tonight: Start the Santa errands.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your ability to pull plans and people together at the last minute helps out a loved one. You're able to take action when no one else does. Don't make judgments right now. Others are stretched to the limit. Be indulgent. Tonight: Don't worry about an 11th hour expense.

WEATHER

Today ... Sunny with a high 64°F. Winds from the North at 7mph.

Tonight ... Clear with a low of 42°F. Winds from the North northeast at 3mph.

Tomorrow ... Sunny High—63°F Low—41°F

QUOTE of the DAY

"Men who never get carried away ... ... should be."

— Malcolm Forbes

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Residents want buffer zone at end of runway

AIRPORT, from page 1

tions, instead of commercial regulations. That would allow charter companies to increase operations out of Santa Monica Airport, Waxman argues.

"This could have devastating consequences for my constituents living in the neighborhoods surrounding Santa Monica Airport," he wrote. "I am alarmed that this rule would compromise safety at the airport and dramatically increase flight traffic by large business jets without any safety evaluations, community hearings or environmental review."

The battle to make the runway shorter may be difficult for residents. Limiting the runway length would not comply with a 1984 agreement between the city of Santa Monica the Federal Aviation Administration, according to a letter from the FAA to Waxman.

"A reduction of the runway length to 4,000 feet would restrict the ability of certain types of aircraft to operate at the airport and would be contrary to the city's commitment under the agreement," wrote FAA regional administrator Will Withycombe in response to a request by Waxman last year to shorten the runway.

Residents know they have a long road ahead of them to fight the FAA, but at least they have gotten the issue all the way to the House of Representatives.

"We are really glad (Congressman Waxman) has been supportive of us," Denyer said.



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Crowds at LAX were constant for the past few days, during the holiday traveling week. Drivers are warned that if cars are left for even a second, they will be fined $800, or their cars will be towed and it will cost $1,500 to get them back.

Law enforcement officials warn of more threats

BOMBER, from page 1

resisted and bit her, authorities said.

During the flight, the suspect, who was sitting behind the wing in the coach section of the Boeing 767, lit a match, but put it in his mouth when confronted by a flight attendant, according to U.S. Attorney Michael Sullivan's office.

She told the captain and returned to see Reid with a match held to the tongue of his sneaker, then noticed a wire protruding from the shoe. She tried to grab the sneaker, but Reid allegedly pushed her to the floor, and she screamed for help.

Another flight attendant intervened and the 6-foot-4 Reid bit her, authorities said.

Passengers subdued the man, some taking off their belts to strap him into his seat, officials said. Two doctors used drugs from the airplane's medical kit to sedate him.

The plane, carrying 183 passengers and 14 crew members, was escorted to Logan International Airport by two F-15 fighter jets.

The U.S. Attorney's office in Boston said Sunday that preliminary FBI tests showed "two functional improvised explosive devices" in the man's shoes, described by a passenger as hightop sneakers.

"There will be further tests to determine exactly what he had," said a federal law enforcement official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Logan officials described the substance as consistent with the military plastic explosive C-4.

In Washington, Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, senior Republican on the Senate Intelligence Committee, said the FBI told him in a briefing Sunday there were explosives in the suspect's shoes.

"This is taken very, very seriously," Shelby said on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation." "From what I've observed, this man was trying to blow himself up, blow the plane up. Is this part of a widespread deal or is this guy acting alone? We don't know yet."

French authorities said Reid had tried to board the same flight Friday but was turned away after raising suspicions.

French police said the suspect — who also goes by a third name, Abdel Rahim — was given permission to board after intensive questioning, but by then had missed Friday's flight. He had only one small bag with him and said he was traveling to Antigua to visit relatives, police said.

A law enforcement official said in recent weeks the government had warned airlines that potential hijackers might try to smuggle weapons in their shoes, though officials wouldn't say what intelligence prompted the warning.

The Federal Aviation Administration on Sunday ordered airlines and airports to guard against passengers boarding a plane with explosives hidden in their shoes.

Security guards at airports have equipment that detects traces of explosives on carry-on baggage, and the technology can also be used to check passengers' shoes.

After Reid was taken into custody at Logan, the other passengers spent 10 hours being searched and questioned. Most later boarded another plane to Miami, which landed early Sunday.

Several passengers said Saturday's flight was routine for the first two or three hours, but then some smelled something burning — perhaps matches, perhaps plastic. Since smoking was prohibited on the flight, an attendant went to investigate.

After the confrontation with the attendants, four men pounced on Reid, passengers said, and wrestled burning materials from his hand. The men held Reid while other passengers handed over belts to tie him.

Some passengers described the rest of the flight as tense. Some people laughed at the movie, the comedy "Legally Blonde," but some wondered if there were accomplices.

"Some thought this was a terrorist attack," said Geoffrey Bessin, a New York-born software designer who lives in France. "A lot of others thought it was taken care of, and nothing bad happened, so let's go back to our movie."

Public service announcement to be aired overseas

ALI, from page 1

effort.

Final details on the content of the video have not been worked out. A final agreement is not expected until the 59-year-old Ali reviews the final concept, Boonshaft said.

Ali's spokeswoman, Jill Siegel, did not immediately return telephone messages. She told The New York Times, which first reported the Ali plan in Sunday's editions, that the ex-boxer "definitely wants to do that" but was waiting for the details of the project before making an agreement.

"Ali's name kept coming up when we considered people who are credible, well known around the world and can deliver the message that this is not a war on Islam but a war on terrorism," Boonshaft said.

The public service announcement would be the first project created by Hollywood 9/11 for overseas consumption. The group, overseen by the Motion Picture Association of America, has dispatched entertainers and filmed messages to Americans at home and serving abroad since its formation last month after a meeting with Karl Rove, a senior adviser to President Bush.

Ali appeared on a Sept. 21 entertainment industry telethon to raise money for attack victims and their families. Boonshaft said that appearance had an impact on his choice for the video.

During the telethon, Ali told the audience, "Islam is peace. It's against killing, murder, and the terrorists, and the people doing that in the name of Islam are wrong. And if I had a chance, I'd do something about it."

The announcement would be designed to air in several translations over networks like Al Jazeera, the Middle East Broadcasting Centre and the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation, but the stations have not yet been contacted by the Hollywood group.

The group hopes the video will be finished by late January. A director has yet to be chosen but Boonshaft said it may include scenes of Ali's trip to Mecca or footage from some of his fights.

STATE

After Sept. 11, life goes on — differently

BY MICHELLE LOCKE
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — In crisp December, the Golden Gate Bridge soars above a sun-spangled San Francisco Bay, sinewy metal shoulders holding up a cerulean sky.

Tourists pause to snap pictures; surfers tumble in the gray-green waters boiling below. And strolling along its wide sidewalks, National Guard Sgt. Maximilliano Vignoli is spending his son's 7th birthday away from home, on the lookout for enemies foreign or domestic.

Three months after the terrorist attacks, life goes on in California — but differently.

"I can't say that there's been anything that has affected so many people ... like this event has," says pollster Mark Baldassare of the Public Policy Institute of California. "For Californians, we're talking about something that occurred on the other side of the continent that affected profoundly not only how they feel about their own safety but how they feel about their lives, their government, the people around them. It's really pretty amazing."

A year ago, the big threat to the Golden Gate Bridge was that the energy crisis would zap the necklace of amber lights strung along its elegant curves.

After Sept. 11, the burnt-orange span glowed like a bull's-eye.

Two words — credible threat — brought the east coast tragedy home to California with a heart-pounding rush when Gov. Gray Davis announced that terrorists might be planning rush-hour attacks against the Golden Gate and Bay bridges in San Francisco, the Vincent Thomas Bridge at the Port of Los Angeles and San Diego's Coronado Bridge.

It turned out the warning wasn't that credible and the major threat appeared to be to Davis' political career; he was scathingly criticized for going public.

But at year's end, troops continued to patrol the Golden Gate as well as nearly three dozen airports, at a cost of at least $2.2 million a month.

There were other changes, some more visible than others: lines at airport security checkpoints grew longer, and lines at Disneyland got shorter as tourism and travel took a hit.

Pacifist Berkeley voted to oppose the bombing of Afghanistan; gun-shy Hollywood pulled the Arnold Schwarzenegger terrorism film "Collateral Damage," and put the Emmys on hold, twice.

Concrete symbols of a suddenly frightened state sprung up overnight, including barriers around Los Angeles City Hall, the soaring landmark that flickered in living rooms of the '50s as the shadowy building outlined on "Dragnet" Sgt. Joe Friday's badge No. 714.

Federal authorities threw their own dragnet around San Diego, where two of the hijackers lived, and Oakland, where one of the hijackers briefly studied flying.

A poll taken by the PPIC in December found that more than one in three residents were at least somewhat worried that they or someone in their family would be the victim of a terrorist attack. Seven in 10 said they felt more patriotic.

In mid-December about 1,200 mourners gathered at a grassy hilltop cemetery in Bakersfield to remember Staff Sgt. Brian Prosser, killed when a U.S. bomb missed its target in Afghanistan.

"He was a true soldier's soldier," said commanding officer Capt. Jeff Leopold.

Many puzzled over the saga of another Californian in Afghanistan, John Walker Lindh, the young man from proudly tolerant Marin County found fighting with the proudly intolerant Taliban.

"I imagine he lost himself there. Or found himself," said Neil Lavin, a Marin County musician.

Change came suddenly to California. Three hours behind the east coast, many woke up to a world transformed on Sept. 11.

Vignoli, a forklift operator in Stockton, remembers turning the TV on and staring into chaos.

"I ... right away called to our state headquarters. I told them, 'If you need me go ahead and give me a call."

All four of the hijacked planes were bound for California; among those killed in the air was David Angell, co-creator and producer of TV's "Frasier."

Northern California businessman Tom Burnett Jr., aboard United Airlines Flight 93, called his wife Deena on his cell phone four times, piecing together what was happening and telling her, "a group of us are getting ready to do something." Shortly thereafter, an apparent passenger revolt brought the plane down in a Pennsylvania field, killing all aboard short of the hijacker's intended target.

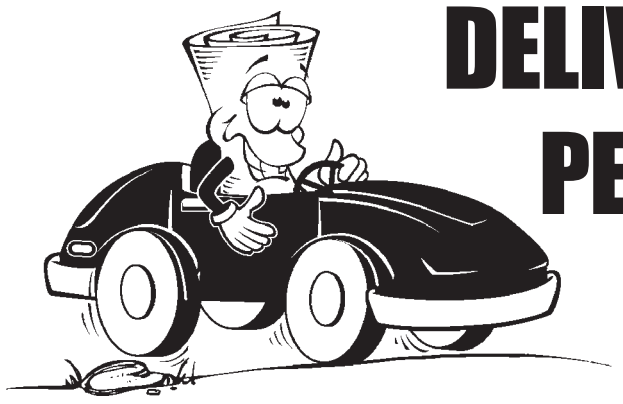
Alice Hoglan, a United Airlines flight attendant in Saratoga, also got a call from Flight 93. It was her son, Mark Bingham, a 31-year-old rugby player and a gay man who had twice got the better of street muggers. They were cut off after a few sentences. Hoglan is sure he was part of the resistance.

Since Sept. 11, Hoglan has become a self-taught activist, finally learning to use the computer Mark gave her as she lobbies for stricter airport safety measures, puts out a newsletter for Flight 93 families and joins the push to let families hear the black box cockpit recording.

Before, she says, "I was aware of general terrorist threats and was complacent and not vocal and my son has lost his life because of complacency and I feel terrible about it."

Now, she tries to channel her energy. "It helps me to deal with my grief a little better ... if I sit more than five minutes, I get kind of weepy."

As 2002 neared, a somewhat subdued California celebrated the holidays in its usual casually polytheistic fashion — Hannukah, Ramadan, Christmas, Kwanzaa, with a nod to the Druids and a sturdy underpinning of secular Santa-ism.



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INTERNATIONAL ▫ NATIONAL

Affordable housing crunch persists for poorest

BY JENNIFER LOVEN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The average janitor earns enough to rent a one-bedroom apartment and pay for life's other necessities in just six of the nation's 60 largest cities. A retail salesperson can make ends meet in half that many locations. Both can forget about buying a home.

That conclusion from the National Housing Conference, a nonprofit coalition of industry experts, advocates and academics, mirrors the findings of several reports since the summer documenting the struggles of working families to find affordable housing.

The results suggest a worsening of the affordable housing shortage affecting the working poor, even before the recession pushed thousands out of work and squeezed family budgets even tighter.

At a Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee hearing last month, lawmakers said the situation has reached crisis proportions.

"These families live one unexpected medical bill, one car repair, one bout of unemployment away from possible homelessness," said Chairman Paul Sarbanes, D-Md.

Rising wages from the long economic expansion landed a record number of Americans in bigger, fancier homes and helped more of the very poorest put roofs over their heads. But it also contributed to the shortage of affordable housing.

Escalating land prices made it less profitable to build new low- and moderate-priced housing. As a result, there still are 5 million fewer apartments nationwide than are needed for people with the lowest incomes, according to the Washington-based National Low Income Housing Coalition.

The shortage forces many to choose from a range of unattractive options: Doubling up with other families, sacrificing other needs to pay rent, or living in a shelter or on the street.

In 60 large cities where the National Housing Conference compared housing costs to median earnings in entry-level occupations, only Oklahoma City, St. Louis and Cincinnati were affordable in 1999 for the typical retail clerk. That employee earned a median income nationally of $7.66 an hour — compared with a median paycheck of about $16 an hour for all U.S. workers.

The average janitor — paid a median of $7.90 an hour — could swing rent and other living expenses in only six cities: the previous three plus Pittsburgh; Columbus, Ohio; and Indianapolis.

Salome Torres lives that reality.

He brings home $560 every two weeks as a janitor in Orange County, Calif., and finds extra money working weekend odd jobs. Covering the rent on his one-bedroom apartment takes $620 a month, leaving the rest to pay for expenses for his wife, Isabel, and their three young children.

"Sometimes we do fall behind if someone gets sick," Torres, a Mexican immigrant, said through a translator. "Sometimes it's even difficult to get food. It's very difficult."

Like the Torres family, nearly one in seven American households must use more than half its income for shelter, well above the 30 percent level considered reasonable for housing.

Nearly 30 percent of those 13 million households include at least one full-time worker, the conference found in its June report.

NLIHC President Sheila Crowley said lower-income Americans have been shortchanged because federal support for affordable housing has not kept pace with inflation. She noted the number of government vouchers that help low-income families pay private-sector apartment rents has increased little in recent years, resulting in a five-year wait for housing in some cities.

And the number of rental units considered affordable for working poor and poor families dropped by more than 1 million between 1997 and 1999, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Congress made small changes this year that could help stem the affordable housing drain. But a long-term solution remains elusive, advocates say.

Rudolph Giuliani is Time's person of the year

BY TIMOTHY WILLIAMS
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Heralded for his steadfast response to a grief-torn city after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani on Sunday was named Time magazine's Person of the Year.

"I was stunned, a little," Giuliani said at a news conference Sunday. "It was really strange. It's hard to think of yourself that way."

The magazine's editors chose Giuliani "for having more faith in us than we had in ourselves, for being brave when required and rude where appropriate and tender without being trite, for not sleeping and not quitting and not shrinking from the pain all around him."

The mayor shared the praise with New Yorkers.

"I got all the credit resting on the shoulders of these people that have had one of the most heroic three months I think any people have ever had," he said.

The award's criteria was set by Time founder Henry Luce: "The person or persons who most affected the news of our lives, for good or ill, this year."

Managing Editor Jim Kelly said he knew on Sept. 11 that the Person of the Year would have some connection to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Editors spent hours debating whether to name Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect in the terror assault, for the spot, Kelly said.

But bin Laden was "too small a man to get the credit for all that has happened in America in the autumn of 2001," the magazine said. "It is what came after his men had finished their job that has come to define this year."

Giuliani agreed with that judgment.

"I think it's much better that I was selected as a representative of the people of New York City rather than him," the mayor said at his news conference. "His ultimate objective was obviously not just to kill people, his objective was to destroy the spirit of America. The spirit of America is now stronger than it has ever been before."

The Person of the Year package includes an oral history of Sept. 11 as told by Giuliani and his aides. The issue hits newsstands on Monday, one week before Giuliani's last day in office after eight years.

Giuliani was barred by term limits from seeking a third consecutive term. Michael Bloomberg will be sworn in as mayor at midnight on Dec. 31.

Giuliani, 57, departs amid an outpouring of praise that contrasts with the period prior to Sept. 11, when newspapers were full of tidbits about his divorce and accounts of his angry public outbursts.

Giuliani had his share of difficulties — from a series of fatal police shootings of unarmed black men in which he reflexively defended the officers, to a losing battle with the Brooklyn Museum of Art over what he labeled "indecent" art.

But in the span of a few days, Giuliani's unusually gentle handling of a city in despair after the attack vaulted him from being regarded as a prickly lame duck politician who had run out of ideas to a civic saint mentioned for the Nobel Prize.

Giuliani has acknowledged recently that there are some things he could have done better.

"I have the feeling that you have when you've done everything you can do," Giuliani said. "Where you feel, 'Well, I haven't held back any effort.' There are things probably I would do differently in terms of judgments I would make if I could make them again, but I've given every effort that I'm capable of and tried to do as good a job as mayor as I possibly could do. So I feel happy about that at least."

President George W. Bush was Person of the Year in 2000.



Associated Press

A British Royal Marine stands under a sign for the late mujahideen commander Ahmad Shah Massood while patrolling the Afghan capital of Kabul. The British troops took to the streets as Afghanistan's new government was sworn in.

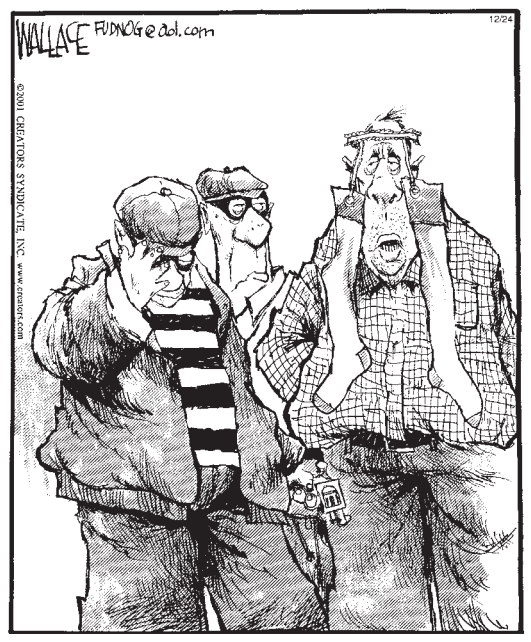
COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection®

By Russ Wallace



"You *told* me to use a stocking on my head as a disguise."

edge City

by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



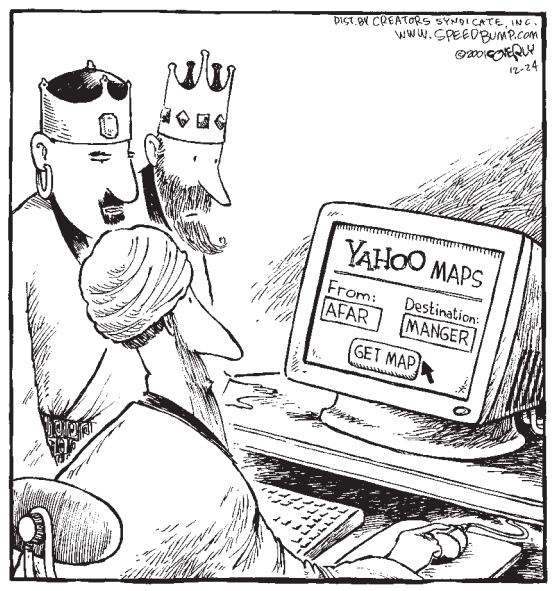
Reality Check®

By Dave Whammond



Speed Bump®

By Dave Coverly



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Throw away
6 Not barefoot
10 Task
11 "Ship of the desert"
13 Hazards
14 Suspect's story
15 Brewed drink
16 Big weight
18 Photographer Goldin
19 "Star Trek" character
22 Anger
23 Hold power
24 Biting remarks
27 Inspected before robbing
28 Pennsylvania port
29 Bad review
30 "Star Trek" character
35 French friend
36 Permit
37 Campaigned
38 Jessica of "Tootsie"
40 Make amends
42 Bishop's topper
43 Slight color
44 Simple fellow
45 Church parts

DOWN
1 "Get lost!"
2 Meat-and-beans dish
3 Florist's offering
4 Bible boat
5 Harasses
6 Digitizes a page
7 Actor Linden
8 Foreboding
9 Fiasco
12 Joined
17 Mine find
20 Lama's land
21 Practical joke
24 Soothe
25 Language of biblical times
26 Criticize harshly
27 Bach creation
29 Bakery buy
31 Wide awake
32 Presses
33 Kitchen appliance
34 Leg parts
39 Earth: Pref.
41 Gratuity

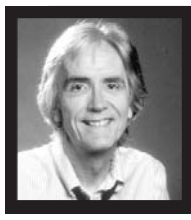
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A	N	E	A	R		T	O	R	I	C
M	A	N	M	A	D	E		A	L	E
E	N	D		F	I	R	E	M	E	N
D	A	S	H	E	D		Z	E	S	T
			A	S	T	O	R			
A	B	E	L		I	N	A	W	A	Y
S	U	N	L	A	M	P		A	L	A
S	S	T		D	E	A	R	S	I	R
A	I	R	E	D		P	A	T	E	N
D	E	E	R	E		E	V	E	N	S
	R	E	A	D		R	E	D	S	

Saturday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	■
10					■	11				12
13					■	14				
15			■	16	17		■	18		
19			20				21			
■	■	■	22			■	23			
24	25	26			■	27				
28				■	29			■	■	■
30				31				32	33	34
35			■	36			■	37		
38			39		■	40	41			
42					■	43				
■	44				■	45				

12-24

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

A card with no purpose

• According to a November Los Angeles Times report, the Immigration and Naturalization Service has issued 5 million "smart cards" to permanent residents since 1998 (containing all the unique personal information now being discussed to improve security against terrorism) but has not yet acquired any machines that can read the cards. Among other INS problems: INS's fingerprint system has been, and is still, unconnected to the FBI's fingerprint system; and its electronic database to track foreign students, created following the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, now covers students in only 21 colleges.

• Rev. Jamyi Witch, a Wiccan, was appointed in December as one of the two official chaplains at the Waupun (maximum security) Correctional Institution, Waupun, Wis. She won the job over nine rivals despite the fact that only 30 of the 1,200 inmates are of Wiccan denomination and despite the fact that Wicca does not preach fear of eternal damnation, which many regard as a crucial message for that population.

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W. LA: 2464 Barrington Ave. 4bd/4ba Very Lrg unit, spacious closets, marble counters, stove, refrig, d/w, nu paint, frplc, gtd prkg intercom entry, elevator. W/D in unit. Open daily. $2695. Mgr. Call: (310)390-9401

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BACK PAGE

Many U.S. cities aren't seeing a white Christmas

BY DUNCAN MANSFIELD
Associated Press Writer

OAK RIDGE, Tenn. — It's not just a case of nostalgia distorting one's childhood memories — for many Americans, white Christmases really were more common back when they were kids.

A study of four decades of Dec. 25 statistics in 16 U.S. cities found that Christmas Day snows of at least an inch have declined since the 1960s.

Altogether, the number of white Christmases per decade dropped from 78 in the 1960s to 39 in the 1990s, according to researchers at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Oak Ridge meteorologist Dale Kaiser said the findings confirm what many people probably suspected.

"If we think back to Christmas mornings through our lives, I wouldn't be surprised if a lot of us didn't say, 'Gee, I don't remember white Christmases since I was a kid,"' Kaiser said. "Yes, we are experiencing fewer white Christmases than we did 40 years ago."

Kaiser, who ordinarily spends his time studying climate change over the United States, Russia and China, cautioned against reading too much into the survey. He said global warming might be a factor, but the survey did not look for causes or consider longer-term trends.

Seattle had two snowy Christmases in the 1960s while Washington, D.C., had four, but neither has had one since. New York had five in the '60s and only one in each of the last three decades. Boston had eight white Christmases in the '60s, but only two in the '90s.

Chicago recorded seven in the decade 40 years ago, falling to five in the '70s, four in the '80s and two in the '90s. Detroit dropped from nine in the '60s, to seven, then five, then three.

The survey revealed the most reliable places to find snow on Christmas Day were Tahoe City, Calif.; Salt Lake City; and Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minn. Each had seven or more white Christmases in each of the past four decades.

The researchers gave little attention to Southern cities. Weather records dating to 1896 show Atlanta has never had a white Christmas.

Owners pampering their pets with holiday presents

BY RUSS BYNUM
Associated Press Writer

SAVANNAH, Ga. — On Christmas Day, Stephen Geevers will hand presents from under the tree to his two little ones, Chase and P.J., and watch them tear into the wrapping — with their teeth.

"If you hand them the gifts that are for them, they'll chew off the paper carefully and leave the other presents alone," says Geevers, a Savannah antiques dealer.

Chase and P.J. are, of course, Geevers' two terriers. And he can't imagine Christmas without pampering them with gourmet dog biscuits and rubber squeaky toys.

Despite a holiday recession, pet owners say they're still splurging on gifts for the four-legged friends on their lists, whether they're buying bones or pet aromatherapy oils or $110 Italian doggie sweaters.

Rather than buy her sister a gift this year, Marianna Pedrick shopped for her sister's beagle at Harry Barker, an upscale pet supply shop in Savannah.

"The dog's not going to reject the gift," said Pedrick, who settled on a $20 terry-cloth bathrobe that fits the dog like a cape with wraparound Velcro fasteners. "It's such a novel idea, but it's practical. Dogs get cold, like people do."

Harry Barker owner Carol Perkins, who named her business after her Shetland sheepdog, said sales have been surprisingly steady in spite of the sagging economy.

There's been a steady stream of customers in the shop, as well as online orders and wholesale sales to retailers such as Bloomingdale's.

"Since Sept. 11, for us anyway, pet product sales have not declined," Perkins said. "There's enough people out there buying $100 (dog) sweaters."

Too expensive? Perkins says her gourmet dog biscuits — garlic, bacon or peanut butter flavored in imported French jars — have been popular at $12 a pound. Or there's prickly pear cactus shampoo-plus-conditioner for $6.

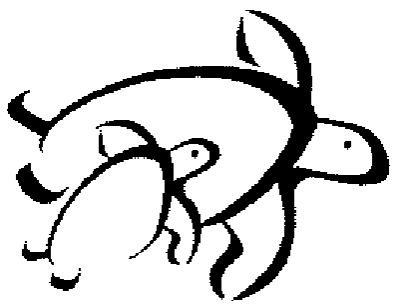
Perkins figures her customers are repaying their pets for comforting them through post-Sept. 11 stress — though not always with a clear conscience.

"Our shoppers feel incredibly guilty about it," Perkins said. "I have many people confess over the phone that they like their dog better than their husband or their children, their boyfriend or girlfriend."

Just how popular are pet presents? The American Pet Association estimated in 1998 that 67 million dogs and cats get Christmas gifts.

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