



CAROLYN COLE / Los Angeles Times

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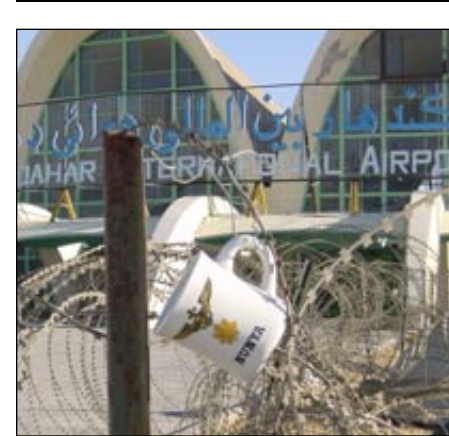
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Associated Press

Bush Proposes to Return Historic Property to N.Y.

By EDWIN CHEN

Many questions left unanswered about the unusual transfer of Governors Island and "sale" of a national monument. »

Judge Says No Need to Prove Lindh Killed

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The government does not have to show American Talib harmed specific U.S. citizens, jurist rules. The key is whether he knew Al Queda's general aims. »

'Cussing Canoeist' Law Overturned

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Developer Proposes Selling 193 Acres for Wetlands

By KENNETH R. WEISS

As part of the deal, Playa Vista would cut its housing plans in half. Ballona supporters welcome the idea. »

Azusa Church Target of Probe

By RICHARD WINTON

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Peter Biehl, 59; Forgave, Aided South Africa

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He supported amnesty for four black men convicted in the death of his daughter during an anti-apartheid demonstration. »

Marjorie Holmes, 91; Inspirational Author

By MYRNA OLIVER

The Iowa-born writer had a knack for making God and biblical personages accessible to ordinary people. »

A. Bin Laden, 75; Uncle of Terrorist

He was head of the family, but had little to do with the running of the family business. »

Barry Took, 73; Comic Brit Wrote for 'Monty Python,' 'Laugh-In'

Often called one of the funniest men in Britain, he is perhaps best-known for his post-World War II radio scripts. »

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Israel Pounds Palestinian Security Force

Mideast: Ten people accused of aiding the Jewish state are executed in the streets as the Israeli army advances.

By RICHARD BOUDREAUX
and TRACY WILKINSON
TIMES STAFF WRITER

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Israeli tanks and helicopter gunships pounded the main Palestinian security headquarters in the West Bank and thrust into the center of Bethlehem early today in a mounting offensive that Israel said was aimed against terrorism.

As the offensive closed in on them, Palestinian gunmen killed 10 compatriots accused of collaborating with the Jewish state. Nine of them were hauled from detention centers and shot in the streets Monday, apparently to prevent their rescue by advancing Israeli forces.

The predawn Israeli assaults near Ramallah and inside Bethlehem marked one of the biggest operations against the 18-month-old Palestinian uprising. It came on the sixth day of Operation Protective Wall, a punishing counteroffensive



CAROLYN COLE / Los Angeles Times

Israeli troops mass at the entrance to Bethlehem, sealing roads in the West Bank city. Many residents locked themselves in their homes.

that has left those Palestinian-ruled cities and two others fully occupied by Israeli troops.

The attack on the security headquarters signals a shift in Israeli strategy. It shows that Israel has decided to hunt key aides to Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

Israeli leaders say the offensive is aimed at a Palestinian terrorist infrastructure blamed for six suicide attacks that have claimed more than 40 lives since Wednesday.

A Palestinian wearing an explosive belt blew himself up near Jerusalem's Old City late Monday, severely wounding the policeman who had stopped the Palestinian's car.

By dawn today, the sprawling U.S.-built complex housing the Palestinian Authority's Preventative Security Service in Beitunia, just west of Ramallah, was in flames after hours of explosions and bursts of machine-gun fire.

Palestinian officials said about 400 people were inside and desper-

ate to escape, a claim that could not be independently verified.

Col. Jibril Rajoub, the West Bank's top security chief, had reportedly ordered his men at the compound to resist. Rajoub himself was not present.

Israel maintains that several top Arafat lieutenants have been implicated in attacks on Israelis and have been hiding in the building. Among them is Marwan Barghouti, a Fatah activist who is the de facto head of West Bank militias and patron of the uprising.

Barghouti may have been in the complex, which is so ornate it contained a sky-high atrium and lobby into which Rajoub could drive his armored cars. Until now, senior Israeli officials had said Barghouti was not a target. But Israel's intelligence establishment holds him responsible for the relentless wave of attacks.

Rajoub heads the CIA-trained Preventative Security Service, and

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MIDEAST

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he has always been a favorite among American officials and numerous Israelis as well. He has often been cited by Israelis as the kind of "pragmatic" Palestinian they would prefer to work with. At least until recently, the only photograph on his desk is one of himself with CIA Director George Tenet.

Many had assumed Rajoub's headquarters would be immune to attack. It is one of a very small handful of police installations that has not been bombarded by Israel in the last 18 months. The Preventative Security Service is the body that would be responsible for most of the arrests of militants demanded by Israel.

In Bethlehem, Israeli tanks and helicopters met some resistance as they moved into the biblical city about an hour before dawn, residents said. Exchanges of gunfire were heard several blocks from the Church of the Nativity, built on the spot revered by Christians as the birthplace of Jesus.

Israeli forces surrounded the Da-haisha refugee camp on the edge of the city and began searching homes for Palestinian militants, residents said.

Arafat remained trapped in Ramallah for a fourth straight day Monday, pinned down by Israeli troops within the walls of his compound. He and his followers call the Israeli offensive a punitive campaign against all Palestinians who demand an independent state.

"We do not understand what the Israelis want out of this, but we are expecting a long siege," said Mohammed Madani, governor of the Bethlehem region, predicting severe



CAROLLYN COLE / Los Angeles Times

Selig Tessler wanted to take his 14-year-old son and 2-year-old daughter to pray in Bethlehem, but was turned back.

hardship for its 150,000 inhabitants.

After a day of troop movements and sporadic gunfire across the West Bank, the Israeli government announced late Monday the call-up of 11,000 reservists to join 22,000 others mobilized last week for the offensive.

Tension also ran high in the Gaza Strip, where gunfire from an Israeli border observation tower killed a 13-year-old Palestinian boy near a market in Rafah. And in Lebanon, Hezbollah guerrillas fired two rockets at Israel for the first time since Israel pulled out of southern Lebanon in May 2000.

Israeli forces moved into the Palestinian towns of Kalkilya and Tulkarm, in the northern part of the West Bank, on Sunday night and Monday. They met little resis-

tance, except for a bomb explosion that wounded eight Israeli soldiers searching a home in Kalkilya.

Before the Israelis moved in, Palestinian militants entered an apartment in Tulkarm, brought out seven suspected collaborators and shot them dead, Palestinian security officials said.

The apartment has been used by Palestinian military intelligence as a detention center since the Israeli army destroyed Tulkarm prison in an incursion early this year. Guards at the apartment made no effort to stop the killers, according to reports from the town.

Two other men imprisoned for alleged collaboration were found dead in Kalkilya, killed by patriots who took justice into their own hands. Several dozen Palestinians

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accused of helping the Israelis have been executed, with or without trial, over the past year and a half of fighting.

It was largest number of such executions reported on a single day of the Palestinian uprising. A 10th body was dumped Sunday night near Bethlehem's Manger Square after being captured and shot on suspicion of e-mailing sensitive information to the Israelis.

Israeli troops and armored vehicles began sealing off roads into and out of Bethlehem on Sunday, preventing Mayor Hanna Nasser and other Christians from traveling to Jerusalem for an Easter Sunday Mass.

The siege prompted many of this city's residents to stock up on food and lock themselves in their homes. The hospital sent home all nonemergency patients to make room for an expected influx of wounded.

Tanks rolled into Bethlehem and two suburbs, Beit Jala and Al Khader, before dawn Monday. Palestinian militants appeared ready to resist. More than a dozen young militants wearing combat fatigues and brandishing assault rifles lounged in Manger Square, their informal headquarters, for most of the day Monday, waiting for the Israelis. Some wore the gold and black headbands of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a militia linked to Arafat's Fatah movement.

It was Al Aqsa that claimed responsibility for the executions of alleged collaborators here and in Tulkarm and for some of the suicide bombings of the past week—including one carried out by an 18-year-



Associated Press

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat sits at his office in the West Bank town of Ramallah on Monday.

old woman who lived in the Dahai-sha refugee camp.

"Our weapons are not as sophisticated as the Israelis', but we will try our best to keep them out of here," said the most articulate of the Al Aqsa militiamen, a 27-year-old Palestinian who wouldn't reveal his name.

He spoke calmly as his hands kept busy with a plastic cup full of strong coffee, an M-16 rifle and a cellular phone. The militiamen voiced enthusiastic loyalty to Arafat, saying they would obey him whether his orders were to cease fire or to fight. For now, they said, Arafat's orders are clear: "Confront the Israelis until the last drop of our blood."

The man with the M-16 defended the suicide bombers as "one of the only ways in which we can put up a fight for the sake of our country and our dignity."

In Washington, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld used a Pentagon news conference to condemn Iran, Iraq and Syria for sup-

porting and encouraging the suicide bombings in Israel.

Rumsfeld said Iraq was financing terrorism against Israel by subsidizing the families of suicide bombers.

"I think the world ought to know that Saddam Hussein's idea of having a nice day is offering 10, 20, 30 thousand dollars, whatever it is, to families of people who talk their children into going out and blowing up a restaurant in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem," he said.

Iran and Syria are sending terrorists "down the Damascus Road through the Bekaa Valley to southern Lebanon," where they launch guerrilla attacks against Israel, and Iran is directly involved in shipping arms to Palestinian terror groups, he said.

While the Bush administration continued to place blame for the conflict squarely on Israel's enemies, about 60 foreign peace activists marched through Bethlehem and Beit Jala on Monday demanding an end to Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories.

Six of the activists and a Palestinian cameraman for Associated Press Television were wounded when an Israeli soldier fired several shots from a machine gun into the pavement in front of them. Two Americans were among the injured. The most seriously hurt, a British woman, underwent surgery to remove shrapnel from her abdomen.

Paul Larudee, 56, of Richmond, Calif., said he and other marchers were trying to persuade Israeli soldiers to let them pass. "They waved us away," he said. "We kept gesturing that we wanted to talk. After about three seconds one of them started firing." ■

Boudreaux reported from Bethlehem and Wilkinson from Ramallah. Times staff writer Esther Schrader in Washington contributed to this report.



New York Times via CNN

Abu Zubeida was captured in a raid in Pakistan last week. He was shot three times as he tried to escape, officials said.

Man Captured in Pakistan Identified as Bin Laden Aide

Terror: U.S. officials hope Abu Zubeida will divulge information on cells and plots around the globe.

By BOB DROGIN and JOSH MEYER
TIMES STAFF WRITERS

WASHINGTON—U.S. forces in Pakistan have taken custody of a Saudi-born militant believed to be so critical to Osama bin Laden’s international terrorism network that he could help them identify Al Qaeda cells and operatives around the globe.

U.S. intelligence and law enforcement officials confirmed Monday that they have netted Abu Zubeida, one of Bin Laden’s top deputies and a potential suspect in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Zubeida helped link Bin Laden’s inner circle with scores of terrorist groups in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and elsewhere. After the Taliban regime collapsed in Afghanistan last fall, officials said Zubeida also was entrusted with rebuilding Al Qaeda—and plotting future terrorist attacks.

“He knows where [Al Qaeda] people are around the world,” said a U.S. intelligence official who confirmed the captive’s identity. “Plus, we have unambiguous information that he has been planning future terrorist attacks against U.S. interests and allies worldwide. So he is a person well worth catching.”

The capture, especially if Zubeida cooperates during questioning, marks a rare success in the manhunt

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AL QAEDA

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for terrorists that forms the backdrop to the war in Afghanistan. Despite huge cash rewards and a massive U.S. military and intelligence effort, only a handful of top terrorist leaders are known to have been captured or killed since last fall.

Officials say Zubeida may have acted as an intermediary between Bin Laden and the hijackers who seized four jets Sept. 11 and crashed them in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania, killing more than 3,000 people. However, he has not yet been charged or indicted.

U.S. officials have had little success so far in persuading captured Al Qaeda operatives to disclose significant details in interrogations.

A senior law enforcement official, who also confirmed Zubeida's capture, said counter-terrorism agents are angling to interrogate him. "There is a fair amount of excitement about this," he said.

"This guy will be put through the ringer for days and weeks," said a former senior Clinton administration counter-terrorism official.

"It will take at least 96 hours . . . to get him to spill everything," said the former official. "If they don't crack him by then, he is a very tough nut. If not, they will keep going. He is probably having the worst time in his entire life right now."

William H. Webster, a former FBI and CIA director, said interrogation efforts will "go beyond name rank and serial number" because Zubeida is considered an unlawful combatant and not a prisoner of war.

"Traditional third-degree would be inappropriate, such as using

physical force," Webster said. "I don't want to spell out how late they can keep him up before letting him go to bed, but they have a right to aggressively try to gain information from him."

Webster said interrogators will operate on the assumption that Zubeida knows about terrorist plots that may be in the planning stages.

"This area is very murky. We are feeling our way," Webster said. In the current situation, he added, "Some will want to go by the book, others will want to throw out the book."

Zubeida, whose real name is thought to be Zain al-Abidin Mohammed Husain, was captured Thursday in a raid in central Pakistan. Pakistani troops shot him three times in the legs and groin when he tried to escape, U.S. officials said.

He was handed over to U.S. authorities Sunday and was receiving medical care Monday at an undisclosed location, the officials said. He was reported in serious but stable condition.

U.S. officials said they used various forms of visual and technical methods to identify him. One U.S. official said proof of Zubeida's identity, which he declined to explain, was found Monday.

Zubeida, 31, was a key recruiter for Al Qaeda, officials say. He screened potential candidates, helped arrange their travel to and from training camps in Afghanistan and helped new graduates join or create cells, they allege.

Zubeida communicated with cell members to coordinate specific attacks, U.S. officials say. They say he has been implicated in the August 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in East Africa, which killed 224

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people, and the October 2000 bombing of the destroyer Cole in Yemen, which killed 17.

He also allegedly played a role in the failed plot to bomb a Los Angeles International Airport terminal during the millennium celebrations.

U.S. officials say Zubeida succeeded Mohammed Atef, the Al Qaeda military commander who was killed in a U.S. airstrike last November. "After Atef was killed, he took on an increased operational role," the intelligence official said.

Zubeida and his aides have been trying to reconstitute Al Qaeda's command and control center in Pakistan since December, when they apparently fled across the border from Afghanistan during fighting at the Tora Bora cave complex, the officials said.

Zubeida's group, which included about two dozen Saudis, Moroccans, Sudanese, Egyptians and other non-Afghans, apparently switched safe houses every few weeks to avoid detection. U.S. officials say hundreds of other Al Qaeda and Taliban supporters also may be hiding in Pakistan.

In recent weeks, U.S. intelligence had detected an increase in money transfers and e-mail communications and other evidence indicating a possible plot against the U.S. or its interests abroad.

Excluding Zubeida, officials said U.S. forces and allies have captured only three Al Qaeda leaders and killed nine since fall. The whereabouts of another 15 senior figures, including Bin Laden, are unknown.

The tally is similar for the Taliban, the extremist Islamic regime

that provided sanctuary for Al Qaeda. So far, U.S. and allied forces have killed two and captured four senior Taliban leaders. About 21 others are missing.

U.S. officials clearly hope Zubeida, or one several dozen others arrested in raids in Pakistan last week, will help lead them to Bin Laden, who is accused of masterminding the Sept. 11 attacks.

Although he declined to confirm Zubeida's capture, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Monday that Zubeida is "if not the No. 2, very close to the No. 2 person in the organization."

Relying on communications intercepts and other evidence supplied by U.S. intelligence, American and Pakistani operatives captured Zubeida and the other suspects in a series of predawn raids Thursday in Faisalabad, Lahore and Multan, all in central Pakistan.

Officials said Zubeida had been using another alias, Abu Ubaid, but admitted his real identity during questioning.

In early 2000, the Clinton administration deployed a team of counter-terrorism experts to Sudan, in part to catch Zubeida.

"We were literally hours behind him . . . and he slipped through our fingers," recalled a former State Department official involved in the operation.

Zubeida's role in Al Qaeda first came to light last summer in federal court in New York. Ahmed Ressam, who had been convicted in the 1999 plot to bomb LAX, appeared as a government witness at another trial and detailed his understanding of Al Qaeda—and Zubeida's responsibilities in the organization. ■



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Police Target of Ramallah Roundups

By TRACY WILKINSON
TIMES STAFF WRITER

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Stripped to their underwear, the Palestinian policemen emerged from the Darraghmeh apartment building, some still bleeding from gunshot wounds. Under heavy guard, they surrendered to Israeli forces before being led away blindfolded.

One policeman, the first out the door, was shot dead, apparently because he was still holding his gun as he went to surrender. A second bled to death in the overnight raid, witnesses said Monday.

Israeli forces who have seized control of the West Bank city of Ramallah have, in addition to cornering Yasser Arafat, rounded up hundreds of men; raided houses, businesses and hospitals; and pounded targets with artillery.

Many of those captured or killed in Ramallah are police, the very security agents who would have to enforce a cease-fire and arrest gunmen if Arafat were inclined to give such orders. Israel maintains that many police have engaged in terrorism.

Early today, Israeli armor backed by gunships attacked the U.S.-built headquarters of Col. Jibril Rajoub, the top Palestinian security chief in the West Bank. Flames and smoke were leaping from the sprawling complex.

Attacking the police appears to be another step in Israel's dismantling

of the Palestinian Authority. During the last 18 months of conflict, Israel has repeatedly hit police posts and various symbols of Arafat's authority—from his headquarters to his personal helicopters—as a way to undermine and isolate him.

On Monday, Day 4 of the Israeli occupation of Ramallah, the army announced that it had arrested more than 700 people in the city since Friday, part of its hunt for suicide bombers and other militants who attack Israelis. If recent history is any indication, the vast majority of those arrested will be released; army officers acknowledge that most of the really bad guys usually get away.

The army's tactics have succeeded in terrifying civilians in Ramallah and in wreaking great destruction on property in this once-bustling city. But a growing chorus of critics is arguing that the tactics will not eliminate terrorism. It's an important debate, especially since the Ramallah operation is a prototype for the Israeli incursions that are currently sweeping the West Bank and are seen by Palestinians as the renewal of a long-term occupation.

Rajoub, the security chief, telephoned CNN to angrily denounce the attack on his headquarters and warn that such moves will not bring peace. Rajoub was not in the compound, but Israel believes that he was hiding dozens of militants there, including Arafat's top lieu-

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tenant, Marwan Barghouti. A senior Israeli security source earlier said Israel would begin going after such key Arafat aides.

Raids Show Risks of Close Combat

The new raids, effective or not, also illustrate the hazards of close-quarter combat in a crowded urban zone.

A platoon of Israeli soldiers descended on the Darraghmeh building Sunday after dark, residents said. They swept inside and clambered to a fourth-floor apartment sheltering 22 Palestinian policemen. The circumstances were not clear, but something apparently spooked the soldiers and they opened fire on the police inside the apartment.

Judging from the pattern of bullet holes, the soldiers then retreated to a floor below and continued to shoot toward the policemen. Spent cartridges littered the entire stairwell.

After about a 20-minute firefight, the Israelis broadcast calls on loudspeakers, ordering the Palestinians to surrender or the entire building would be blown up, said Randa Zir, a 25-year-old who lives with her family on the second floor. Injured and outgunned, the Palestinians were ready to surrender, Zir said.

But the first police officer to emerge was "stupid or inexperienced," she said. He held his hands up, but in them he had a gun. Soldiers shouted in Hebrew for him to drop his weapon, but he didn't and they shot him dead, residents said. An army statement later said they believed the middle-aged man to be

a suicide bomber.

After the shooting, the soldiers changed tack and ordered all residents in the building to emerge one by one. Males were directed to strip to their underwear, to expose any bombs or weapons, and to hold up their identification papers. The policemen went first, helping at least four comrades wounded in the earlier firefight.

Then came the civilian men, about 10 of them. Like the police, they were blindfolded and taken to a room in a neighboring building.

The women came next, stepping gingerly over the body at the doorway. They did not have to strip, but each woman had to lift her shirt to show the soldier she was not armed. Zir said the soldiers even searched the blankets of her 2-month-old niece.

"One had a black mask and a really huge dog—I thought at first it was a wolf," Zir said Monday in her living room. "They put us in a room full of other women and told us to be quiet."

Nader Manzi, an architecture student, said he was ordered to search rooms and help negotiate the surrender of the policemen.

Manzi helped one of the wounded policemen to remove his clothes and then walk out of the building. He had been hit in the back and was dying.

Left Bleeding 'Until He Died'

"They left him bleeding until he died," Manzi said. "I told [an Israeli commander] to bring the ambulance. He said: 'They are terrorists. They were shooting at us.'"

The policemen were members of the Palestinian National Security

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Forces, the body of Palestinian police closest to a standing army.

The bodies of five other members of the same police force were found Saturday. They were killed in questionable circumstances; they appeared to have been killed at close range, with bloodstains indicating that they may have been sitting on the floor when slain.

The National Security Forces are led by Haj Ismail Jaber, who is reported to be holed up with Arafat in his compound, surrounded by Israeli tanks and troops. Israel has never implicated this specific security agency in terrorist attacks.

Palestinian police and Israeli troops squared off elsewhere in Ramallah on Monday. In an especially fierce barrage, Israeli anti-aircraft guns targeted armed Palestinians hiding in a downtown commercial building.

Twenty booming rounds in a space of five minutes or less wrenched chunks of brick from the walls and upper-story windows and hurled gray puffs of cement dust into the air amid flashes of fire. One soldier was seriously injured and several others hurt lightly. Several

Palestinians were injured.

Israeli army spokesman Brig. Gen. Ron Kitrey told a news briefing in Jerusalem that Israeli forces had arrested 700 people in Ramallah.

Army Says Suspects Hiding Everywhere

"We are looking for wanted people who are hiding in private buildings, in apartments," he said. "We know they are hiding in official buildings. There are some who are hiding under Arafat's wing. . . . Every place that we know or suspect there is terror, we will be there."

Kitrey added that soldiers have orders not to enter Palestinian installations "unless we have clear information there are terrorists and arms inside."

But Danny Yatom, former director of the Israeli spy agency Mossad and a security policy advisor to former Prime Minister Ehud Barak, said the current tactics will not stop suicide bombers.

"There is no doubt that individuals who carry out attacks will be able to survive even a very heavy search," Yatom told Israeli radio Monday. "Even if we stay in the territories for a very long time, we will not be able to smash the terrorist infrastructure." ■

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Supreme Court to Hear Three-Strikes Challenge

By DAVID G. SAVAGE
TIMES STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON—The Supreme Court took up California's defense of its three-strikes law Monday, saying it will rule on whether it is cruel and unusual punishment to send a criminal to prison for 50 years for stealing \$153 worth of videotapes.

The case, to be heard in the fall, does not threaten the state's authority to lock up for life those who commit several violent crimes. However, the court could reject the state's use of a minor theft or drug possession as a "third strike" that triggers a long prison term. It is the first time the high court will rule on a direct challenge to a three-strikes law.

California Atty. Gen. Bill Lockyer called the justices' decision "welcome news."

Twice in recent months, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has overturned the convictions of repeat criminals who were given a prison term of at least 25 years for a third strike that was a petty theft.

A Supreme Court ruling will "provide clarification to judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys on how the U.S. Constitution's ban on cruel and unusual punishment applies to California's three-strikes law," Lockyer said.

USC law professor Erwin Chemerinsky, who was asked by the 9th Circuit to represent the two defendants, said it is cruel and unusual punishment to impose a life term for a minor theft. "California is

the only state where a misdemeanor shoplifting charge can be the basis for a life prison term," Chemerinsky said.

California's voters approved the three-strikes law in 1994 after the kidnapping and murder of 12-year-old Polly Klaas by Richard Allen Davis, a repeat criminal who was on parole from an earlier kidnapping.

Most states impose extra, longer prison terms on repeat offenders, and 26 states have a version of the three-strikes law. But California's law is considered the most severe because it can lead to a life sentence for a criminal who has committed nonviolent offenses, such as shoplifting.

Among the nearly 7,000 California inmates who are serving life terms under the law, 331 are there for a third strike that was a petty theft, according to the California Department of Corrections. An additional 603 were charged with a third strike for drug possession.

The state's judges have consistently rejected challenges to these stiff sentences based on the 8th Amendment.

But in November, the 9th Circuit Court overturned the 50-year sentence given to Leandro Andrade, a heroin addict from San Bernardino County.

In 1983, he was convicted for two home burglaries. He was arrested later on suspicion of several thefts and convicted of a federal charge

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for carrying a small amount of marijuana.

Then in 1995, after the state law took effect, he was stopped twice for shoplifting. On Nov. 4, he walked into a Kmart in Ontario, stuffed several videotapes into his pants and walked out. He was arrested in the parking lot and charged with stealing \$84.70 worth of merchandise, but he was freed on bail.

Two weeks later, he tried again at a Kmart in Montclair. He stuffed several videotapes in his pants and walked out. Again, he was stopped by store personnel and charged with stealing merchandise, this time worth \$68.84.

A jury convicted him of the two petty thefts. Normally, California law treats such thefts as misdemeanors, punishable by six months in jail.

Prosecutors cited his two prior burglary convictions and, because of his record, the new petty thefts were considered felonies. They also made for the third and fourth strikes against him. The judge gave Andrade 25 years to life in prison for each theft.

Because Andrade was then 37 years old, his first chance for release would come in 2046, when he is 87.

The state courts rejected his appeals, but he filed a writ of habeas corpus that challenged his imprisonment as unconstitutional.

In its 2-1 decision, the 9th Circuit agreed and ruled that his sentence was "grossly disproportionate" to his offense.

The decision turned on a 1991 Supreme Court case, Harmelin vs.

Michigan. In a 5-4 vote, the justices upheld a life sentence for Ronald Harmelin, a former Air Force officer and honor guard at the funeral of President Kennedy. Harmelin found himself in trouble by the mid-1980s, when he was stopped by police who found a one-pound block of cocaine in his car trunk.

Under a Michigan law, Harmelin was sentenced to life in prison.

Most states impose extra, longer prison terms on repeat offenders, and 26 states have a version of the three-strikes law. But California's law is considered the most severe.

The high court's ruling in the case carried a mixed message. A punishment cannot be "grossly disproportionate" to the crime, the justices said, but they nonetheless upheld Harmelin's life sentence as not excessive for his drug crime.

Recently, the Harmelin case has emerged as the key precedent in the dispute over California's three-strikes law, and not surprisingly, the two sides differ on what it means. State prosecutors say the decision shows that even extraordinarily stiff sentences are constitutional. Defense lawyers point to its statement that a "grossly disproportionate" sentence violates the 8th Amendment.

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In citing the Harmelin case, the 9th Circuit's Judge Richard Paez of Los Angeles wrote: "Our decision does not invalidate California's three-strikes law. Rather, our holding is limited to the application of the . . . law to the unusual circumstances of Andrade's case. . . . [His] sentence of life in prison with no possibility of parole for 50 years is grossly disproportionate to his two misdemeanor thefts of nine videotapes, even when we consider his history of nonviolent offenses."

Paez did not say what other cases might be affected by the Andrade ruling.

In February, however, another 9th Circuit panel went further and overturned the life sentences of two men who had committed several violent offenses in the past. Richard Napoleon Brown had five felony convictions on his record, including robbery and assault with a deadly weapon, when he was arrested for stealing a \$25 car alarm from a Walgreen's store in Long Beach. This third strike sent him to prison for at least 25 years, a sentence the 9th Circuit also called "grossly disproportionate."

Lockyer's office wasted no time in asking the Supreme Court to take up the issue and to sweep aside the constitutional challenges to the California law.

The justices voted to hear the case of Lockyer vs. Andrade, 01-1127. They also agreed to hear a similar case that has a different legal posture.

Two years ago, Gary Ewing was seen walking with an unusual stiff-legged limp as he left the pro shop at the El Segundo Golf Course. As it turned out, he had three Callaway golf clubs in his pants leg—clubs that sold for \$399 each. He had nine prior convictions on his record, and the attempted theft of the golf clubs sent him to prison for at least 25 years.

But unlike Andrade, Ewing's was a new appeal to the Supreme Court, not a habeas petition on behalf of a longtime inmate. Congress has tightened the federal habeas corpus law and made it harder for U.S. judges to intervene in state cases.

By taking up Ewing vs. California, 01-6978, the Supreme Court gave itself the option of ruling that a third strike for a petty theft is unconstitutional for current and future cases, but not for prison inmates who are challenging past convictions. ■

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LUIS SINCO / Los Angeles Times

The Playa Vista construction site and a wetlands restoration project are seen from bluffs.

It's Moving-In Day at Last at L.A.'s Playa Vista

By KENNETH R. WEISS
and MARTHA GROVES
TIMES STAFF WRITERS

The first residents of the new community of Playa Vista moved into their apartments Monday, a quarter century after initial plans for the mini-city near Marina del Rey spawned one of Los Angeles County's most protracted and bitter development struggles.

The arrival of U-haul vans, women carrying armloads of clothes and men hoisting couches into sandstone-colored buildings beside Lincoln Boulevard marks a major watershed in a land-use dispute

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Conservation: Ecologists still oppose development and hope to expand Ballona Wetlands. »

that began when Jimmy Carter was president.

One look around his unblemished two-bedroom apartment and Matt Alexander, a 31-year-old pastry chef, was smitten: "It's clean. It's new. It's mine." His first load of belongings included a pair of skis, a skateboard and enormous stereo speakers.

Yet, the arrival of the first occu-

pants this week does not dispel the uncertainty hanging over the 1,087 acres at the foot of the Westchester Bluffs, where billionaire adventurer Howard Hughes built the World War II-era Spruce Goose "flying boat."

Still being hotly disputed are the final size and scope of the development and of the largest remaining coastal wetlands in Los Angeles County. Plans for the second phase of the project, due out this year, are sure to renew debate about traffic, air quality and the safety of building on top of an underground methane storage facility.

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HOUSING

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But those issues are having no apparent effect on the many prospective tenants who bid, sight unseen, for apartments and condominiums.

“As long as it doesn’t sink into the ground or explode, I’ll be happy here,” said Alexander, lugging a mattress into his apartment.

The initial 120 units at the project’s Fountain Park apartments will be filled immediately, followed by another 585 units in the coming months. Dozens of Moderne-style condominiums just to the south are expected to open for their owners by November.

This flesh and blood component—not to mention the new “Playa Vista, CA 90094” ZIP Code—seems to confer on the budding community a permanence and viability that has long eluded it.

“Somebody is actually sleeping at Playa Vista tonight,” said Steve Soboroff, president of the Playa Vista development firm. “It’s not just empty buildings and security guards at night. It’s people’s homes.”

In the coming months, the developer and a public land trust will try to cement a deal that would alter the face of Playa Vista yet again—doubling the size of the salt marsh preserve and slicing the number of potential Playa Vista residents from 30,000 to about half that.

Then there are the opponents who have held the project at bay for more than two decades by filing myriad lawsuits, chaining themselves to bulldozers and discouraging powerful investors. In the process, they altered the balance of power at City

Playa Vista History

Key events in the Playa Vista project, a residential, office, hotel and retail community.

January 1978

The late Howard Hughes’ Summa Corp. begins working with city and county officials on Playa Vista plans.



Howard Hughes

January 1984 California Coastal Commission approves the land-use plan, which includes an agreement to restore and manage a 175-acre wetlands.

December 1984 Friends of Ballona Wetlands files suit, seeking to void the land-use plan approved by the state Coastal Commission.

December 1986 Land-use plans are recertified by the state Coastal Commission.

February 1989 Maguire Thomas Partners take over as lead developer of Playa Vista.

October 1990 Maguire Thomas Partners reaches an agreement with Friends of Ballona Wetlands. Key terms of the agreement include the developers setting aside 269 acres of wetlands and

contributing \$10 million toward its restoration.

September 1993 Los Angeles City Council approves the first phase of Playa Vista.

December 1995 Los Angeles City Council gives initial approval to the DreamWorks SKG studio complex.

July 1999 DreamWorks SKG scraps its studio project.

April 2000 Playa Vista begins construction on Visitor Center and 705-unit apartment building.

July 2001 Architect Frank O. Gehry is hired by developer Rob Maguire to plan about 60 acres of the development.

August 2001 Playa Vista gives the Trust for Public Land an exclusive option to buy 193 acres of Ballona Wetlands for salt marsh preserve.

April 2002 First tenants move into the project’s Fountain Park apartments, near Lincoln Boulevard.



Frank O. Gehry

Researched by MALOY MOORE and JEFFREY L. RABIN / Los Angeles Times

Source: Times Archives

Los Angeles Times

Hall and ensured that at least some portion of the property is left to nature. They are not going away.

Today, they remain incredulous at the 175,910 extra vehicles a day that full build-out could bring to this traffic choke point between the Westside and Los Angeles International Airport. And they say

the adjacent wetlands cannot thrive unless they are greatly expanded.

Marcia Hanscom, director of the Wetlands Action Network, still insists that the entire property that stretches from the 405 Freeway to the Pacific Ocean should be restored to its natural state.

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HOUSING

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“One of our supporters in New York sent us a National Geographic from 1979 with a photograph of these unfinished condominiums being blown up to make way for park land,” Hanscom said recently. “It gives us hope that we can still do this.”

Meanwhile, hundreds of prospective tenants welcome the possibility of apartments and condominiums with ocean breezes in a region desperate for new housing.

Glenn Marzano, a free-lance photographer, said he couldn't wait to move in Wednesday.

“Location, location, location,” Marzano said when asked why he is taking a two-bedroom apartment at Playa Vista, sight unseen, months before many of the promised amenities will be in place.

Councilwoman Speaks of Need for Housing

Marzano is one of the 15% of tenants who will receive his apartment at a reduced rate, under a development agreement with the city to make the housing more affordable. That doesn't mean Playa Vista will be a haven for the poor. A subsidized three-bedroom apartment, at about \$700 below the market rate, will still go for \$1,635 a month.

Thousands more condos, townhouses, lofts and detached single-family homes are planned, at prices expected to range from \$200,000 to more than \$1 million.

Come fall, a land purchase is supposed to open the way for construction of a 3-million-square-foot complex of office buildings, each up

to five stories tall.

The developers say 22,000 people have expressed interest in buying or leasing one of the 3,246 dwellings in the project's first phase.

“We desperately need housing,” said City Councilwoman Ruth Galanter, who represents the area and has been instrumental in shaping the development. “I'm so thrilled people will finally be living there.”

Galanter came to office in 1987, deposing Council President Pat Russell, in large measure because of her opposition to an earlier version of Playa Vista. That plan included high-rises on the coastal side of Lincoln Boulevard, a golf course and a new boat basin for Marina del Rey.

Galanter insists that current plans for the first phase strike the proper balance among housing, commercial uses and open space.

“Basically, this is a project designed to do smart growth,” she said, “with jobs and housing in the same place and a substantive amount of land under permanent protection.”

After Howard Hughes' death, his Summa Corp. approached city and county officials with the proposal for a new community on the property. The 1978 development plans included high-rise office buildings, 7,000 housing units and 600 boat slips at adjacent Marina del Rey. The company planned a nature preserve of about 72 acres.

By the time the Coastal Commission approved the project in 1984, it had grown to more than 8,800 apartments, houses and condominiums, and the proposed Ballona Wetlands preserve had expanded to 175 acres.

Environmentalists sued to nullify the plan and to preserve more of the wetlands—an oasis for several endangered species and a stopover on the Pacific Flyway for migratory birds.

A decade after the initial proposal, many believed the impasse had finally ended.

A new developer, Maguire Thomas Partners, took over the project and quickly agreed to set aside or restore 340 acres of open space, which includes a section of Ballona Creek.

That solution was good enough for one generation of environmentalists, and the compromise won the crucial blessing of Councilwoman Galanter, allowing the first phase of the project to advance.

But a new set of critics was soon dogging Playa Vista. They were determined that the entire property be spared from development. And their relentless opposition threatened to scuttle any progress the developer managed to make.

When DreamWorks SKG and the city struck a deal in 1995 to bring the glamorous anchor tenant to the property, for example, opponents dressed in frog suits to confront the conservation minded studio chiefs, accusing them of hypocrisy.

The opponents sued time and again and usually lost. But the delays drove up the cost of the project. And, after four years of uncertainty and problems with financing, DreamWorks pulled out of the project in 1999.

Frustrated by the repeated delays, the investment banks and union pension fund that own most of Playa Vista hired real estate broker

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Soboroff last October to move the project ahead. The former mayoral candidate had helped close the deals to build Staples Center arena and the Alameda Corridor rail project.

Soboroff has tried to bring a sense of urgency to the development and touts its energy-saving technology—in lighting, heating and air conditioning, transportation and other areas. He buzzes around the property in an electric golf cart and says residents will be able to use the vehicles, instead of their cars, for short trips or errands on the property.

That will do little, opponents say, to stop the traffic that will soon deluge neighborhood streets.

The first phase of Playa Vista, alone, will generate an additional 39,500 vehicle trips daily, putting roughly 4,500 more cars on the road during morning and evening rush hours.

Developer Promises Road Improvements

Playa Vista plans to spend \$100 million on road improvements, including the widening of Lincoln and Culver boulevards. As a result, the developer says traffic will move more freely through many intersections.

But neighbors worry that widening the roads and improving more than 100 intersections will only shift bottlenecks, not eliminate them.

“It increases the capacity of the roads right next to the site, but it doesn’t solve the problem of how do people get there,” said Bryan Gordon, president of the Mar Vista

Neighborhood Assn. Nor will it help with the wall of traffic that inches along the San Diego Freeway, as it narrows near the site, Gordon said.

Of late, opponents have charged that the greatest hazard at Playa Vista will be the Gas Co. facility that stores methane in the bedrock deep below the site.

The builders say they can monitor and control any leaks with an elaborate system of air-tight membranes and vents beneath concrete foundations. A team of city officials has declared that the new buildings can be made safe.

But skeptics say the gas is too mobile and will be able to accumulate to explosive levels in the new homes and offices.

The final magnitude of Playa Vista may turn largely on a deal to convert more of the project to open space. In years gone by, such a purchase seemed like dreamy speculation. The builders were unwilling and the real estate simply cost too much for the public to acquire.

Yet these are unusual times.

Not only is Playa Vista now a willing seller, but the state government for the first time in a decade has enough bond money to make a deal work.

The deal began to gain momentum last year when the developers of Playa Vista signed an agreement with a land broker, the Trust for Public Land, to allow a state-certified appraiser to set a fair price.

An agreement specifies that Playa Vista’s developers can reject the sale, but cannot bargain for more than the appraised price. If a sale can be completed, the trust would transfer the land to the state of California.

“This is a moment in time that we have to seize,” said Reed Holderman, Trust for Public Land’s California director. “Does anyone want to go through another 20 years of battles and controversy?”

As the appraisal nears completion, Soboroff said he is optimistic. He believes the price will be high enough for him to make a strong recommendation to the owners to sell. Principal investors include Union Labor Life Insurance Co., investment banks Morgan Stanley and Goldman, Sachs and Oak Tree Capital Management Co. and Pacific Capital Group, which is run by Global Crossing CEO Gary Winnick.

“I try to move people to the middle and make them 70% happy,” said Soboroff. “The owners have said the value of the land is well over \$200 million. That is considered out of the ballpark by Reed [Holderman] and his folks. I think it’s going to be somewhere around . . . What’s 70% of \$200 million?”

Hanscom, the most vocal critic of Playa Vista, vows to fight the proposed sale if the appraisal sets the value above \$100 million. Anything more, she said, would amount to bailout of the developers and inflate future open space purchases along the coast.

Moreover, she believes that her group and other members of Citizens United to Save All of Ballona can prevent the Playa Vista builders from ever developing the 193 acres—without making a deal.

“There is no question that our coalition has brought them to this point, to want to sell this land,” Hanscom said. “Why should we give up now?” ■

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IRFAN KHAN / Los Angeles Times

Lori Haigh before news conference at attorney's office in Irvine at which she said she was abused from age 14-17 by Father John Lenihan.

Two Catholic Dioceses Settle Molestation Suit

Church: Woman who says priest abused her is paid \$1.2 million.

By WILLIAM LOBDELL
TIMES STAFF WRITER

The Roman Catholic dioceses of Orange and Los Angeles paid \$1.2 million Monday to a 37-year-old woman who alleged in a lawsuit that a popular priest molested her as a teenager, got her pregnant and paid for her abortion.

The church's settlement with Lori Haigh was the second high-profile settlement the two dioceses have paid in eight months to a victim of priestly abuse. It was the latest in a mounting string of cases throughout the nation that have focused attention on the church's tolerance of abusive clergy.

Haigh, of San Francisco, held a

morning news conference Monday at her attorney's office in Irvine, and then filed a criminal complaint against Father John Lenihan with the Orange County Sheriff's Department. A spokesman for the department said it would launch an investigation.

Haigh's lawsuit also claimed that two other priests—now high-ranking officials with the Diocese of Orange—ignored her pleas for help 20 years ago. She said she was abused from age 14 to 17.

Lenihan's attorney, Ron Talmo, declined to comment. But in a written statement, Bishop of Orange Tod D. Brown said, "I am deeply sorry for the hurt caused by the actions of Father Lenihan, and extend my apology to Ms. Haigh and all victims of sexual clergy abuse."

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SUIT

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According to church officials, the two other priests deny ever meeting Haigh. One of them, Msgr. Lawrence J. Baird, held his own press conference later in the day and threatened to file a defamation suit against Haigh.

At her press conference, Haigh said she got to know Lenihan because she played the guitar in a youth group that performed at Sunday evening Mass at St. Norbert Church in Orange, where he was a priest.

Haigh said that because she was involved in church activities five days a week, the molestations occurred frequently. Lenihan would give her rides to and from different youth-group activities, she said, and would pull off at secluded places along the road to molest her, she said.

"My parents felt I was safe with the church group," said Haigh, adding that her parents didn't know about the sexual abuse until years later. "And that it was OK to be brought home by your priest at 2 a.m. in the morning."

When she got pregnant at 16, she said Lenihan "told me that I had to get an abortion." She said she tried to commit suicide, cutting her wrists with a butcher knife. Still, she didn't tell her parents.

She said the man she still sometimes calls "Father John" drove her to the bank to get the money,

"He didn't seem particularly concerned about the status of my soul," she said. "He gave me the money and said, of course, that he couldn't come with me for the abortion," which Catholic teaching regards as a mortal sin.



Los Angeles Times

Msgr. Lawrence J. Baird threatened to sue Haigh for defamation of character.

Lenihan, who previously had admitted in a separate case to molesting a minor and numerous affairs with women, was ousted in September as pastor of St. Edward Church in Dana Point and last week agreed to be removed from the priesthood.

Haigh said that in 1982, three years into the alleged molestations, she went to Msgr. Baird, a favorite priest of her family and now the current diocesan spokesman, about her relationship with Lenihan. After she finished speaking, she claims, Baird came around the desk, kissed her and rubbed himself against her.

She said she pushed him away, partly because there was a window in the door and she was afraid of she would get into trouble.

"As I was leaving, Father Baird gave me his telephone number and told me to call him if I needed to 'talk again,'" Haigh said.

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Baird said at his press conference that he has no memory of meeting Haigh, but he does have "100% memory that I have never made any inappropriate contact with any person during my 33 years as a priest. . . . This accusation is absolutely without any foundation."

At one tense moment, Baird directly addressed Haigh, who attended his press conference, saying, "I pray for you."

Haigh said afterward that she had expected an apology from Baird. "But I'm not afraid," she said. "I'm telling the truth."

Haigh also alleged that a few weeks later when she went to complain to Msgr. John Urell—now the Diocese of Orange's vicar general, who deals of priest molestation cases—he accused her of lying and said, "How long have you been telling this story?" He also told her never to be seen in church again, she claims.

Even more than the molestations, Haigh said, Urell's treatment of her caused the most emotional damage over the years.

"It was a horrible betrayal," she said. "I just sat in my car and cried."

Urell was out of town Monday and unavailable for comment.

Haigh alleged that in 1981 or 1982, a law enforcement officer caught Lenihan molesting her in his silver Mercury Monarch at a secluded spot along Silverado Canyon.

Haigh said the officer put her in his patrol car and asked her age, which she told him was 16.

She said the officer then spent about 15 minutes with Lenihan, before telling her, "I don't want to ever



Father Lenihan, the same priest Lori Haigh said abused her, admitted to molesting Mary Grant..

see you here with him again," and putting her back in Lenihan's car.

The Diocese of Orange paid 80% of the settlement, with Los Angeles paying the remainder. The Archdiocese of Los Angeles was named in the suit for two reasons. In 1978, Cardinal Timothy Manning, who died in 1989, had been warned about Lenihan's behavior by the father of another teenager, Mary Grant. Grant, whom Lenihan admitted to molesting, was paid \$25,000 in 1991 by the church. Also, Haigh claimed that Lenihan had introduced her to a priest in a San Pedro parish, who also tried to have sex with her.

Tod Tamberg, media relations director of the Los Angeles archdiocese, said the church tried without success to identify the San Pedro priest mentioned in Haigh's complaint. But he said Haigh provided few details to help identify him. ■

Times staff writers Larry B. Stammer and Dave McKibben contributed to this report.

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■ Firms' shifting of high-tech work to Mexico and China to cut costs bodes ill for many laid-off Americans.

By EVELYN IRITANI
TIMES STAFF WRITER

For more than a century, Emerson Electric Co. rode the business cycle, expanding when sales were high and cutting jobs when revenue went south.

That is still the strategy as the U.S. economy is poised to turn the corner, but there is a twist: The St. Louis-based multinational won't be hiring at its rural Mississippi plant—that facility is shutting down. Instead, it expects to be hiring in China, the Philippines or Mexico. And it won't just be assembly-line jobs going offshore. Emerson hopes to move at

least half of its engineering work to China and India.

Emerson's example bodes ill for millions of laid-off Americans, who may never see their jobs return with the economic recovery.

The increased flow of trade and investment across borders played a large role in the economic expansion of the last decade. Now, during an economic contraction, the flip side of globalization is apparent: U.S. firms are finding cheaper places to do business where they also can sell their goods. Along with computer chips and airplanes, it is jobs and investment dollars sailing offshore.

"We want to make sure when we come out of this recession we'll be ready," David Farr, Emerson's chief executive, told analysts recently. "When we finish this calendar year 2002, 70% of our manufacturing will be in low-cost countries. That's

a significant change from where we were before."

In recent months, Emerson announced the closure of its plant in Oxford, Miss., and cutbacks in Montreal. A factory in Monterrey, Mexico, is being shut and some of the work is being shifted to China. By the end of this year, the company will have closed 50 facilities and cut its work force by 10%.

"We've got to get the same amount of output, the same level of technology without spending as much capital," Farr said.

Others are close behind. Black & Decker Corp., the nation's largest power tool manufacturer, has announced the closure of three plants, including a 400-employee Pacoima facility, and a shift of that production to Mexico, China and Eastern Europe. Battery-maker Evercel Inc.

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OFFSHORE

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is closing plants in Connecticut and Virginia and moving assembly work to a joint-venture plant in Xiamen, China. Lear Corp., the world's fifth-largest auto parts maker, said it will eliminate 6,500 jobs and close 21 facilities, nearly two-thirds in the higher-cost regions of the U.S., Canada and Europe. The company would not provide a breakdown of where the jobs would be lost.

Lear Chief Executive Bob Rossiter said the restructuring represents "tough decisions to right size our company for future success."

Emerson's decision to move the work of its Oxford plant to Mexico and China means that 500 jobs—a quarter of the town's manufacturing base—will disappear.

When Max Hipp, executive director of the Oxford-Lafayette County Economic Development Foundation, first heard the bad news, he tried to persuade the town's largest private employer to stay. But Oxford, a town

of 11,756 where the median income is \$20,383, already offers some of the cheapest labor and operating costs in the United States.

"We talked about ways to save it, but with something of this magnitude and the type of competition we face, there's really nothing we can do," the Oxford native said. "If we eliminated their [Emerson's] entire tax burden, that wouldn't make a difference."

Labor leaders and other globalization critics had hoped the airport shutdowns and lengthy border delays that followed the Sept. 11 attacks would prompt U.S. firms to keep work at home.

"Certainly we hope that American companies will be feeling patriotic and they will have some commitment to their communities and their workers and will address their cost pressures in some other way than by outsourcing," said Thea Lee, an assistant director for international economics with the AFL-CIO in Washington.

"With profits at the lowest per-

centage of corporate revenues in the postwar period, firms are being forced to reevaluate their business models and figure out whether or not things can be done more efficiently," said Ross DeVol, director of regional studies at the Santa Monica-based Milken Institute. "The recession just accelerates that trend."

Manufacturing jobs have historically been the most vulnerable to global competition, but the latest round of outsourcing also is hitting telephone operators, graphic designers, accountants and engineers.

Trade experts argue that this global repositioning is healthy, simply stepping up the shift of the U.S. economy toward a more high-tech provider of services and more sophisticated products. By taking advantage of lower costs abroad, U.S. firms can retain their competitive edge and gain inroads in fast-growing markets in Asia and Latin America.

The beneficiaries include export-oriented developing countries slammed by the U.S. slowdown.

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OFFSHORE

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Leading that list is China, a more attractive place to operate since it joined the World Trade Organization in December and agreed to play by global trade rules. In spite of the global downturn, foreign investment in China was up 14.9% in 2001 from the previous year, according to China's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation.

U.S. firms are attracted to outsourcing because it makes it easier to adjust their production and transfers the overhead costs and labor expenses to their subcontractors. From 1996 to 2000, outsourcing by U.S. firms tripled from \$100 billion to \$345 billion a year, according to John Challenger, chief executive of Challenger, Gray & Christmas, an international outplacement firm.

In the U.S., labor-intensive jobs in textile and apparel manufacturing, toys and light electronics migrated long ago to low-cost production areas in Asia and Latin America. Now,

it is more sophisticated industries such as semiconductor and aerospace manufacturing and network computing that are moving offshore, in part because a strong dollar raises the price of U.S. exports.

Belt-tightening in the battered commercial aerospace industry has forced companies such as Honeywell International Inc. and General Electric Co. to look south for cheaper sources of components. Honeywell, which purchases 15% of its \$1.4 billion a year in raw materials abroad, held a suppliers conference recently in Monterrey.

Michael Stow, president of Orange-based Arden Engineering Inc., is bucking the trend. Though he lost some commercial aerospace orders in the Sept. 11 fallout, he has picked up business on the military side. By forging long-term contracts with raw-material suppliers and upgrading his machinery, he has been able to keep his 85 jobs in the U.S. and stay competitive. He also produces more sophisticated structural components that aerospace firms

are less willing to source abroad.

But thanks to infusions of foreign investment and technology, developing countries are moving up the manufacturing chain quickly.

In Emerson's reconfigured world, power modules or motors would be designed in St. Louis but engineered and produced in Shenzhen, China, or Mexicali, Mexico. Customers calling Emerson's ClosetMaid subsidiary would talk to an operator in the Philippines. An accounts-payable center in the Philippines or India would handle the bills for all of North America, a consolidation of 400 offices.

China is fast becoming a linchpin in Emerson's global empire, contributing 44% of last year's \$1.7-billion sales in Asia. In addition to being a cheap manufacturing base, China represents one of the world's fastest-growing markets for Emerson's power conversion and compressor technology and plant automation systems. CEO Farr believes Emerson has a lot to learn from China about producing a good product at the lowest price. ■

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Associated Press

Europe Confronts Specter of Anti-Semitism

Jews, above, prepare to bury the remains of Torah scrolls that were burned in an arson attack on a synagogue in Marseille, France. Riot police were deployed at religious sites and schools nationwide after a series of anti-Semitic attacks linked to Mideast tensions. At right, President Jacques Chirac, left, and Antoine Ruffenacht, mayor of Le Havre, greet Victor Elgressy of the city's Jewish community. Chirac had visited a synagogue to show his solidarity. In Brussels, a synagogue was damaged by gasoline bombs, and police in Turkey boosted security at religious sites. ■



Agence France-Presse

Reformers Gain Seats in Ukraine Parliament Vote

Europe: Communists will no longer be largest group in legislature, but no party wins majority. Government is accused of interfering in election.

By MARY MYCIO
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

KIEV, Ukraine—Ukraine's parliamentary elections produced no clear winner Monday, as reformers edged out Communists but did not secure a clear majority.

Despite allegations of government interference and vote-rigging, observers cautiously predicted that the new legislature would be markedly more reform-minded than any of its predecessors.

With nearly all of the 24 million ballots counted, the reformist Our Ukraine party, led by popular former Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko, had 23% of the vote; the Communist Party had 20%; and the pro-president For United Ukraine had about 12%. But percentages won by the parties account for just half of the seats in the 450-member parliament. The other 225 are decided in local elections for individuals.

However, it was clear that for the first time since Ukraine became independent a decade ago, the Communists would not form the largest faction in parliament.

The Communists and For United Ukraine are allied with President



Agence France-Presse

Ex-Premier Viktor Yushchenko holds a news conference in Kiev. His reformist Our Ukraine party was among the top vote-getters.

Leonid D. Kuchma, an unpopular leader who is mired in scandals and internationally isolated. But the other four top vote-getters are parties that oppose Kuchma either openly or surreptitiously.

"This parliament will contain more people who were [Kuchma's] victims than ever before," opined the Internet publication Ukrainian Truth.

Kuchma unexpectedly left the capital, Kiev, on Monday for a week-long visit to the Crimea. Although

he praised Sunday's election as "extremely democratic," he had no comment on its result.

International observers' reactions to the election were mixed. In a report Monday, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe lauded a more democratic new election law, the active role of nongovernmental organizations in monitoring the campaign and balloting, and the wide spectrum of political choices. But it accused the government of interfering in the campaign, and it criticized the media's excessive partisanship in favor of For United Ukraine.

The elections were marred by "a general atmosphere of distrust, both among voters and among candidates," the OSCE reported. However, no organization has said that the final results might be declared invalid.

In Washington, the State Department said the Ukrainian government could have done more to ensure a level playing field for all political parties.

"We're particularly disappointed that officials did not take steps to curb the widespread and open abuse of authority, including the use of government positions and facilities, to the unfair advantage of certain parties," State Department spokesman Philip T. Reeker said.

Taking the local races into account, Yushchenko's party and For

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UKRAINE

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United Ukraine, led by Kuchma's ex-administration chief, Volodymyr Lytvyn, were each expected to garner 110 seats in parliament. The Communists were expected to get 65.

Critics charged that authorities abused resources to benefit Lytvyn's party in the local district races. For United Ukraine came in third in voting for the party slates, but it took a commanding lead in the local races.

Yushchenko said Monday that exit polls showed that his party's share of seats should have been greater, and he charged authorities with election fraud.

"We estimate that from 8 to 12% of the vote has been falsified," he told journalists, and he said his party would challenge the results in court.

"Democracy is the loser," he added. "That is the main defeat of these elections."

Lytvyn, who in February called pollsters "prostitutes," dismissed the exit polls and criticisms, saying that unexpectedly strong results for opposition parties were proof that the elections were honest.

In a surprise to many, the Socialist Party—led by the implacably anti-Kuchma former parliament speaker Oleksandr Moroz—had about 7% of the vote, slightly more than another coalition opposing the president led by former Deputy Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. A third group, the United Social Democratic Party, garnered only 6% despite relentless promotion on the country's two most-watched

television networks.

The remaining 27 parties in the race did not garner the minimum 4% of the vote needed to win a slate of seats. Under Ukraine's election law, votes cast for slates are divided among the winning parties.

Analysts predicted that Our Ukraine and For United Ukraine would act as magnets around which other parties would coalesce. Neither Yushchenko nor Lytvyn reject the possibility of working together on some issues, such as a less punishing tax code. But other economic reforms that might threaten the shadowy business interests heavily represented in For United Ukraine could put Lytvyn on the same side as the Communists.

Perhaps the greatest uncertainty surrounds Kuchma's future. The Moroz and Tymoshenko blocs are unlikely to total more than 50 seats, but opposition sentiments could gain momentum—particularly if allegations of Kuchma's involvement in the death of journalist Georgi Gongadze in 2000 are substantiated, or if new accusations of illegal arm sales to Iraq prove true.

Without such developments, the lack of a decisive election winner will give Kuchma room to maneuver, especially in preparation for presidential elections planned for 2004, Russian lawmaker Dmitry Rogozin said.

"The existing president's field of support has been sharply reduced," he said. "But for now, it still exists." ■



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Ex-Ruler's Kin Walks Softly in His Footsteps

S. Korea: The daughter of former dictator Park Chung Hee may run for president. But unlike his iron fist, hers would be a gentler hand, she says.

By BARBARA DEMICK
TIMES STAFF WRITER

SEOUL—In the tradition of powerful men and their ambitious daughters in Asian politics, there is yet another new face with a familiar name. This time it is the daughter of Park Chung Hee, a dictator who ruled South Korea through force and fear for nearly two decades until his assassination in 1979.

After a relatively uneventful term in the National Assembly, Park Geun Hye stunned the political establishment recently by announcing that she was quitting the conservative opposition party and planning to start her own organization.

She has hinted that she will run for president to replace incumbent Kim Dae Jung, a former dissident whom—as the small world of South Korean politics would have it—her father tried to have murdered at least once in the 1970s.

Park's possible candidacy is filled with such quirks and contradictions. Although she is political royalty, she says her new party will bring fresh blood to the arena. And though she blatantly appeals to nostalgia among some for the stability of her father's strong-arm rule, her



Reuters

Park Geun Hye announced plans to launch a party that would focus on democratic reforms.

pitch focuses on democratic reform.

"Different times need different types of leadership," Park, 50, said during an interview in her National Assembly office, a tidy room decorated with orchids and political kitsch from her father's rule. "My father was criticized as a dictator, but that should not overshadow his accomplishments in restructuring the country. He brought Korea out of 5,000 years of poverty. What he left unaccomplished was democratization of the system."

The latest polls show that Park would come in a distant third, with no more than 15% of the vote, if she runs in the Dec. 19 election. But whether it is the undeniable glow of celebrity or the novelty of being

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PARK

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a woman eyeing the top spot, Park is commanding far more than her share of attention in the race. The Korean-language version of Newsweek recently put Park on its cover, labeling her South Korea's Indira Gandhi—a daughter who took power after her father's death.

Kim, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2000, is barred by law from seeking another five-year term. And all those who are hoping to succeed him are relative political midgets in the shadow of his towering presence.

“She is the only political leader who can gather a crowd when she goes to deliver a speech,” said Park Jai Chang, a political scientist at Sook Myong Women's University in Seoul, who is no relation.

Park Geun Hye, a thin, delicate-looking woman, is said to be the spitting image of her popular mother, who was shot to death in 1974 by an assassin aiming for Park Chung Hee. The oldest of the ruling couple's three children, Park was summoned home from her studies in France to serve as first lady. She attended social functions with her father until his 18-year rule was ended by a bullet fired by his intelligence chief.

Under the next military dictator, Chun Doo Hwan, Park was banished from public life lest she attract a political following. She confined herself to largely ceremonial jobs on university boards and foundations until 1998, when she was elected to the National Assembly as a member of the conservative Grand National Party.

Park's resume is somewhat thin for a politician seeking national leadership. In addition to her short stint in the assembly, her main qualification is the five years she served as South Korea's de facto first lady.

“The first lady's position is not an easy job,” Park said in the interview.

Referring to South Korea's equivalent of the White House, she noted: “The Blue House is a place where you encounter worries from day to night. If there is a drought in the country or if there are armed commandos penetrating from the North, you have a crisis. I watched my father's anxieties for years. The experience made me very attentive to this country and gave me a sense of obligation that I should contribute somehow.”

Politically, much of her appeal comes from a grudging admiration here for her father, who is widely credited with engineering the “economic miracle” that lifted South Korea from poverty even though he is considered a tyrant who impeded the growth of democracy.

Notwithstanding her slim chance of winning, Park has already had an impact on the presidential race. She resigned Feb. 28 from the GNP, complaining about party leader Lee Hoi Chang's dictatorial manner in handpicking assembly candidates. It was Lee who four years earlier tapped Park for office.

Until Park quit, Lee was the favorite to become the next president. But Park's move eroded support for him. He was forced last week to resign as party chief, and the latest polls show him as much as

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PARK

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17 percentage points behind the favorite from the ruling Millennium Democratic Party, former dissident and human rights lawyer Roh Moo Hyun.

“There is a certain commonality between all these daughters in Asian politics,” political scientist Park said, referring also to Presidents Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia and Gloria Macapagal Arroyo of the Philippines. “These female leaders have shown antagonism toward the political establishment. They are symbolic figures too, fighting corruption and leading the path toward political reform.”

Political pundits here believe that Park intends to run this year with the idea that even if she loses, she will hone her skills and become a more credible candidate in the future. People who know her seem to use the same words in describing Park: tough, disciplined, cool and self-sacrificing.

It was part of the legend surrounding Park Chung Hee that, when his wife was assassinated during a ceremony at which he was speaking, he finished the speech and even stayed through a performance by a choir rather than show anguish.

“President Park asked that his children not show tears in public after their mother died, and that was the way she behaved. Very disciplined,” a former aide to the assassinated leader, who knows the family well but asked not to be identified, said of the assemblywoman.

Sunny Han, a Korean American businesswoman who is promoting Park’s candidacy, added: “Between the death of both of her parents, she has survived more than most people, and that has made her strong. She is no spoiled princess.” ■

Chi Jung Nam in The Times’ Seoul Bureau contributed to this report.



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THE MIDDLE EAST

Bush Urges Restraint on Sharon

Diplomacy: Arafat takes the brunt of the administration's criticism, but the president refuses to call him a terrorist.

By ROBIN WRIGHT
TIMES STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON—In careful but conspicuously pointed language, the Bush administration Monday sent a series of public signals to Israel urging “maximum restraint” and expressing deep concern about its siege of West Bank towns.

President Bush and other U.S. officials continued to call, first and foremost, on Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat to take decisive action to rein in extremists. Yet another suicide bombing—the sixth in six days—triggered a new round of condemnation from American officials.

“There will never be peace so long as there’s terror,” Bush told reporters Monday. “I’d like to see Arafat denounce the terrorist activities that are taking place, the constant attacks. . . . There’s a lot of innocent people who hurt in the region because of the senseless violence and senseless murder.”

But the president also took pains Monday to say that Arafat does not fit his definition of a terrorist, illustrating a key difference between the United States and Israel in their approaches to the raging Mideast violence.



Associated Press

President Bush, in an appeal to Yasser Arafat on Monday, said “Suicide bombings in the name of religion is simple terror.”

Bush said he does not consider Arafat a terrorist because the Palestinian leader has agreed both to peace with Israel and to two specific, ongoing U.S. efforts—plans put forth by CIA Director George J. Tenet to achieve a cease-fire and by former Sen. George J. Mitchell (D-Maine) for resuming talks on a final settlement with Israel. Since the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and the Pentagon, Bush has repeatedly stated that anyone who supports, funds, fosters or tolerates terrorism should also be considered a terrorist.

As Israel intensified its siege of the West Bank on Monday, Bush also called on Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon not to close all roads back to the peace table.

“It’s very important for the prime minister to keep a pathway to peace open, to understand that, on the one hand, Israel should protect herself and, on the other hand, there ought to be . . . the capacity to achieve a peaceful resolution to this issue. It’s important for Israel to understand that,” Bush said during a photo opportunity with Gov. George Pataki of New York and New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg.

And in language cleared by the White House, the State Department said the U.S. is “gravely concerned” about the Israeli siege of West Bank towns, particularly Ramallah, where Arafat has his headquarters.

The United States decided to go public with its views Monday in part out of frustration with Israel’s failure to respond to repeated messages through diplomatic channels—from Washington and a host of other capitals, said a U.S. official who asked to remain anonymous.

“The language reflects our frustration. Humanitarian relief is being detained or delayed. Ambulances are being shot at. American citizens and an American journalist were shot at. . . . We’ve said all these things in private already,” the official said.

So the administration took the unusual step of publicly voicing concerns about the consequences of its staunch ally’s strategy.

“We deplore the killing and wounding of innocent Palestinians,

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BUSH

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and we urge Israel to use maximum restraint to avoid harm to civilians and permit access for humanitarian services," State Department spokesman Philip T. Reeker said Monday.

It is "imperative" that the Israeli military "exercise the utmost . . . discipline," he told reporters.

Reeker specifically cited deep concern about the shooting of "peaceful demonstrators" that injured two Americans, among others, in the West Bank town of Beit Jala on Monday. The State Department urged the Israeli government to launch a "thorough investigation" to avoid other such incidents. Reeker pointedly noted that the United States would monitor the situation.

The State Department also had tough words for the Palestinians.

"Terror, including suicide bombings, will not advance the Palestinian cause, and it brings the Palestinians and Israelis no closer to peace," Reeker said at the briefing.

But he welcomed a promise from Sharon that Arafat would not be harmed. The involvement of Arafat—the Palestinians' elected leader—and the actions of Palestinian Authority officials are critical to ending the escalating bloodshed, he said.

"We cannot lose sight of our goal: an enduring and comprehensive peace and security for Arabs and Israelis alike," Reeker said. ■

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A Cup Shows It Can Handle Itself—and Mug for Cameras

Military: A Marine's drinking utensil goes AWOL but soon has an e-mailed tale to tell of heroism and high jinks in the war on terrorism.

By RONE TEMPEST
TIMES STAFF WRITER

UNDISCLOSED LOCATION IN AFGHANISTAN—On Nov. 25, as U.S. forces were mobilizing for the international campaign against terrorism, a personalized coffee mug disappeared from the wardroom at a San Diego Marine air base.

Three weeks later, the owner, Marine Maj. Dennis Stephens, received a photograph via e-mail of his coffee mug aboard the Navy amphibious assault ship Bonhomme Richard somewhere in the Pacific Ocean en route to South Asia. The photo showed the coffee mug nestled in a Navy life vest.

It was accompanied by the following message addressed to Stephens under his aviator call name Nunya:

Dear Nunya, I am sorry to have left without saying goodbye, but I have always longed to sail the high seas and saw the Bonhomme Richard as my best opportunity. I promise to be careful, and will try to stay out of trouble. Sincerely, Mug.

Thus began the Many Adventures of Mug. Not long after that first message, one Marine pilot's prank



Mug whose adventures have kept U.S. troops riveted ends up in wire after Afghan "scuffle."

pulled on his former executive officer was being shared via e-mail with hundreds of U.S. servicemen around the world, a military manifestation of the "traveling objects" trend. In the lonely and often tedious routine of overseas military duty, Mug's travails provided relief.

For despite his promise, Mug did not "stay out of trouble." Oh no, he did not.

Mug's misadventures included nearly getting killed in a terror-

ist attack in Singapore and being roughed up in a fight with U.S. Army soldiers in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Through it all, Stephens good-naturedly played the role of Mug's concerned master.

A Times reporter encountered Mug and his Marine friends in Afghanistan. On the condition that the cup's exact whereabouts not be revealed, the officers shared some of his messages and photographs.

CONTINUED »

MUG

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The following is an account of Mug's exchanges with Stephens:

Nov. 25, 2001: Porcelain mug bearing Marine aviator wings and name Nunya disappears from coffee room of Marine Corps Air Station in Miramar. Stephens, executive officer of the HMH-462 "Heavy Haulers" helicopter squadron, reports the disappearance to his commanding officer, Lt. Col. Rick Schmidt. Mysteriously, Schmidt's mug, a.k.a. Pappy, is left untouched, although the cup reportedly suffers depression over the departure of its friend.

Dec. 15: Stephens receives first message from Mug aboard the Bonhomme. Mug reveals that he left California by stowing away in the helmet bag of Capt. W.D. "Slick" Collier, whose itinerary appears to match that of the cup almost exactly.

Dec. 18: Mug reveals that he was caught stowing away on a Super Stallion helicopter flight over Wake Island and confined to quarters.

Dear Nunya, I finally made it onto my first flight today, but unfortunately I was apprehended in the act. I had made it into the cruise box of one of the aircraft, and when I thought it was safe to look outside a crew chief grabbed me! Sincerely, Mug.

Later in December: Mug writes that he has been hanging out in the Bonhomme Richard's command tower:

Dear Nunya, As you can see I am back at work on the ship again. I like hangin' with the Boss, he lets me talk on the radios, and I feel like I can make people do stuff. . . . I don't know if I will be allowed to be the tower flower anymore. With

all those colorful switches and buttons around, I couldn't resist seeing what some of them do. Turns out one of my favorite ones sounds the collision alarm, and the other is a fire alarm. Anyway, I got to meet several high-ranking individuals who sure know how to make you feel guilty for singing on the 1-MC. I mean, who couldn't love my rendition of Hank Williams Jr.'s "If Heaven Ain't a Lot Like Dixie" anyway? Sincerely, Mug.

Jan 10, 2002: Alarming news from Singapore, where the Bonhomme Richard is making a port call. Stephens receives an anonymous e-mail from some of Mug's Marine comrades with a photograph of a shattered coffee mug:

To whom it may concern: We regret to inform you that Mug has been a casualty during a recent port call in Singapore. While standing guard aboard USS Bonhomme Richard at Changi naval base, Mug was witness to terrorists' attempts to sabotage the U.S. ship. A group of 3 swarthy terrorist bastards approached the ship while it was docked and threw a grenade toward the catwalk. The grenade failed to make it more than 4 stories up the ship, however it came to rest on the catwalk where Mug was standing his watch. With less than a matter of seconds to make a decision, Mug jumped from his post and threw himself on the grenade. The majority of the blast and shrapnel was absorbed by Mug. This entire event was witnessed by over 200 Marines and sailors who quickly overwhelmed the terrorists, disemboweled them, and fed them to the local fish and sea gulls. Mug's actions prevented possible damage to vital portions of the ship, to include the wardroom lounge big screen television and adult movie

collection. Mug is currently in stable condition. . . . With luck, and a little super glue, [he] may someday be able to hold room temperature beverages again.

Jan. 12: Stephens erroneously assumes that Mug has been killed in action, which would be the fourth mug that has been mysteriously lost from his command. Although devastated, the major informs the men that unless they come up with another mug, they will be reassigned to a desert base.

Gentlemen, The news of Mug's passing has indeed hit me hard. I have received cards and condolences from all corners of the planet. I can sense they are heartfelt and sincere as I know each of you shares in my grief, particularly those now obligated to replace Mug. His selfless (and ultimately his last) breathtaking act of bravery will echo in eternity (I heard that in that cool gladiator movie). It's the kind of heroic deed that can only be inspired by years of porcelain training, shared hardship, a deep love for ones fellow man/mug, and/or a really awesome collection of classic boat porn. As this is the 4th in a series of 5 mugs, and since all but one have incurred similar, equally heroic and tragic deaths, I am moved to recover, at any cost, the 5th and final mug. . . . Rest assured that if you fail in your task I will not fail in my task of securing a tour for each of you at our most beloved training center: 29 Palms. Love, XO (executive officer).

Later in January: Concerned about possible retribution, Mug's helpful comrades, who seem to communicate through Collier, send Stephens a photograph of a replacement mug: a baby bottle filled with

CONTINUED »

MUG

« CONTINUED

milk. The major, on duty in the Mariana Islands in the Pacific, is touched but not totally forgiving. Stephens writes back:

Dear Mug, I was certainly touched by your offer to send a replacement. Imagine the joy I felt when I discovered you actually sent me pictures—again. Just knowing you are still risking your delicate porcelain while I sit here in the peaceful environs of the Mariana Island Chain fills me with a sense of despair. . . . Still, it is no replacement for the joy you provided. Heed my earlier warnings; there are still those among you who will attempt to defile your integrity. I long for the day when they will once again fall under my power and authority. Your Mentor.

Jan. 19: Great news. Mug has recovered. He writes from Kandahar about a fight with Army soldiers. The e-mail is accompanied by a photo of Mug ensnared in concertina wire in front of the Kandahar

airport terminal.

Dear Nunya, I am happy to say that I have recovered from my concussion and shrapnel injuries, and have made it back into the fight. . . . You should see all the Army guys here! They are all a little overweight and need haircuts. I started talking [expletive] to some of them because they were singing, "Short people got no reason—" (I know you can relate) and a small scuffle broke out. I ended up stuck in this concertina wire, but they went away with some porcelain impressions in their heads! . . . I bet if Pappy Mug had been here we coulda' taken 'em! I don't know what kind of airport this is, I looked forever but couldn't find a bar anywhere! Sincerely, Mug.

February and early March: Mug has adventures in Kenya, which he says is not nearly as hot as Twentynine Palms. Finally, he travels to a location in Afghanistan that is headquarters for Operation Anaconda, a major battle in the eastern area of the country. It is here that Mug, accompanied by Collier, is

interviewed and photographed. By this time Mug is a hero known to all on the base, where more than 3,000 American personnel are posted. Mug and his Marine pals live in a squalid tent next to outhouses. But, according to Collier, nothing seems to dampen Mug's spirits.

March 12: Mug messages from the front, accompanied by a picture taken with some rugged-looking Afghan fighters.

Dear Nunya, As you can see, I am back in the land of Afghanistan and meeting lots of new people. My two friends here Mike and Jimmy live locally, and were happy to be in a picture with me. The mountains here are beautiful and covered with snow, but I have not seen any ski resorts yet. Sincerely, Mug.

March 15: Alarmed by the looks of the men holding Mug in the photograph, Stephens responds in mock desperation:

For the love of GOD. . . . I'll pay any ransom if you don't let the guy on the left drink from Mug. . . .! Helpless in the Marianas. ■

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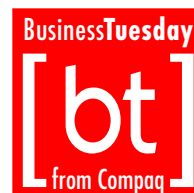
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Judge Says No Need to Prove Lindh Killed

Hearing: The government does not have to show American Talib harmed specific U.S. citizens, jurist rules. The key is whether he knew Al Qaeda's general aims.

By RICHARD A. SERRANO
TIMES STAFF WRITER

ALEXANDRIA, Va.—Federal prosecutors conceded in court here Monday that John Walker Lindh had no “personal involvement” in the death of CIA Agent Johnny “Mike” Spann, who was the first U.S. fatality in the ongoing war against terrorism.

But Judge T.S. Ellis III said the government does not have to prove that specific people were selected for murder. Rather, he ruled that prosecutors must show only that Lindh knew that the general aim of his involvement with the Taliban and Al Qaeda was to kill Americans.

In the daylong pretrial hearing in U.S. District Court, Ellis also denied a defense request that prosecutors immediately provide a detailed list of its evidence against Lindh, including whom he conspired with and what he allegedly did to foment terrorism against Americans. Lindh's attorneys say his grand jury indictment is “overly broad,” thus difficult to defend against.

The hearing was the first of many court sessions to come as both sides prepare for jury selection in August.

The trial against the 21-year-old former Northern Californian—the first of several trials stemming from the Sept. 11 attacks and the war on terrorism—is shaping up to be a crucial test of the government's ability to bring terrorists to justice.

Spann was killed during a prison riot in Afghanistan shortly after failing to persuade Lindh to speak to him there about his involvement with the Taliban armed forces and his time at an Al Qaeda terrorist training facility.

At an earlier hearing for Lindh, Shannon Spann said he should receive the death penalty for her husband's death.

Prosecutors said that while Lindh is charged with conspiracy to commit murder, they are not alleging that any specific victims were targeted. Rather, they charge, Lindh was providing material and other services to the Al Qaeda and Taliban networks to further a “general goal” of killing Americans.

The government plans to show that Lindh knew his fellow conspirators were plotting to “kill anyone and everyone” who was an American national and that the goal of Al Qaeda was to kill Americans in “Afghanistan, Pakistan and the U.S.,” prosecutor John Davis said.

The indictment previously accused Lindh of deaths “around the world.” It charges that Lindh conspired to murder U.S. nationals, to provide support and services to

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LINDH

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foreign terrorist organizations and to use firearms and destructive devices during crimes of violence.

Davis said the government could prove, through Lindh's own statements to U.S. authorities, that he and the other members of the Taliban and Al Qaeda were intent on murdering Americans.

"The defendant knew after Sept. 11 that part and parcel of being in these organizations was opposing Americans in this war," Davis said.

Lindh's chief attorney, James J. Brosnahan, argued Monday that it was unfair for the matter to go forward without the defense team knowing exactly how the government intended to prove its case.

In arguing unsuccessfully for a detailed list of the evidence against his client, Brosnahan said he was unsure how to build the best defense without knowing key factors, such as who the alleged victims were and how Lindh allegedly helped the conspiracy.

"The allegations are so general, the defense really can't prepare," he said.

"We should know what the charges are," he added. "In Afghanistan there's still a state of war, and in Pakistan a state of difficulty, especially for Americans. It is 8,000 miles away from this courthouse."

But the judge ruled that the government, which has so far turned over about 1,000 pages of material to the defense, is not required at this stage to lay out its entire case.

But, he warned, prosecutors will have to convince a jury that Lindh knew exactly what the Taliban and Al Qaeda were all about.

"The government," the judge said, "will have to show the defendant joined this conspiracy knowing it was designed to kill Americans." Explaining his ruling, the judge described Lindh's alleged crimes as similar to the work of Mohamed Atta and the other 18 hijackers on Sept. 11, who killed indiscriminately. ■

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Bush Proposes to Return Historic Property to N.Y.

By EDWIN CHEN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON—President Bush said Monday that he intends to return Governors Island, a historic 172-acre parcel of prime federal property in New York Harbor, to the city and the state of New York, a move that officials said should help revitalize Manhattan's economy.

Bush's action also would enable officials to relocate to the island a portion of City University of New York, which would open up classroom space to alleviate overcrowding throughout the city's school system.

"This is great news," said New York Gov. George Pataki, who was joined by New York Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg for a brief meeting with Bush in the Oval Office.

For years, officials in New York have pressed Washington to give the island—federal property for two centuries—back to New York. Bush's disclosure of his intentions left unanswered many questions about the unusual transfer, including any specific authority that Bush wields as president to "sell" a national monument.

Half a mile south of the tip of



Associated Press

Governors Island, shown in June 1997 with the World Trade Center towering in the background, sits half a mile south of lower Manhattan. The 172-acre parcel has been federal property for two centuries.

lower Manhattan, Governors Island affords a spectacular view of the city and harbor, including the Statue of Liberty.

During its recorded history, which spans 400 years, the island has been used as a fishing camp for the Manhatas Indians, a lumber stand, a pasture, a jail for Confederate soldiers during the Civil War and a staging area in two world wars.

The island also is believed to have been the site of the first Dutch settlement in the region.

It received its name because the British colonial governors lived there. In 1776, Gen. George Washington established a battery on the island because of its strategic location. And until 1997 it served, in part, as a Coast Guard regional headquarters.

In January 2001, just before leaving office, President Clinton set aside 20 acres of the island as a national monument, including two

fortresses on the site.

In his brief remarks about his decision, Bush simply asserted that he has the authority to transfer the property without congressional action.

"I looked at the law, looked at the circumstances, and decided this morning that this is the right thing for the U.S. government and that it's the right thing for the people of New York," the president said Monday.

But a spokesman for Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney (D-N.Y.), who hailed Bush's announcement, said her doubts about the legality of selling a national monument have not been allayed.

In a 1997 balanced budget agreement, Congress specifically anticipated up to \$500 million in revenue from the sale of the island. But Clinton reached an agreement with then-Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) for Washington to sell it to New York for \$1—if the city and the state could agree on a detailed plan for the island's use. ■

'Cussing Canoeist' Law Overturned

By STEPHANIE SIMON
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Sheriff Jim Mosciski is dismayed. He is newly free to express that emotion by cursing. But the freedom only makes him angrier.

Mosciski, the sheriff of rural Arenac County in northern Michigan, was a big fan of a 105-year-old state law barring the use of vulgar language in front of women and children.

A state appeals court Monday struck down the law, saying it trampled on free speech rights. In the process, the judges dismissed a ticket a Mosciski sheriff's deputy handed a cussing canoeist in 1999.

The canoeist, a young man named Timothy Boomer, admitted

letting out a few curse words after capsizing into the Rifle River during an outing with friends. When his buddies began hooting, he let out a few more. They laughed louder. He cursed louder. It became a game: "It was just clean fun," he said.

But a sheriff's deputy patrolling the river disagreed. Noticing a woman in a nearby canoe trying to shield her toddler's ears, the deputy wrote Boomer up for violating a Michigan statute making it a misdemeanor to use "indecent, immoral, obscene, vulgar or insulting language" in front of women or children.

Boomer was fined \$75 and ordered to work four days in a child-care program. Incensed, he appealed. On Monday, he was vin-

dicated.

The three-judge panel unanimously declared that the law was unconstitutional. They wrote that it would be "difficult to conceive of a statute that would be more vague." They added: "Allowing a prosecution where one utters 'insulting' language could possibly subject a vast percentage of the populace to a misdemeanor conviction."

Sheriff Mosciski begs to differ.

"It was a good law. They should have left it alone," he said glumly. "What gives a person the right to use that type of language around young children?"

Boomer's lawyer answers that query in three words: the 1st Amendment. ■



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IN BRIEF**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Public Comes Home
Again for Annual Easter
Egg Roll**

President Bush and First Lady Laura Bush welcomed thousands of children and their parents to the White House on Monday for the Easter Egg Roll—the first time the public had been invited inside the gates since September.

This year's egg roll, in which young children raced to the finish line while pushing eggs with a spoon, took place on a bright, windy day.

Swarms of excited parents ushered wide-eyed children in pastel dresses and Easter suits from activity to activity on the South Lawn, pointing and snapping photos—some in front of an enormous jellybean mosaic of the president's face.

Mrs. Bush and several members of the Cabinet took turns throughout the day reading to children.

**PUERTO RICO
Protests Heat Up Over
Navy Bombing Range**

Passions flared as U.S. Navy planes began their first day of war exercises at a contested firing range on Vieques island.

Five protesters were detained after they broke into restricted land leading to the target zone, and an opposing demonstrator was beaten.

Navy military police handcuffed the five intruders, who are expected to serve jail time. The pro-Navy protester was only slightly injured, police said.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE
Teen Expected to Change
His Plea in Slayings**

A teenager who pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity in the stabbing deaths of two Dartmouth College professors plans to change his plea this week, apparently to guilty or no contest.

Superior Court in Haverhill announced Robert Tulloch, 18, would change his plea at a hearing Thursday, hours before his alleged accomplice is to be sentenced.

Tulloch's best friend, James Parker, 17, is set to be sentenced for his role in the killings, court records show. Parker pleaded guilty in December as an accomplice to second-degree murder and agreed to testify against Tulloch.

**AND FINALLY . . .
Tardy Workers Can
Blame It on the Bridge**

Slackers and sleepyheads have a new excuse for getting to work late.

Pennsylvania's Department of Transportation is offering Pittsburgh residents ready-made excuse cards on the Internet allowing them to blame their tardiness on the Fort Pitt Tunnel and bridge construction project.

A Web site devoted to the project, www.epenndot.com, allows the city's 75,000 daily commuters to click on "Excuse Me!" and fill out a form explaining their untimeliness. ■

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Developer Proposes Selling 193 Acres for Wetlands

Ecology: As part of the deal, Playa Vista would cut its housing plans in half. Ballona supporters welcome the idea.

By KENNETH R. WEISS
TIMES STAFF WRITER

It has been cut off from the ocean, chopped up by roads, buried beneath truckloads of mud and silt. Yet, the remnants of the Ballona Wetlands offer the best chance for a coastal wildlife refuge in an area choked by urban sprawl.

The main reason is simple: Along the coast of Los Angeles County, there are no other major wetlands left to save from development.

So conservationists long ago chose this drained and desiccated marsh in West Los Angeles to make a last stand in a metropolis that has paved over 95% of its wetlands.

They have had successes. During a near quarter-century of environmental battles, developers of Playa Vista have been forced to set aside 340 acres for wildlife habitat, including 190 acres of salt marsh and \$13 million to help restore it.

Not a bad start, wetlands experts say. But it's hardly enough to secure a refuge for wildlife at the foot of such a massive development. Pocket wetlands tend to wither from the pollution, noise and light that spill from the urban jungle.

Now, Playa Vista officials are



LUIS SINCO / Los Angeles Times

A great blue heron roams the Ballona Wetlands in Playa del Rey.

RELATED STORY

Housing: First residents of the new community of Playa Vista move into their apartments. »

willing to make another concession, for a price. They will cut their housing development in half and sell enough land to double the size of the salt marsh. The first step in the deal is an appraisal, which is already underway.

The proposed sale of 193 acres through the nonprofit Trust for Public Land to the state government has fired the imaginations of those who have envisioned these weedy bottom lands transformed into a lush oasis.

"Bigger is better, when it comes to restoring tidal marsh," said Joy Zedler, a leading wetlands ecologist.

By doubling the acreage, and connecting it to another 68 acres of state-controlled land, the wetlands would be big enough to encompass salt marsh, intertidal mudflats and other wildlife shelter and feeding grounds, ecologists say.

Tidewater could meander through more than 400 acres, once the area is properly engineered, with additional upland acres acting as a buffer against urban intrusion.

With the flow of rejuvenating tides, Ballona could once again be a nursery for halibut, ecologists say. It could reclaim its role as a major stopover for migratory birds on the Pacific Flyway.

It could be a place for the public to marvel at the smoky blue wings of a giant heron as it fishes for supper;

CONTINUED »

BALLONA

« CONTINUED

or for birders to spy on the endangered Belding's savannah sparrow, nesting in the pickleweed.

"It's wonderful to dream about Ballona," said Zedler, a former San Diego State University professor who now holds an endowed chair in restoration ecology at the University of Wisconsin. "It could be so important to the diversity of life in the region. It could be an oasis for people, too."

Wetlands ecologists, who have fought over Playa Vista's plans in the past, share strikingly similar views on how easy it would be to rescue the wetlands.

The most important engineering work involves allowing seawater to penetrate land that has been cut off from the ocean since Marina del Rey was built in the early 1960s and Ballona Creek was lined with concrete.

The engineering is relatively straightforward. All it would take is opening the floodgates that line the creek, or building a few extra culverts. The mouth of the creek is usually engulfed with seawater pushed in by the tides.

An experiment in the mid-1980s demonstrated how eager the ocean is to reclaim this low-lying land. The Audubon Society opened floodgates for a few hours to see what would happen.

"It was fantastic," said Ed Tarvyd, a marine biology professor at Santa Monica College who watched from atop a nearby bluff. Water quickly deluged the area.

The experiment worked a little too well. The seawater began to inundate Culver Boulevard, forcing the hasty closure of the gates.

Playa Vista's developers, in their own \$13-million restoration plans, propose installing automated floodgates that would shut to control tidal flows.

Other wetlands experts suggest a more costly solution. It would involve elevating Culver Boulevard and building a berm along one edge of the wetlands to protect low-lying buildings along the beach in Playa del Rey. All this would be possible if the size of the salt marsh were doubled under the deal pushed by the Trust for Public Land.

Ecologists also strongly recommend removing the 15-foot-deep layer of mud and silt dumped on a different portion of the land in the early 1960s when the county dredged the harbor in the process of developing Marina del Rey.

"This is not a site that humans have treated gently," said Michael N. Josselyn, a wetlands restoration expert advising the Friends of Ballona. "So it's not a site that a gentle hand could restore to its former glory."

Such extensive restoration would cost \$100 million or more, experts say. But once this land is put in the hands of an agency such as the California Department of Parks and Recreation, many officials are confident the money would begin to flow.

"The actual restoration is easily doable, given a variety of funds available," said Bob Hoffman, who handles such projects for the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The Port of Los Angeles, for instance, must create new wetlands or restore old ones to make up for what has been lost to port expansion. The harbor agency has spent more than \$100 million on wetlands restoration in San Diego and Orange counties and now would like to find a project closer to home.

"Ballona would be a great thing to do for the city," said Ralph Appy, the port's director of environmental management. "We are very interested in doing some restoration there."

Other money could come from federal offshore oil and gas lease revenue and various state agencies that are flush with cash from Proposition 40, which passed last month.

The state Coastal Conservancy, for instance, has \$240 million to spend in coming years to buy and restore land.

"Part of the Coastal Conservancy's mission is to help resolve long-standing land-use issues," said Sam Schuchat, the conservancy's executive officer. "Ballona certainly qualifies. It would be nice to put this baby to rest." ■

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Los Angeles Times
latimes.com



Azusa Church Target of Probe

Investigation: More than a dozen altar boys are questioned after hotline gets tip about possible sex abuse by an adult.

By RICHARD WINTON
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Los Angeles County sheriff's detectives are investigating complaints that youths at St. Frances of Rome Catholic Church in Azusa were molested by an adult. Authorities have interviewed more than a dozen altar boys.

The allegations were brought to the attention of detectives by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles after it received a tip on its telephone hotline for sexual abuse.

Detectives said their investigation led to conversations with alleged victims. But they declined to name the suspect, the number of victims, or which of the clergy and staff had been interviewed, saying only that the suspect is an adult associated with the church.

Sgt. Ron Waltman of the Sheriff's Family Crimes Bureau said church officials are cooperating with the investigation. "This is not going to be a protracted investigation. We're going to resolve this quickly, so that this cloud does not hang over the parish," he said.

Waltman said children at the church and adjacent school are safe. "We have no information that the offending party is at that church now," he said. Father Roque Fernandez, associate pastor, declined to comment on the probe

Monday and referred questions to the archdiocese. He said the pastor, Father David F. Granadino, was on vacation and unavailable for comment.

Tod Tamberg, archdiocese spokesman, said, "The archdiocese is cooperating with the sheriff's detectives, and they've asked we refer all questions to them."

Last Monday, without naming the parish, Cardinal Roger M. Mahony said at a news conference that the archdiocese had turned over information from the hotline to the Sheriff's Department about an alleged incident of abuse.

The news conference followed a Mass where Mahony apologized for "the sinful and deplorable actions of a small percentage of priests" and said he had adopted a zero-tolerance policy for child abusers.

In investigating the Azusa complaint, Waltman said, sheriff's detectives on one evening last week swept across the San Gabriel Valley city and simultaneously interviewed altar boys and other youths about the allegations. "We knocked on a lot of doors," he said. "We tried to speak to as many people as we

could so they could not discuss it with each other."

Interviews will continue this week, Waltman said. There are about 75 altar "servers" at the church, the majority being boys in grades 5 through 8. About 200 families attend St. Frances, and 300 children attend the K-8 school.

One parishioner, Joe Rocha, an Azusa city councilman, said the probe was not mentioned during church services over the weekend. However, "most of the parishioners are aware of the investigation," he said.

The archdiocese hotline on sexual abuse was established in August. It was one of 11 items required of the Los Angeles and Orange archdioceses in settling a \$5.2-million lawsuit last year over sexual molestation charges involving an Orange County priest and one of his high school students.

Father Dominic Savino was dismissed as president of Crespi Carmelite High School last month after a tip to the hotline revealed that he had molested two students and other minors more than two decades ago. ■

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Los Angeles Times
latimes.com



Peter Biehl, 59; Forgave, Aided South Africa

BY MIKE ANTON
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Peter Biehl, who along with his wife channeled the pain of their daughter Amy's murder by a mob in South Africa into a passion for alleviating poverty and violence there, has died. He was 59.

Biehl, of La Quinta, died Sunday at Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage of complications from colon cancer, which was recently diagnosed.

"He was an action man. He wanted to understand the problems of South Africa and do something to solve those problems," said Linda Biehl, his childhood sweetheart and wife of 38 years. "It brought out his strengths and compassion. It brought out who he truly is."

In 1993, their 26-year-old daughter—a Fulbright scholar who worked with disadvantaged South Africans—was stoned and stabbed as a crowd shouted anti-white slogans. Four black men were convicted in her death.

The Biehls supported the killers' amnesty as South Africa moved from bloody unrest to a post-apartheid government. Then they hired two of the men to work for the Amy Biehl Foundation Trust, which since 1997 has given \$5 million to a variety of social programs and business projects in and around Cape Town.

"He was a mentor to these two young men," Linda Biehl, 58, said of her husband's forgiveness. "And



DON BARTLETTI / Los Angeles Times

PETER BIEHL

"He used his business skills and applied them to our social agenda," said Linda, his wife of 38 years. "He wanted to help, not in a patronizing, do-gooder kind of way, but in a developmental way."

they loved him."

Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu said in a prepared statement: "What was so remarkable was not only that they forgave the killers of their daughter, but that they went so far as to rehabilitate them."

'A Profound Loss to South Africa'

Compassionate and with many ideas for new ventures, Peter and Linda Biehl worked as a team, taking on the steep learning curve of the international aid business one step at a time.

"He was an incredibly rare person," said Sharon Gelman, executive director of the Los Angeles-based Artists for a New South Africa, which works closely with the Amy Biehl Foundation. "He was amazingly smart, and the way he dealt with the loss of his daughter set an example.... He was a wonderful, warm, embracing, giving, intelligent, incredibly committed human being, and I adored him. His passing is a profound loss to South Africa."

The foundation has funded

CONTINUED >>



Agence France-Presse



LOUIS GRUBB / For the Times

Amy Biehl, far left with unidentified roommate, was a Fulbright scholar who worked with disadvantaged South Africans. Peter and Linda Biehl, right, are welcomed in 1998 to the township where their daughter was slain in 1993.

BIEHL

« CONTINUED

job-training and after-school programs, which provide food, tutors, arts instruction and recreation—all to prevent youth violence. It has provided scholarships for South African students to study in the United States, started health programs that provide HIV and AIDS counseling, and launched a first-aid training effort.

“We’ve lost a great leader and visionary,” said Ashleigh Murphy, project manager for the Amy Biehl Foundation in Cape Town. “He had an amazing belief in the progress of South Africa. He taught this country about forgiveness and reconciliation. He was also helping to teach the stories of South Africa to the rest of the world—and his story was one of those stories.”

Biehl taught by example, she said.

“He had a great sense of humor and warmth,” Murphy said, “and when you were with him you always felt comfortable and open, no matter who you were. He was always thinking of the next step, but I have no doubt that the work of the foundation will continue.”

Trevor Murphy, the foundation’s former manager who is now studying international affairs at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., agreed.

“It’s a huge loss,” he said. “He was a mentor to me and a lot of other young people looking to enter the world of international development. He was also a close personal friend who introduced me to my wife and linked me forever to the struggles of South Africa.... [His death leaves] a huge void in my life.”

Peter Biehl, who left his marketing career to devote his time to South Africa, wanted the foundation to do more than just throw

money at the poor, his wife said. He wanted to provide services that South Africans said they wanted, create jobs and find ways that the foundation could sustain itself by generating income.

“He used his business skills and applied them to our social agenda,” Linda Biehl said. “He wanted to help, not in a patronizing, do-gooder kind of way, but in a developmental way.”

The foundation, which employs 87 people, built a golf driving range outside Cape Town to provide youth recreation and jobs. A chain of bakeries produces “Amy’s Bread—The Bread of Hope and Peace.” Besides jobs and cash, the bakeries provide a message with each sale: The bags have HIV and AIDS prevention information printed on them.

In the communities where the foundation carries out its work, Peter and Linda Biehl are known as

CONTINUED »

BIEHL

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tamkhulu and *makhulu*: grandfather and grandmother.

"He was interested in doing anything for the African people. To see that passion in his eyes was extraordinary," said Ashlie Gravley, 26, one of numerous young interns the Biehls have sent to South Africa to work on foundation projects. "They still go through a lot of pain over Amy's death, but I think this helps them cure it a bit.

"He knew that this is what Amy would have wanted."

The Biehls Met in Sunday School

Peter Biehl was born in Chicago in 1943. He and Linda met at age 9 in Sunday school and began dating

when they were 16. They moved west together, graduating from Whittier College. They were married between their junior and senior years. He is survived by three children and three grandchildren. Services are pending.

"My dad was awesome," said daughter Kim Biehl, 36, of San Clemente. "He is the most selfless person I've ever known. He put everybody before him."

In recent years, as the foundation grew, the Biehls spent most of their time in South Africa. It was there, in mid-February, that Peter Biehl began having stomach cramps. He thought he had picked up a local bug. But when he returned to the United States, his health worsened, and by early March, his kidneys, then his liver, stopped functioning.

Kim Biehl recalled that after

Amy's death, her father wrote his slain daughter a letter on the flight back from South Africa. In it, he promised to carry on her work. From that, the Amy Biehl Foundation was born.

"Peter and I talked about it when he was still able to talk," Linda Biehl said. "He said, 'You go for it. Keep this thing we started going.' I told him, 'I will. And you'll be there with me.'"

Memorial donations may be made to the Amy Biehl Foundation, c/o Steve Schwarz, 29 Independence Drive, Hillsborough, NJ 08844. ■

Times staff writer David Haldane contributed to this report.

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Marjorie Holmes, 91; Inspirational Author

By MYRNA OLIVER
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Marjorie Holmes, an inspirational author and columnist often called "the patron saint of housewives" and whose work was panned by critics but embraced by readers who made many of her 32 books bestsellers, has died. She was 91.

Holmes died March 13 at a nursing home in Manassas, Va., following a series of strokes.

The Iowa-born writer had a knack for making God and biblical personages accessible to ordinary people and for relating religion and prayer to such real-life challenges as women's liberation and the drug culture.

Holmes wrote a twice-weekly syndicated column, "Love and Laughter," for the now-defunct Washington, D.C., Star from 1959 to 1973 and a monthly column, "A Woman's Conversations With God," for the same paper from 1970 to 1975.

She also wrote regularly for the Daily Guideposts publication and for McCall's, Reader's Digest and Ladies' Home Journal magazines.

But her books gained her a much wider audience. Among them was the highly popular fictionalized trilogy of the birth and life of Jesus Christ—"Two From Galilee" pub-

lished in 1972, "Three From Galilee: The Young Man From Nazareth" in 1985, and "The Messiah" in 1987.

Typically expressing what critics thought of much of Holmes' writing, David Streitfeld sniffed in the Washington Post Book World: "Marjorie Holmes' 'Two From Galilee,' although no doubt deeply felt, is awkward enough to be cited in bad-writing seminars."

Yet the book sold millions and was one of the 10 best-selling novels of 1972. The novel about the love story of Mary and Joseph was also a personal favorite of the author. "Two From Galilee," Holmes told the Dallas News, "means more to me than anything else I have ever written. If I had never written anything else besides this book, I would still feel like I had accomplished something."

Asked why the trilogy had been so incredibly successful, Holmes said, "I made the Holy Family as real as the folks next door."

Also among Holmes' bestsellers were four books of conversational prayers, beginning with the 1969 volume "I've Got to Talk to Somebody, God."

Holmes turned major events in her own life into books. When Lynn Mighell, her husband of 47 years,

died of cancer in 1979, she wrote about her efforts to prolong his life.

The result was "God and Vitamins: How Exercise, Diet and Faith Can Change Your Life," which a Times reviewer called "a delicious, personable book for everyone—even atheists."

"Based on common sense, sound medical guidance and personal guinea-pigism," the reviewer continued, "the book dispenses a cornucopia of excellent advice about the body human and what it needs to survive our stress-laden, additive-polluted world. A word of warning: The food descriptions could make you drool."

Holmes wrote another book in that period about easing grief, "To Help You Through the Hurting," and soon met an appreciative reader who became her second husband, Dr. George Schmieler, who had just lost his first wife. That union led to another book, "Second Wife, Second Life."

Educated at Buena Vista and Cornell colleges in Iowa, Holmes tried farming in Texas and worked in radio in Illinois and Ohio, scripting fashion shows and children's programs. She published her first novel, "World by the Tail," in 1943, and for the next few years wrote books for teenage girls.

Her inspirational books largely began with "Love and Laughter," the 1967 collection of her columns.

She lectured widely throughout her career, and taught writing in various seminars and at Washington-area universities. ■

World view.

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A. Bin Laden, 75; Uncle of Terrorist

From Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia—Abdullah Awad bin Laden, patriarch of one of the wealthiest families in Saudi Arabia and uncle of terrorist Osama bin Laden, has died. He was 75.

Abdullah bin Laden died in Medina on March 21 and was buried that day in the holy city in western Saudi Arabia in accordance with Islamic tradition, according to a death notice published in the London-based newspaper Asharq al-Awsat.

No cause of death was given, although Abdullah bin Laden had high blood pressure and diabetes.

Though he was head of the family, in the last decade Abdullah bin Laden had had little to do with the day-to-day running of the family business, the Saudi bin Laden Group.

Osama bin Laden's father and Abdullah bin Laden's younger brother, Mohammed bin Laden, started the enterprise as a construction firm in the 1930s. The business, which grew to include mining and telecommunications and had \$3 billion to \$5 billion in annual revenue, is now headed by Bakr bin Laden, one of Mohammed bin Laden's 54 sons.

The bin Laden family disavowed any links with Osama bin Laden in 1994, the year Saudi Arabia stripped him of his citizenship for his opposition activities. It was Abdullah bin Laden who issued a statement offering condolences to those who lost loved ones in the Sept. 11 attacks blamed on Osama bin Laden. ■

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Barry Took, 73; Comic Brit Wrote for 'Monty Python,' 'Laugh-In'

From Times Staff and Wire Reports

Barry Took, well-known British stand-up comedian and comedy writer who helped produce such zany shows as "Monty Python's Flying Circus" and lent his talents to the much-loved American television classic "Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In," has died. He was 73.

Took, often called one of the funniest men in Britain, died Sunday in a London nursing home of cancer. He had suffered a stroke nearly two years ago, which impaired his speech and his storied ability to write.

Perhaps best-known for his post-World War II radio scripts, Took was responsible for such celebrated BBC series as "Round the Horne," "The Army Game," "Educating Archie" and "Bootsie and Snudge." The shows helped Britain cope with decades of austerity and its diminished role in the world.

Ever-employable in Britain, Took rarely worked in American entertainment productions. "Laugh-In" was a popular exception. The show, which flourished from 1968 to 1973, relied on witty writers, including Took, who could spew out one-liners and devise sight gags, blackouts, sketches and catch phrases.

Born in London, Took had an outwardly laugh-a-minute life that was clouded by depression and self-doubt rooted in an unhappy childhood. He once said his mother, who doted on his older brother, told

him that his birth was unplanned, that he was not wanted and that the cost of rearing him had made his father have a nervous breakdown. Took underwent years of Freudian psychoanalysis to help overcome his problems.

He left school at age 15, worked as an office boy and film projectionist, and then joined the Royal Air Force, where he began working in entertainment programs.

Took went on to work as a stage-hand and stand-up comedian, and in 1957 teamed with Marty Feldman to create and write several successful radio shows. The comedy writing team was fast and prolific, turning out four or five shows a week.

Dubbed Baron von Took by a television executive, Took helped create and foster a show originally called "Baron von Took's Flying Circus."

That evolved into the hugely popular "Monty Python's Flying Circus."

Twice divorced, Took is survived by two sons, Barry and David, and two daughters, Susan and Elinor.

Always candid about his cancer, which began a few years ago with bladder cancer, Took frequently quipped, "It doesn't worry me. Everyone has to get ill and die."

But the stroke saddened him. "You realize," he said in late 2000, "however hard you try, that you cannot write, you cannot talk properly and you feel like a damn nuisance."

"I'd like to be remembered," he added in that interview, "as 'The guy who was rather talented once upon a time.'" ■

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Study: Valley Funding Is Thin

By SHARON BERNSTEIN
State controller rejects L.A.'s estimate on money it would be owed. She also says harbor region not a viable municipality. »

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By TINA DAUNT
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KIRK MCKOY / Los Angeles Times

Farm Workers Celebrate Safety Law, Chavez Holiday

By CARL INGRAM
New law, which requires seats in agricultural labor vans to be firmly secured and outlaws rickety wood benches, is a legacy of Chavez's efforts to make farm work safer. »

Airlines Fight to Use Long Beach Airport 'Slots'

By JENNIFER OLDHAM and JAMES F. PELTZ
Alaska joins American in seeking to take over unused space held by JetBlue. »



LUIS SINCO / Los Angeles Times

Judge Yang Nominated as U.S. Attorney

By DAVID ROSENZWIEG
The former federal lawyer, who would oversee prosecutions in seven Southland counties, would be the first Asian American in the post. »



Afghan Orphans: Are They For Real?

By KIMI YOSHINO
Hundreds of would-be parents apply to take in children purportedly brought here under odd circumstances, and officials fear it's a hoax. »

Plans for Merced River Upheld

By BETTINA BOXALL
Judge's decision clears way for some key projects in Yosemite. »

Lottery Results

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Daily Derby: Time: 1:40.50

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Associated Press

Murder Suspect Hangs Herself in Florida Jail Cell

By ERIC BAILEY

The woman fled California after poisoning her husband. A Cal State Sacramento student implicated in the case remains in custody. »

Senate Panel Votes to Cut Auto Emissions

By CARL INGRAM

A bill to reduce carbon dioxide from car tailpipes after 2008 as a way to fight global warming moves closer to full Senate vote. »

Court Orders Retroactive Payments for Ill Veterans

The appeals panel's decision applies to thousands who have prostate cancer or diabetes and have been exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam. »

Only in L.A. columnist Steve Harvey is on vacation

BEHIND THE WHEEL



BRIAN VANDERBRUG / Los Angeles Times

Freeways' Missing Links Can Frustrate Commuters

By CAITLIN LIU

More than 50 connector ramps were never built at two dozen crossings in L.A., Orange counties »

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Washington's Burden...

President Bush took office a year ago determined that his administration not resemble Bill Clinton's either in style (more suits, less denim) or substance (hands off the Middle East). Now reality intervenes. Now "hands off" by the only outside power able to mediate the Mideast crisis looks like myopic timidity. »

...and the Task in Israel

The United States can help bring peace to the Middle East. But only if the two key players there shake off their blood lust, get past their 20 years of personal antipathy and recognize that neither can win the mutually destructive war in which they are now engaged. »

Reopening Opening Day

What's the deal anyway with different opening days for a baseball season already underway? On Sunday the Angels and Indians played an official game (well, as least the Indians played). That was the real opening day for the nation's 2002 baseball season. »

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Commentary



Ariel Sharon



MICHAEL RAMIREZ / L.A. Times
Yasser Arafat

'We Must Vanquish an Enemy Determined to Annihilate Us'

By BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

The only constraint on Arab terrorists is their capability to destroy. »

Bush Fiddled While Mideast Burned

By ROBERT SCHEER

For the U.S. to have pretended that these wars are a regional problem was ludicrous. »

One Strike, You're Out on the Street

By ARIANNA HUFFINGTON

Evicting innocent people for crimes they didn't commit or even know about is wrong. »

Abortion Isn't Just a Federal Issue

By NANCY L. SASAKI

States can wield tremendous power over a woman's right to choose. »

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Commentary

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Judge Yang Nominated as U.S. Attorney

Law: The 42-year-old former federal lawyer, who would oversee prosecutions in seven Southland counties, would be the first Asian American in the post.

By DAVID ROSENZWIEG
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Superior Court Judge Debra W. Yang has been nominated by President Bush to become U.S. Attorney in Los Angeles, the White House said Monday.

Yang, 42, would become the first Asian American to hold the seven-county post, the largest federal prosecutor's office outside Washington, D.C.

Yang, a former federal prosecutor, said she hopes for a quick Senate confirmation vote. No opposition is expected.

"I'm anxious to get into the office and begin assessing what its current needs are, and what changes need to be put into place," she said. However, Yang added that she has no changes in mind at this time.

She estimated it would take her about two weeks to clear her calendar at the Santa Monica courthouse.

The Senate Judiciary Commit-



No opposition is expected to Judge Yang's appointment.

tee has not scheduled a vote on the nomination. A spokeswoman said the committee is awaiting documents from the White House.

Yang's nomination had been expected for several months. The White House counsel's office recommended her to Bush last fall after interviewing a short list of finalists—including Yang and two Los Angeles attorneys in private practice.

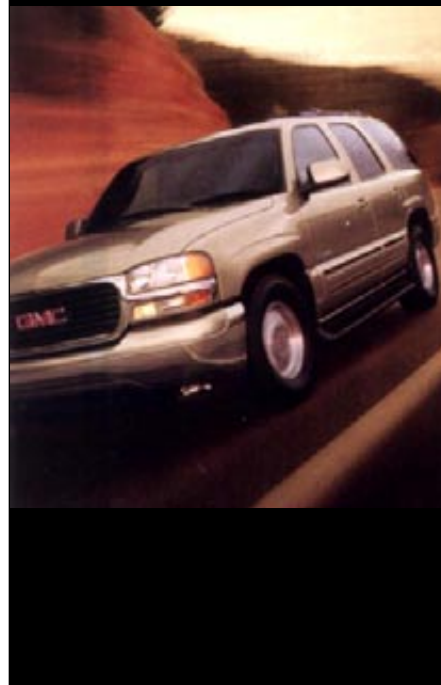
Active in Republican Party affairs, the Los Angeles native was chosen to succeed former U.S. Atty. Alejandro N. Mayorkas, a Demo-

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ATTORNEY

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crat, who resigned last April. The 245-lawyer office has been headed on an interim basis by John S. Gordon, a career prosecutor.

With headquarters in Los Angeles and branches in Santa Ana and Riverside, the U.S. Attorney's office prosecutes federal crimes in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. The office also represents the Justice Department in civil-law suits.

Yang, whose grandfather emigrated from China, has been active in the Asian American Bar Assn.

After graduating from Boston College Law School in 1985, she practiced civil law for three years and then clerked with U.S. District Judge Ronald S.W. Lew in Los Angeles. Following another year in private practice, she joined the U.S. Attorney's office in 1990 and for the next six years prosecuted a variety of criminal cases.

Prosecutors have praised her for 1994 prosecution of Timothy D. Shue, a parolee who kidnapped a Castaic real estate agent at gunpoint, forced her to withdraw cash from an ATM and then drove her to Arizona, where he sexually assaulted her.

Colleagues Praise Her Legal and People Skills

David Schindler, a former colleague in the U.S. Attorney's office, said Monday that in addition to her legal skills, Yang displayed rapport with crime victims.

She also was a favorite among federal law enforcement agents, he said, because she understood and

appreciated the dangers they encountered on the street.

"Because of this, Deb is going to be a tremendously successful U.S. Attorney," Schindler said.

Ellen Barry, a former federal public defender who represented Shue in the kidnap-rape trial, recalled that Yang "was always professional and friendly. She was a pleasure to work with, even though she was on the other side. I think she's going to make a fine U.S. Attorney."

Lew, her former mentor, said he was elated about Yang's nomination: "She's certainly well qualified for this position and I look forward to her speedy confirmation"

Assistant U.S. Atty. Patricia Donahue described Yang as tough but fair, intelligent and excellent at assessing the strengths and weaknesses of a case.

Staff Should Help Make the Transition Smooth

Gordon offered his congratulations and said he and his staff "intend to do our best to make the transition for her as smooth as possible."

Yang left the U.S. Attorney's office in 1997 when Gov. Pete Wilson appointed her to a municipal court judgeship in Los Angeles. When the county's court system was unified in 2000, she became a Superior Court judge.

Yang was also in the running for a federal judgeship. A local bipartisan selection committee headed by Gerald Parsky, who ran Bush's presidential campaign in California, recommended Yang to the White House by a 6-0 vote. But Yang indicated that she preferred the U.S. Attorney's post. ■

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KIRK McKOY / Los Angeles Times

At Hollenbeck Middle School in Los Angeles, a flag frames a poster of the late farm union pioneer Cesar E. Chavez, on Monday.

Farm Workers Celebrate Safety Law, Chavez Holiday

By CARL INGRAM
TIMES STAFF WRITER

SACRAMENTO—Farm workers and union leaders Monday marked the 75th anniversary of the birth of Cesar Chavez by celebrating a new state law that requires seats in agricultural labor vans to be firmly secured and outlaws rickety wood benches.

Flanked by a squad of Highway Patrol officers who specialize in enforcing agricultural transportation laws in the sprawling San Joaquin Valley, United Farm Workers Presi-

dent Arturo Rodriguez said the new law is a legacy of Chavez's efforts to make transportation safer for farm workers.

Rodriguez quoted the late farm labor leader as writing in 1974 that unsafe vehicles were "wheeled coffins ... carriages of death and sorrow" for farm laborers.

"Today, 28 years after Cesar wrote those words, there is finally a law in effect that bans these 'wheeled coffins,'" Rodriguez told a small gathering of farm workers in

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KIRK McKOY / Los Angeles Times

Students at Hollenbeck Middle School in Los Angeles, beautify their school grounds under a poster of Chavez and the late Robert Kennedy, on Monday.

CHAVEZ

◀ CONTINUED

Capitol Park.

The law, introduced by Assemblyman Dean Florez (D-Shafter), was passed in 1999 following a crash in which 13 farm laborers stuffed into a van without seat belts plowed into a big truck near Five Points in Fresno County.

The crash brought new attention from the Legislature and Gov. Gray Davis to highway safety issues of agricultural workers and led to several reforms, including a requirement that all farm labor vans be equipped with seat belts.

But Florez said some labor contractors found a loophole that has enabled them to install seat belts in the vans but not replace the long wood benches and little chairs on which the workers sat.

Under the new law, effective Monday, wood seats are banned. All seats must now be secured in the same way that vehicle manu-

facturers fasten them and must face forward. Farm tools also must be secured.

"For too many years we have seen farm worker deaths as part of the harvest," Florez said.

For decades, farm workers have complained that labor contractors and growers have ignored their pleas to make transportation safer.

In 1999, Davis and the Legislature beefed up the Highway Patrol's special enforcement unit of a dozen officers in the San Joaquin Valley. But Florez said Monday that extra enforcement should be expanded to other farm areas, including the Imperial, Coachella, and Sacramento valleys and the Central Coast.

He is carrying a bill to do that and is sponsoring changes in the state budget that would give the patrol an extra \$3 million to \$6 million to finance such an expansion, including hiring at least 20 officers. Davis rejected a similar appropriation in 2000 and is facing a \$17.5-billion budget shortfall this year. ■

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Afghan Orphans: For Real?

Families: Hundreds apply to take in children purportedly brought here under odd circumstances, and officials fear it's a hoax.

By KIMI YOSHINO
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Hundreds of would-be parents throughout California have started applying to become foster parents in response to an e-mail seeking homes for more than 500 Afghan children and women despite strong suggestions from Afghan and U.S. officials that the drive behind it is fraudulent.

Although no one has seen the children, more than 350 hopeful prospective parents, most of them Afghans, turned up at meetings in Garden Grove, Granada Hills and San Jose over the weekend to learn more and sign up for foster care licenses.

Roughly as many Afghan women as children need homes, according to the appeal.

An organization that helped sponsor the meetings says so many people have contacted it asking about the purported children that further sessions are being scheduled in San Diego, San Francisco and Arizona.

Assadullah Kadir, 51, and his wife, Suhaila, residents of Walnut, were among those who started the foster parent process. The couple have an appointment today to be fingerprinted as part of a background check.

After 21 years of marriage and two miscarriages, the Kadirs remain childless. When they heard

about orphans needing homes, they believed it was the perfect solution: They would finally have a child, and the orphan would gain a home and a family who understands the culture, religion and language of Afghanistan.

"I have to do as much as I can to help these kids," the husband said. "The last two weeks, almost every day, four to five hours I am on the phone trying to track these kids. I'm sure we'll find them and I try to be prepared for this situation ... so that as soon as they are brought here, my house will be ready."

Unfortunately for Kadir and others like him, the story of the Afghan children may be no more than a hoax, officials said.

"Our investigations from both the embassy side as well as the investigations done by the U.S. government and FBI have turned up no verifiable truth that orphans from Afghanistan were brought to the United States," said the Afghan Embassy's humanitarian aid officer, Homeyra Mokhtarzada.

"If in fact they were brought over, it counts as human trafficking. It is illegal.... If this is for real, then please bring a child into the public so that people can see them and we can go from there."

Several agencies—from the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services to the FBI to the Joint Council on International Adoption Services—reported getting numerous calls in recent days.

Agency officials said they fear the Afghan American community is the

victim of a scam.

"I am very concerned that good Muslim families will have either their hearts broken or their wallets emptied," said Sharon A. Kaufman, executive director of the Joint Council. So far, there is no indication that responding families have been asked to put up money.

State Department officials, who asked not to be quoted directly, said they can find no documentation about large groups of Afghan children, and that international adoptions require considerable paperwork.

Adoptions are not typically allowed during or just after a war because a child's parents may have been displaced by fighting but later reappear, they said.

Over the weekend, two meetings about the reportedly available orphans were sponsored by NISWA, a Los Angeles-based Muslim social services agency. The agency signed up more than 120 prospective foster parents at the sessions.

NISWA officials say they hope the accounts of children being brought to the United States are true, which is why they have scheduled the additional sessions in more cities this month. But they also said they are frustrated by their inability so far to confirm the accounts.

The problems began in mid-March when a NISWA representative and several other Afghans attended a meeting at a Van Nuys church. At that meeting, a woman who identified herself as Julie Fahrer and said she belongs to an organization

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ORPHANS

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called International Resources told the group she is a Lutheran minister working with military officials to bring children to the United States.

She said the children were flown in to Los Angeles under cover of night and sheltered at a church, and some were later placed in homes.

She distributed handwritten notes describing orphans—heartbreaking details such as “triple amputee,” “hoards food,” and “frequent crying episodes two to three hours.”

Several people at the weekend meetings said they had seen a Web site by a group that reports starting churches in urban areas around the world. The site includes a biography of a Julie Fahrer of International Resources, which states that Fahrer has worked with refugees from Sudan, Somalia, Romania, Kosovo and Kurdistan. The site's assertions could not be verified.

Mohammad Daoud Abedi, 41, of Calabasas said Fahrer seemed genuine when he met her, but since the March 16 meeting she has refused to offer any proof.

Abedi put out the initial e-mail after meeting Fahrer and has been swamped with about 500 phone calls, e-mails and faxes each day from people as far away as Saudi Arabia wanting to house the children. After two weeks of investigating and alerting public officials, he still has no answers.

“I’ve been frustrated,” Abedi said. “I’ve been crying. My children have been crying. My Afghan and Muslim people are crying. They’re all sad. They want to know the truth.” ■

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LUIS SINCO / Los Angeles Times

A jet takes off at Long Beach Airport. The success of low-cost carrier JetBlue Airways has attracted interest from American and Alaska airlines in flying passenger planes out of the airport.

Airlines Fight to Use Long Beach Airport

Aviation: Alaska joins American in seeking to take over unused space held by JetBlue.

By JENNIFER OLDHAM
and JAMES F. PELTZ
TIMES STAFF WRITERS

Just last spring, Long Beach officials were begging airlines to provide service at the city's 79-year-old airport. No more. Today, several carriers are fighting to fill their jets from the airport's Art Deco-style terminals.

Since low-cost carrier JetBlue Airways opened its West Coast hub last summer at the tiny airport alongside the San Diego Freeway,

passenger traffic has climbed 41%. JetBlue expects to increase its flights at Long Beach from three to 27 a day in the next year.

Now, other airlines want access to the "slots" that the upstart carrier isn't using.

And the tiny airport finds itself with too many suitors—saying that it only may be able to offer temporary takeoff and departure times to other airlines. That is not good enough for at least one carrier, American Airlines, which has threatened to sue.

Space at Long Beach Airport is scarce because of a 1995 federal lawsuit settlement that limited the number of commercial takeoffs at

the airport to 41 per day. That was in response to local efforts to reduce noise.

All 41 of these slots are now reserved by airlines. Some are in use; others are being held for flights that are supposed to be added later.

American Airlines would like to add four more flights daily, to Chicago and New York, on top of the four it offers to Dallas.

And, after a seven-year absence from Long Beach, Alaska Airlines announced Monday that it will request three slots, for flights to Seattle.

American has upped the ante in the debate by selling tickets for the

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AIRPORT

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additional Long Beach flights, even before airport officials agreed to make room for the extra planes.

Airline representatives said federal law requires airport officials to accommodate their requests to add service at the facility—wedged between overcrowded Los Angeles International Airport to the north and John Wayne Airport to the south, which also operates under flight restrictions.

“The fact of the matter is that only 17 of their 41 jet slots are in use,” said Al Becker, an American spokesman. “We have no desire to enter into litigation with the city of Long Beach, and our sincere hope and wish is that we can resolve this issue amicably. All we want to do is operate our service and be able to compete.”

As part of the 1995 settlement, the airlines and the city were prohibited from suing each other for six years. The litigation truce period

ended Jan. 1.

The Long Beach City Council, which operates the airport, is scheduled to discuss the matter today in closed session.

American said it began selling tickets on the proposed flights from Long Beach to New York and Chicago because it will have at least tem-

they would relinquish some of their slots to American. The competitors refused.

Instead, American has been offered a temporary solution: use slots promised to other airlines that are yet to expand their own schedules. But most of those spots probably will disappear by next spring, when

“A year ago if you went to American and said, ‘Hey guys, how about coming to Long Beach?’ their answer would have been, ‘Why?’”

Ed Faberman, executive director of the Air Carrier Assn.

porary slots at the city-run facility when the service begins June 15.

Airport administrators said they offered American the use of temporary slots when the airline filed its initial request for service in February. But the company turned the airport down, said Sharon Diggs-Jackson, the facility’s public affairs officer. The airport also asked airlines that use its facility if

the other carriers add their flights, Diggs-Jackson said.

American said it is determined to have the airport dedicate four more permanent slots for its planes.

Industry watchers said the attempts by more established carriers to compete with JetBlue at Long Beach have historical precedent: Bigger airlines traditionally have

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challenged smaller carriers when they start to gain a foothold on lucrative routes.

"A year ago if you went to American and said, 'Hey guys, how about coming to Long Beach?' their answer would have been, 'Why?'" said Ed Faberman, executive director of the Air Carrier Assn., an advocacy group for smaller airlines. "All of the sudden there is a carrier offering competition and choice and they don't want that competition."

The New York-based JetBlue offers three daily nonstop flights from Long Beach to New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

The company plans to add another flight to New York in June and two flights to Washington, D.C., in May.

The upstart sets itself apart by offering leather seats and TV screens, with 24 channels, in every seatback. It also offers low fares on its fleet of new blue and white Airbus A320s

and aggressively markets its service; even going so far last summer as to hand out bumper stickers that read "Goodbye, LAX" at area beaches.

JetBlue agreed to come to Long Beach last spring after months of secret negotiations with Long Beach officials, who desperately wanted a low-fare airline at the underused airport.

The airline pays \$120,000 every 90 days to hold the 24 time slots that it has not yet filled with flights.

David Neeleman, JetBlue's chief executive, said in a statement Monday that the carrier "is on schedule to utilize the 27 air carrier slots it was allocated by next spring," but declined to respond directly to the other airlines' actions.

Other carriers denied that their interest in Long Beach stems from JetBlue's success, or that they are trying to block the airlines' expansion bid.

American wants more flights to New York because it is expanding its overall service from JFK, where the carrier is building a \$1.3-billion

terminal, Becker said.

As for Alaska Airlines, its ability to expand in recent months has been crimped by capacity constraints at other airports, "and we believe there's growth potential at Long Beach Airport," said Lou Cancelmi, an Alaska spokesman. He said the carrier is "hopeful that we're going to get the [time] slots" to start service from Long Beach to Seattle on Sept. 8.

City administrators said they are unsure how American Airlines can confidently advertise additional service from Long Beach to its customers when they do not yet have dedicated time slots.

"The other airlines see that JetBlue is very successful and has a very good load factor and now they want slots," said Long Beach City Councilwoman Jackie Kell, whose district includes the airport. "Selling tickets may or may not get them anywhere, because those slots haven't been given to them. The consumer can't be sure they will have a seat," Kell said. ■

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Study: Valley Funding Is Thin

Secession: State controller rejects L.A.'s estimate on money it would be owed. She also says harbor region not a viable municipality.

By SHARON BERNSTEIN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

The harbor area of Los Angeles could not survive as a separate city, and the San Fernando Valley would have to beef up its reserves to be fiscally healthy, state Controller Kathleen Connell ruled Monday.

But Connell, who was asked by Los Angeles Mayor James K. Hahn to review proposals to split the two regions from Los Angeles, rejected the city's contention that a new Valley city would owe it nearly \$300 million annually.

Secession advocates said Connell's findings bolster their case by removing one argument against it—the contention that the break-away area would be financially constrained because it would be obligated to continue pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into the city of Los Angeles budget. Some secession critics have said those payments would be needed to ensure that Los

Angeles would not be hurt financially by the breakup, a condition that must be met before secession can be placed on the ballot.

Connell's study says that rather than \$300 million a year, the Valley would owe Los Angeles about \$61 million annually.

"It's a major victory," said Richard Close, president of Valley VOTE, the group leading the drive to place Valley secession on the ballot. "It removes the last potential roadblock to this going on the November ballot."

The controller's finding that a proposed harbor city would not be able to operate in the black could be enough to knock the proposal off the ballot—particularly because the state agency that oversees the creation of new cities has also pointed out serious flaws in the proposal. State law prohibits such a vote unless the area that would secede is shown to be financially viable.

But votes on independence for the Valley and Hollywood look more likely after Monday's reports. The controller supported the analysis and methodology used by the Local Agency Formation Commission, which oversees the creation of new cities. And that would indicate that when she analyzes the Hollywood proposal, she will again support the commission's finding that the area would be financially healthy on its own.

The City Council is expected Wednesday to ask her to conduct a similar review of a secession proposal for Hollywood.

Hollywood Secession Likely to Make Ballot

"The harbor is climbing a steep mountain at high altitude without

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an oxygen tank, but my expectation is that Hollywood will make it [to the ballot]," said county Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, who serves on the commission and chairs the committee working out the details of the proposed municipal splits.

Proponents of secession in the harbor, Hollywood and Valley, driven by the belief that Los Angeles is too big and impersonal, have asked that their proposals to break up the city be placed on the ballot in the fall. Critics argue that the breakup would prove unwieldy and have cited logistical, political and moral objections.

Connell wrote her report in response to Hahn's request to analyze the soundness of a state commission's contention that a proposed Valley city would be economically healthy, and that a harbor city would have financial problems unless it significantly reduced services or raised taxes. In her review, the controller said that the proposed harbor city would not be able to make ends meet even if the State Lands Commission, which she chairs, grants it full control over the Port of Los Angeles.

"Even under the best-case

scenario for the harbor, we don't believe that cityhood is a viable answer," Connell said.

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Janice Hahn, who represents the harbor area and is the mayor's sister, said that in order to survive financially, an independent city would have to cut into the most important services, such as police and fire.

She criticized secession supporters, who say that independence will make the densely packed blue-collar and middle-class neighborhoods of San Pedro, Wilmington and Harbor City work and feel like a small town.

"Who wants Small Town U.S.A. when Small Town U.S.A. could burn down or criminals could take over?" she said.

Harbor Backer: Analyst Used Wrong Figures

Andrew Mardesich, co-chairman of the harbor secession effort, said that both the controller and the commission improperly analyzed their proposal as if a harbor city would be run like Los Angeles, rather than like a much smaller city.

"I would say the same thing [as Connell] based on the numbers she saw," Mardesich said. "She never

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saw our alternative scenario.”

Connell said she could not directly address the question of whether the Valley would be financially viable on its own, because Hahn did not ask her to do so. Connell, who ran against Hahn for mayor of Los Angeles last year, said she believed the omission was deliberate because Hahn feared that she would rule that a Valley city could be financially healthy without Los Angeles.

Still, the controller said she was concerned that the proposed Valley city, which would have a population of 1.4 million, would have smaller reserves than most California cities of comparable size.

Although the city would have a sizable budget, its proposed reserve fund of \$12 million during its third year of independence is significantly less than the \$35 million that cities of comparable size generally have, she said.

Connell recommended that supporters of Valley cityhood remedy that by cutting \$23 million from their proposed \$1-billion budget or risk “gasping for air” if unexpected expenditures arise.

Connell also found that the com-

mission underestimated by about \$4 million the amount of money a Valley city would have to pay yearly for its share of Los Angeles’ debt.

“I would caution Valley propo-

‘It’s a major victory. It removes the last potential roadblock to this going on the November ballot’

Richard Close,
president of Valley VOTE

nents to really look with great discipline at this budget and determine where they would want to make these cutbacks,” she said in an interview Monday. “They’re going to want to walk into cityhood with the element of success, and they can only do that if they put together a budget that provides for some kind of cushion.”

Mayor Hahn said that because the report pointed out financial flaws in both proposals, it showed that people would be better off if the city stayed together.

“The idea that there’s this utopia around the bend that’s going to have all this money to provide all these extra services ... is a myth,” Hahn said. ■

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4 Agencies Sue Over Power Costs

By TINA DAUNT
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Four government agencies, including Los Angeles County and the Los Angeles Unified School District, have joined in a \$600-million complaint against the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power alleging that the public utility deliberately inflated the electric bills of government agencies operating in the city.

According to the Superior Court complaint, made public on Monday, the DWP overcharged the local government agencies for the past 10 years by levying special assessments for capital improvement projects. The DWP, in turn, gave rate breaks to residential customers, an attorney for the agencies said in an interview.

In addition to the county and school district, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Los Angeles County Community College District have joined the suit. The state, which filed a similar claim against the DWP two weeks ago, is expected to sign onto the litigation later this month.

DWP officials, who have also come under fire from City Controller Laura Chick for spending too much money on parties and perks, deny any wrongdoing.

"All our rates are fair and equitable," said Frank Salas, the DWP's chief operating officer. "We have had our rates reviewed by experts. We are not overcharging anybody."

The lawsuit was initiated by energy consultant Sam Barakat under the state whistle-blower law known as the California False Claims Act. According to the lead attorney on the case, Barakat came across the alleged irregularities when he obtained an internal DWP report while working as an energy consultant for another school district in the Los Angeles area.

"He knew people at the DWP and he started asking questions," said San Francisco attorney Eric R. Havian, who represents several of the entities bringing the suit.

Barakat filed a complaint in San Francisco Superior Court in June 2000. It was filed under seal to give the governmental agencies time to determine whether the allegations had merit. The suit became public on Monday, after the four agencies agreed to join the case.

"We did an independent investigation," said Bob Cartwright, a senior deputy Los Angeles county counsel. "DWP's own records show they were charging in excess. Given

that it has been a long-standing practice, we determined that we needed to take action."

According to the suit, the DWP deliberately disregarded a state law that prohibits publicly owned utilities from charging schools and other governmental customers more than their share for capital costs. For example, Havian said, if a state agency uses 5% of the power generated by an electrical facility, it should be charged no more than 5% of the facility's capital costs.

The government agencies believe they have been charged up to 60% more than their legitimate share of capital costs, topping \$200million in overcharges, Havian said. The agencies are seeking \$600million in damages from the DWP.

The DWP has been coming under increased scrutiny in recent months. During the energy crisis, the utility increased its generation and sold excess power.

But some consumer groups and government officials have alleged that the utility took excessive profits.

On March 22, Atty. Gen. Bill Lockyer filed a claim against the DWP alleging that the municipal agency inflated the bills paid by state government entities located in the city, ranging from the Ronald Reagan Office Building to Department of Motor Vehicles offices.

The claim, a required step before the state can join the lawsuit with the other government agencies, is seeking damages of \$180 million. ■

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BEHIND THE WHEEL

Freeways' Missing Links Can Frustrate Commuters

■ More than 50 connector ramps were never built at two dozen major crossings in L.A., Orange counties.

By CAITLIN LIU
TIMES STAFF WRITER

David Kriske is having a torrid on-again, off-again affair. With freeways.

Consider his daily commute from Burbank to Beverly Hills: Moments after the 25-year-old database analyst zooms up a freeway onramp, he is downshifting his Acura Integra and heading for an exit.

Then Kriske chugs along a mile of city streets before ramping on to another freeway. But before long, he's rushing for an offramp and surface streets again. He'll repeat the process a third time before his drive is over.

It's not that Kriske is the waffling kind of guy who can't commit. It's just that the three freeways that zig-zag him toward work—the Golden State south, the Ventura west and the Hollywood south—cross each other but lack connecting ramps that funnel him in a direct, unbroken arc.

"It's frustrating is what it is," Kriske said. "The fact that I have to get off the freeway to get back on is an annoyance."

The ups and downs of freeway driving are a way of life for many

motorists in Southern California.

In Los Angeles County, at least 36 connectors are absent at 13 freeway intersections, while 11 freeway crossings in Orange County may seem incomplete because 17 connector ramps were never built, according to the California Department of Transportation. Nine connectors are missing from San Diego County's freeways, though one is under construction now.

Because of the obvious inconvenience to drivers—not to mention the nuisance of cut-through traffic in neighborhoods—some wonder whether transportation engineers might have accidentally deleted something from their construction blueprints.

"I can't see any rhyme or reason to it. It doesn't make any sense," said Oliver Comings, 28, of Studio City, who said he has gotten confused and lost many times when he couldn't turn from freeway to freeway. "Somebody obviously dropped the ball."

But transportation experts say missing freeway connectors aren't mistakes or the result of bad engineering. "There's generally a very good reason for it," said Chuck O'Connell, a freeway historian and retired Caltrans deputy district director.

A connector might be omitted if it involves an illogical "reverse move," where the freeways cross at an acute angle, experts say. An example is

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BRIAN VANDER BRUG / Los Angeles Times

The southbound Golden Gate State Freeway, above, does not connect with the westbound Ventura Freeway. Likewise, the eastbound Ventura Freeway does not connect with the northbound Golden State Freeway.

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FREEWAYS

◀ CONTINUED

the northbound Long Beach Freeway to the southbound Santa Ana Freeway in the City of Commerce. If a car cruising north on the Long Beach Freeway wanted to turn south on the Santa Ana Freeway, it would have to make the equivalent of a giant U-turn.

Some freeway intersections huddle so close together they are expected to share connectors. That describes the Ronald Reagan Freeway, which intersects with the Golden State and San Diego freeways about 1 1/2 miles apart. There is no connecting ramp from the eastbound Ronald Reagan Freeway to the northbound Golden State Freeway, for instance. That's because Caltrans wants drivers to connect to the San Diego Freeway north, then immediately merge onto the Golden State Freeway north.

A third reason for absent connectors is insufficient traffic volume. When the new California 56 extension in the Carmel Valley area of San Diego County opens in 2004, the freeway will not have connectors for cars going from California 56 west to the San Diego Freeway south, or from the San Diego Freeway north to California 56 east. Despite the communities' urging, Caltrans is omitting those two ramps because they would cost \$140 million but serve only 1,000 vehicles a day, said Tom Nipper, an agency spokesman.

But freeways that remain unconnected also impose costs, experts say. They waste drivers' time. Cut-through traffic worsens congestion, increases air pollution and possibly causes more accidents on

city streets. These are "impacts that don't lend themselves to easy quantification," said Robert W. Poole, director of transportation studies at Reason Public Policy Institute in Los Angeles.

There's also the added noise.

Comings, a singer with a heavy metal group, happens to live with his bandmates near the Ventura and Hollywood freeways' interchange, which lacks four connectors. There is no freeway-to-freeway access, for example, from the Hollywood Freeway north to the Ventura Freeway east.

One of the designated detour streets for that missing connector is Vineland Avenue, right next to Comings' house. "It's soooooo loud," he said as a steady stream of cars and big rigs rumbled by. His band, None, moved to the house a few months ago, figuring neighbors wouldn't be able to hear their banging drums and screaming guitar riffs over the roar of traffic.

"If it wasn't for the music situation, [the noise] would drive me insane," Comings said. "It's brutal."

The missing connectors in Studio City are a special case. In the early 1950s, when the Hollywood Freeway was under construction, designers deliberately put some ramp plans on hold until the adjacent "Laurel Canyon Freeway" could be built because "all the connectors would have logically tied in," said O'Connell, the freeway historian.

But the Laurel Canyon Freeway, like hundreds of miles of other freeways proposed for Los Angeles County, never got built. "So, unfortunately, we're stuck," O'Connell said.

Also feeling pinched are the

residents near the Golden State and Ventura freeways' interchange in the Glendale-Los Angeles area, who say they're sick of cars cutting through their neighborhood because the Ventura Freeway east does not connect with the Golden State Freeway north, nor does the Golden State Freeway south with the Ventura Freeway west.

Some drivers speed as if they're still on the freeway, and that endangers neighborhood children, said Maria Jesus Lara, a 53-year-old grandmother. "It's bad," she said. "One day, maybe they'll fix it."

Lara and others shouldn't hold their breath. Caltrans studied the location and—by matching car license plates at two freeway exits—found that only about 100 cars per hour were cutting through the neighborhood during peak commute times. The agency concluded that the volume was not heavy enough to justify the high cost of building a new connector, said Tom Choe, Caltrans chief of freeway operations for Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

Those who live in the area dispute those low figures. Hopes were dashed when a different study—sponsored by Los Angeles, Glendale and Burbank, which is also near the interchange—found it would be too complicated, costly and disruptive to build the connectors anyway because of the area's special geography. The connectors would have to skirt the Los Angeles River and force the demolition of many homes.

"Perhaps it would not be worth it," said Kriske, now resigned to wishful thinking about smooth driving on freeways. Still, he said, "it's a substandard way to navigate." ■

Senate Panel Votes to Cut Auto Emissions

Environment: A bill to reduce carbon dioxide from car tailpipes after 2008 as a way to fight global warming moves closer to full Senate vote.

By CARL INGRAM
TIMES STAFF WRITER

SACRAMENTO—A potentially far-reaching bill that would make California the first state to specifically target automobile exhaust emissions believed to contribute to global warming scored a victory in the Senate on Monday.

Over the opposition of the automotive industry, including politically influential new-car dealers, the bill won approval of the Environmental Quality Committee on a party-line vote of 5 to 2, Democrats to Republicans.

The bill now advances to the Appropriations Committee for another hearing, the final stop before action by the full Senate. Officials of the Davis administration have not taken a position on the bill.

For environmental organizations, passage of the Assembly-approved plan marked a hard-fought victory against a well-heeled industry that often gets its way, especially in election years when new-car dealers have been generous donors to political campaigns.

The bill, AB1058, by first-term Assemblywoman Fran Pavley (D-

Agoura Hills), would require the state Air Resources Board to adopt regulations by 2005 that would reduce tailpipe emissions of carbon dioxide from passenger cars and light trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles. The actual implementation of the rules would not apply to cars and trucks made before the 2008 model year.

Pavley and proponents of the bill, including the Clean Air Coalition, Natural Resources Defense Fund, Sierra Club, American Lung Assn. and the city and county of Los Angeles, said global warming is becoming a threat to public health, farm production and delicate coastal ecosystems and, in California, may cause premature melting of the Sierra snowpack.

Critics of the bill claimed that a regulatory system by California would offer a "negligible" effect on global warming.

But Pavley told the committee that California must take a leadership role in the fight against global warming, as it has in reducing smog, even if the reductions of carbon dioxide were meager.

"We need to do our fair share as the fifth biggest economy of the world," Pavley said, especially since the Bush administration has dismissed joining with other nations to combat global warming.

Pavley noted that the bill specifically prohibits the air board from outlawing the sale of any class of car or

truck, including sport utility vehicles, or from imposing mandatory trip-reduction schemes on motorists.

But opponents warned that the legislation was so loosely drafted that no one could reasonably predict what steps the Air Resources Board might take to carry out requirements that it produce the "maximum feasible and cost-effective" reduction possible in greenhouse gases.

Among other things, lobbyists representing the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers and the California New Car Dealers Assn. testified that the bill could result in

'We need to do our fair share as the fifth biggest economy of the world' to reduce the release of greenhouse gases by vehicles and prevent global warming.

Fran Pavley,
Assemblywoman

higher car prices and fewer choices for consumers because no one could predict how the board's reductions would be implemented.

But Sen. Sheila Kuehl of Santa Monica, a Democrat who coauthored the bill, recalled that the automobile industry historically has fought changes, including tougher safety standards and stricter smog controls.

The industry lost those fights and eventually found ways to comply, she noted. ■

Court Orders Retroactive Payments for Ill Veterans

Ruling: The appeals panel's decision applies to thousands who have prostate cancer or diabetes and had been exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam.

From Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO—A federal appeals court ruled Monday that the Department of Veterans Affairs must pay retroactive disability payments to thousands of Vietnam veterans suffering diabetes and prostate cancer after being exposed to Agent Orange.

The payments must date to when veterans initially applied for benefits under a law that allowed them to do so beginning Sept. 25, 1985. Because of a complicated rule-making procedure, the government said the cancer victims could not receive benefits until Nov. 7, 1996, if they filed a claim after Jan. 4, 1994.

The appeals court nullified that government interpretation, which affects about 1,200 veterans, said Barton F. Stichman, executive director of the National Veterans Legal Services Program.

Also undermined by the ruling was the government's position that veterans suffering from adult onset diabetes could not get benefits until July 9, 2001, if they filed a claim between Jan. 4, 1994, and July 9, 2001, Stichman said.

"All I can tell you is for the last 20 years the VA has dragged its feet

on the Agent Orange issue. They try every way they can to come up with theories to why they shouldn't give benefits," said Stichman, who filed suit in 1986.

Phil Budahn, a Veterans Affairs spokesman, said the government had not seen the decision and could not comment.

From 1962 to 1971, the United States sprayed 19 million gallons of herbicides over southern Vietnam to destroy jungle cover for Communist troops. About 55% of that was Agent Orange.

'The VA has dragged its feet on the Agent Orange issue.'

Barton F. Stichman, National Veterans Legal Services Program

Over the years, the government has added a host of diseases associated with Agent Orange entitling veterans to disability benefits. Those include several cancers, including cancer of the lung, larynx and trachea. Last year, the U.S. recognized adult onset diabetes.

The ruling puts prostate cancer and adult onset diabetes in line with the other diseases acknowledged by the government to have links to Agent Orange, meaning disability benefits would be paid from when a claim was filed.

For many veterans, the government has paid retroactive benefits as litigation continued. The government reserved the right to take back the benefits if it won the suit. ■

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Murder Suspect Hangs Herself in Florida Jail Cell

Crime: The woman fled California after poisoning her husband. A Cal State Sacramento student implicated in the case remains in custody.

By ERIC BAILEY
TIMES STAFF WRITER

SACRAMENTO—For six months she had somehow lived with it.

Authorities say Laren Renee Sims killed her husband in September, poisoning his water bottle with a horse tranquilizer. She stowed the body in a garage freezer, then liquidated his worldly possessions, they say. He was buried in a farm field. Sims fled across the country in a red Jaguar. Within weeks, the local sheriff was branding her a “black widow.”

When the law caught up with Sims and she found herself behind bars, there still was a way out. Over the weekend, she hanged herself in a Florida jail cell with a rope authorities say she fashioned from her bedsheets.

Sims’ death leaves detectives and prosecutors in San Joaquin County, where the body of attorney Larry McNabney was discovered in February, puzzling over countless questions.

And authorities are left with a case that is very much alive. On Wednesday, Sarah Dutra, a 21-year-old Cal State Sacramento art stu-



Associated Press

Sarah Dutra appears in court last month with her attorney Kevin Clymo. She is accused of helping plan and carry out the murder of her former boss to share in the spoils of his estate and law practice.

dent, faces arraignment on charges that she helped Sims plan the killing of McNabney to share in the spoils of his estate and law practice. If convicted of McNabney’s murder, she could face the death penalty.

Sims, who went by the name of

Elissa McNabney during her life as the attorney’s wife, was Dutra’s chief accuser. In a three-page statement she gave after her arrest in the resort town of Destin in the Florida Panhandle, Sims said Dutra helped

CONTINUED »

MURDER

« CONTINUED

plan and carry out the crime, all for financial gain.

Her handwritten statement alleged that Dutra took part in the poisoning, then helped transport McNabney, still semiconscious, to Yosemite National Park, where the two planned to bury him, police said.

Sims said in the statement that she could not go through with the burial while McNabney was still alive, so they took him home, where he died the next day.

She offered no motive.

"As human beings we struggle to understand why someone would do this," said Thomas Testa, a San Joaquin County deputy district attorney. Authorities now may never find answers to several key questions, he said, the biggest one being the motive for the slaying.

Was it the money? Sims purportedly fled after squeezing as much as \$500,000 out of McNabney's business and savings. Or was it, Testa wondered, that the woman who spent her twenties jumping from alias to alias, petty crime to petty crime, may simply have embodied "pure evil."

After McNabney's slaying, he said, Sims at one point stuffed her husband's body into the trunk of her car and drove to Las Vegas to gamble and party while hunting for some place to bury him.

In the signed confession, Sims said she was alone when she buried McNabney in a vineyard. But she said Dutra—for two years a secretary at the law firm—helped her plan the murder while the trio attended a horse show Sept. 10 in Los Angeles County. Though the college



Associated Press

Laren Renee Sims detailed the killing in a three-page confession. Larry McNabney was poisoned with horse tranquilizer last year.

student, a gifted art major and former senior class president in high school, was not the brains behind the slaying, prosecutors said, she was a willing participant.

Authorities say Dutra made incriminating statements to investigators before her arrest.

Even if Sims were still alive, Testa said her written confession could not be used in court against Dutra. By law, he said, one criminal defendant cannot be called by prosecutors to testify against another.

But the case against Dutra remains solid, he said.

Dutra's attorney, Kevin Clymo of Sacramento, did not return phone calls Monday.

Prosecutors contend that Dutra was willingly led into the slaying by Sims. Dutra, they say, was in awe of Sims and relished the prospect of a high life on McNabney's money.

During Dutra's tenure at the law firm, she and Sims became friends, going on shopping sprees and wearing matching outfits. ■

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Plans for Merced River Upheld

By BETTINA BOXALL
TIMES STAFF WRITER

A federal judge has upheld a park service plan for managing the Merced River corridor in Yosemite National Park, removing a potential roadblock to a number of upcoming restoration projects.

Ruling in a two-year-old lawsuit, U.S. District Judge Anthony W. Ishii rejected claims that the plan did not adequately protect the river corridor and allowed harmful development.

The case had split environmental groups, which lined up on both sides of the lawsuit.

It was filed against the U.S. Department of the Interior by Friends of Yosemite Valley and Mariposans for Environmentally Responsible Growth.

"The overall thrust of the suit was that the plan the park service prepared for the Merced River was not based on protecting the river's values," said Julia Olson, an Oakland attorney who represented the two groups. They contended that the plan is "a template for future development in Yosemite Valley and along the corridor."

It also "allows unlimited numbers of people to use the river corridor," contrary to congressional guidelines for wild and scenic rivers, Olson said.

Park service management of Yosemite is a contentious issue, environmentally and politically. Some complain that not enough is being done to protect the valley from hordes of adoring visitors. Others say plans to upgrade lodging and reduce parking and camping on the valley floor will chase away visitors, particularly families of modest means.

A decision against the river plan could have affected some key valley projects in the river corridor.

"If it had gone the other way, we would have had to re-look at a lot of things," said Scott Gediman, Yosemite ranger and park spokesman. He mentioned, for example, Yosemite Lodge reconstruction and renovation of the Yosemite Falls parking area.

"Overall," Gediman said, "I think the decision is a validation of the Merced Wild and Scenic River Plan. We felt and still feel it is a very good plan and will protect the Merced ... within Yosemite Park."

The Natural Resources Defense Council, National Parks Conservation Assn. and Wilderness Society filed briefs in support of the river plan.

"The strength of the court ruling in the river lawsuit is really most welcome in clearing the way for long-needed changes in the park," said Jay Watson, regional director of the Wilderness Society.

The Sierra Club and Western Environmental Law Center were among dozens of groups that signed briefs on behalf of the plaintiffs, against the plan.

Olson said her clients had not decided whether they would appeal the decision, handed down March 22 by the Eastern District of California. ■

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Editorials

Washington's Burden...

President Bush took office a year ago determined that his administration not resemble Bill Clinton's either in style (more suits, less denim) or substance (hands off the Middle East). Now reality intervenes. Now "hands off" by the only outside power able to mediate the Mideast crisis looks like myopic timidity. Now, belatedly, the administration needs to dive in and separate the Israelis and Palestinians—and with fear and rage pounding through both combatants veins, it's going to take a higher-ranking referee than Anthony C. Zinni to make that happen.

Washington dispatched Zinni to Israel twice in recent months to try for a cease-fire but called him home when the violence worsened. Then Vice President Dick Cheney gave diplomacy a try. But Cheney's mission to Arab countries and Israel was more about clearing a path for future action against Iraq than about Middle East peace for its own sake.

We hope that the ghastly conflict between Israelis and Palestinians has finally made Bush realize that the crisis merits his administration's focused attention regardless of what happens with Iraq. We hope he also sees the futility of the current process, wherein Zinni, back for a third time, is trying to get both sides to agree to a cease-fire while putting off a return to the underlying political debate.

It's time to send in Secretary of State Colin L. Powell with a plan recognizing that military and political talks can and must go on at the same time. But even Powell won't be ef-

fective until Bush articulates a clear and consistent position. On Saturday the United States joined in the 14-0 vote in the U.N. Security Council that demanded "the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Palestinian cities, including Ramallah," headquarters of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. But when Bush faced TV cameras that day he repeated the mantra that Arafat could do more—with no mention of an Israeli withdrawal.

Though new U.S. presidents may wish it so, there's no way for this nation to extricate itself from the Middle East. Even before Henry A. Kissinger's shuttle diplomacy following the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, secretaries of State realized that the volatile region was vitally important to American interests. Cyrus Vance, George Shultz, James Baker and Warren Christopher came to know Israel and the surrounding countries well. Washington administrations did not always get along with the Israeli government in power. But each, while wary of the seemingly eternal quagmire's complexity, also recognized the high stakes and the need to be an honest broker.

President Clinton plunged in personally and came close to bringing Arafat and then Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak to an accord. Yes, Arafat burned Clinton at the last minute by rejecting a reasonable plan. But surely Bush understands that geopolitics is a brutal game; leaders have to play with whoever's on the field, and at the moment that means Arafat.

Powell and Bush both have spo-

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Editorials

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ken about the ultimate objective of political negotiations: the state of Israel and a Palestinian state, both behind secure and defensible borders. Getting there will be tortuous. But

what's happening now is increasingly tragic. Until the world's sole remaining superpower assertively intervenes, the already ugly fight will continue escalating toward something even more gruesome. ■

... and the Task in Israel

The United States can help bring peace to the Middle East. But only if the two key players there shake off their blood lust, get past their 20 years of personal antipathy and recognize that neither can win the mutually destructive war in which they're now engaged.

Israeli tank assaults and the arrests of Palestinians have not stopped suicide bombers. Suicide bombers have not stopped the fusillades from Israeli tanks. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's vague pronouncements about "isolating" Yasser Arafat and "rooting out terrorism" do not constitute a strategy. And Arafat's professed embrace of martyrdom while watching the young bombers die and kill is even less of a plan.

Arafat won't be able to stop every suicide bomber, but a tough statement in Arabic to all Palestinians to put down their weapons could give pause to some young fanatic presently strapping explosives around his chest. The Palestinian leader should speak out now.

Meanwhile, Israel is calling up 20,000 military reservists, the largest such action since 1982 when Sharon, then an army general, led the invasion of Lebanon. It's hard to argue against a strong defensive posture by a nation that day by day has seen bombers butcher its men, women and

children. But Israel's neighbors shudder at what looks like preparation for violent oppression of a people, few of whom have taken to bombing even though they have spent their lives watching the promise of an independent state continually deferred to some indefinite future.

Some bombers want the cycle of violence to continue. When peace talks appear about to bear fruit, they attack. But here's the tragic conundrum that Sharon seems unable to recognize: Despite Israel's aggressive response to the slaughter, including attacks on Arafat's Ramallah compound, Palestinian terrorists continue to kill civilians daily. Calling off talks because of suicide bombings gives the terrorists a veto over peace.

The mayhem has turned moderates in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza into extremists. Arafat hears the shouts of those who want Israel obliterated. Sharon is pressed by Israelis, including political rival Benjamin Netanyahu, who want tougher action against the Palestinians. Sharon and Arafat need to ignore these voices, which have echoed for generations. Enormously difficult though it may be, they need to give up their pasts and the short-term appeal of retribution and start leading their people toward peace. ■



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Managing Editor

The Times' Electronic Edition is edited in Los Angeles. The edition does not include some syndicated features and some local news that appear in Los Angeles-area editions.

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MARK H. WILLES	1997-1999
KATHRYN M. DOWNING	1999-2000

Editorials

Reopening Opening Day

What's the deal anyway with different opening days for a baseball season already underway? On Sunday the Angels and Indians played an official game (well, at least the Indians played). That was the real opening day for the nation's 2002 baseball season. Ask the Easter Sunday sellout crowd of 42,697 in Anaheim. No Mo Vaughn, but they all saw the opening day game—6-zip for Cleveland. So there's no doubt that 2002 baseball got underway on the weekend. But judging by all the hoo-hah sports coverage last night and this morning, Monday was "Opening Day" in many places. The nerve!

Time was opening day was, well, opening day. The season was open or it wasn't. Like pregnancy, you were or you weren't; no maybe for either. The concept of opening day is ingenious and downright grand, regardless of the ensuing shoe-tapping, bat-rubbing, endless warming-up tedium. Opening day was made for optimists, even Cub fans. The slate was clean for everyone. Baseball's winter trades and spring training were over; so, finally, was basketball.

At the stadium, the new base-paths were perfectly etched in reddish dirt, the seats unmarked by pigeons. Opening day augured a full summer of sun unfolding dawn after dawn. Opening day was packed with warmth and fresh potential.

Opening day also meant that

closing day for school was close by. Hooky on opening day was excused by a nice note to the teacher. Like the newly cut grass laid out so very green and fresh for everyone, opening day at the stadium always smelled good, even before the hot dog steam wafted through the newly painted seats. There, countless youngsters wore their well-pounded gloves, newly liberated from the closet, oiled and ready to snag any fortuitous foul that flew by. Opening day was more full of anticipation than a sweet-smelling unopened pack of bubble gum trading cards. What either could contain was limited only by imagination.

Football and hockey had opening days too, but they weren't the same. The closest thing to the excitement of baseball opening day was in September when car dealers tore down the paper temporarily covering showroom windows to reveal the metallic splendor of next year's models. That was an impressive array of movable chrome to behold. But as living proof of an enduring social normalcy, the rhythmic beginning of a new season of excitement and progress, baseball's opening day was the perfect seasonal marker.

As such, come to think of it, after this past autumn of awe and a winter of war, maybe it's not such a bad thing this April to have more than one opening day—just for emphasis. ■



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Commentary

'We Must Vanquish an Enemy Determined to Annihilate Us'

By BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

JERUSALEM—The message Palestinian terrorists are sending us is crystal clear: We will murder you at every opportunity, in every place, at any time—even on the holiest of your days.

An unremitting carnage that indiscriminately slaughters all who come within the murderous reach of Palestinian terrorists shows the depths of their hatred.

Clearly, the only constraint on Arab terrorists is their capability to destroy. Given the power, they would kill all of us, down to the last infant. The primary objective of Yasser Arafat's terrorist regime is not to establish the 22nd Arab state but to destroy the only Jewish state. This was and remains at the heart of the conflict.

In 1948, the Arabs rejected an international resolution that would have established a Palestinian state and instead attempted to destroy an embryonic Jewish state. Fifty-two years later, Arafat rejected a similar offer and demanded the flooding of Israel with millions of Palestinians, a measure that would effectively bring about the destruction of Israel as a Jewish state.

With such a regime, whose ultimate objective is our destruction and which pursues this objective by the most barbaric means imaginable, there is no place for negotiations and no hope of reaching any sustainable peace agreement.

Indeed, the much-vaunted politi-

cal solution to end the conflict was attempted two years ago at Camp David, and it utterly failed. Arafat rejected a scandalously far-reaching Israeli offer of a sovereign Palestinian state in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, which included half of Jerusalem, and instead chose to unleash the present war of terror against Israel.

There is only one option now available to Israel: to decisively win the war that has been forced upon us.

What is required of us today is not a willingness to clench our teeth and bear this ongoing violence. We must instead seek a total military victory against an implacable enemy. First, we must immediately dismantle the Palestinian Authority and expel Arafat. Second, we must encircle the main Palestinian population centers, purge them of terrorists and eradicate the terrorist infrastructure. Third, we must establish security separation lines that will allow Israeli armed forces to enter Palestinian territory but prevent Palestinian terrorists from entering our towns and cities.

The choice we face today is not between military victory and a security separation. Rather, we must do both together. Only by combining the two can we stop the terror, restore a deterrent that has been dangerously eroded in the last two years, and enable a realistic and moderate leadership to emerge among the Palestinians with which we can pursue a political settlement in the future.

Like a partial dose of antibiotics

that is not sufficient to cure the disease, the partial actions of the government and the fitful changes between a policy of restraint and halfhearted military action have not and will not achieve anything. Our excessive concern about the international community has also borne bitter fruit. Israel's refusal so far to act as would any other self-respecting nation heightens the doubts in the minds of our friends about our belief in the justice of our cause and encourages our enemies to increase the bloodshed.

The only way to win international understanding for our position, especially in the United States, is to steadfastly assert our basic right to defend ourselves and to achieve a quick and decisive military victory that will stop the terrible massacre of our citizens.

Finally, the claim that we have tried all military means to end the terror is baseless. We have not even used a fraction of our military power, and the little we have used has not been directed toward the right purpose, namely ending Arafat's regime. Today, after 18 months of terrorism, the government continues to work under the illusion that it is possible to stop terrorism without dismantling this main terrorist engine.

What is absolutely clear is that we cannot continue, even for one more day, on a path of indecision without a goal or a policy. We must do what any nation in our position would do: stop bickering among ourselves, fight the war that has been forced upon us and vanquish an enemy who is determined to annihilate us. ■

Benjamin Netanyahu is a former prime minister of Israel.

Commentary

Bush Fiddled While Mideast Burned

By ROBERT SCHEER

There is enough blame to go around for the events that have turned the Camp David promise of peace into the killing fields of the Mideast without dragging in President Bush. To ignore the arrogant failure of this administration, however, is to deny the obvious: From its first day in power, it showed no interest in securing peace between Israel and the Palestinians, quickly squandering years of difficult progress made under President Clinton.

Now, with outright war already a reality, Bush is tacitly endorsing Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's eye-for-an-eye descent into madness because it is a response to Palestinian terrorist attacks.

Despite the kudos the media have heaped on our wartime president, it was only after Sept. 11 that Bush grasped that terrorism is an international reality that deeply affects the United States' security. Even then, he has sought to pound the problem away in the mountains of Afghanistan and through saber-rattling against an alleged "axis of evil," ignoring its source in the intractable politics and passions of the Arab-Israeli wars.

For the U.S. to have pretended, even for a year, that these wars are a regional problem was ludicrous. We have dominated Mideast politics for decades, intervening overtly and covertly, subsidizing whole economies, pouring in armaments like gasoline onto a fire. In the end it was the responsibility of an incoming U.S. president to continue

the commitment of his predecessor to the peace process, rather than striking a pose of total indifference.

Of course, if Arafat had possessed the courage to grasp the considerable concessions of Sharon's predecessor, peace—and not this nightmare—might well be at hand. And if the Israeli electorate had rejected the candidacy of the man responsible for Israel's failed invasion of Lebanon and brutal massacre of Palestinian refugees, prospects for compromise would at least still exist.

In the end, it is the people who endure the immediate suffering on both sides who will have to find an alternative to agonizing death of biblical proportions.

However, the history of their conflict is so twisted and the passions so deranged that peace cannot come without outside intervention, primarily from the U.S. That was the principle accepted at the beginning of the peace process in Oslo, the principle underscored by the Camp David accords and the principle revived in the recent Saudi peace proposal just endorsed by representatives of the entire Arab world.

Bush said he embraced the Saudi proposal but then just as quickly gave Sharon the green light to jettison it because Palestinians are practicing terrorism against Israeli civilians. While it plays well on television, abhorrence of terrorism does not and cannot define the range of culpability and possibility in the region. Terror is a tactic used by those who do not possess planes and tanks and trained infantry. Yet Bush, in his statements,

is fixated on the notion that the use of terror is the only issue in the Mideast.

It is not, of course. The crux, as any eighth-grader should know, is that two peoples claim the same land. And if they cannot find a sturdy compromise, the outward ripples from their rage and hate darkly threaten the rest of us, as was so painfully discovered in September.

There is no military solution in the offing, nor has there ever been. I clearly remember Israel's optimism 35 years ago after its resounding victory in a six-day war, as expressed in my interview with Moshe Dayan.

A warrior-hero, Dayan spoke earnestly of bringing indoor plumbing and clean water supplies to the horrid Palestinian refugee camps neglected by the Egyptians in Gaza, as if that would be enough to usher in a new era of peace. It wasn't; Israel has tried at times to be a model occupier, but no people in modern times will ever for long submit to the indignity of occupation.

Palestinian statehood, as called for in the Saudi plan and tentatively endorsed by the Bush administration, is the only way forward. The Jewish settlements must be ended, and the U.S., the Europeans and the Arab nations must commit to Israel's secure borders, as they existed before the Six-Day War.

The forging of such a peace is the only anti-terrorism campaign that has a serious chance of success. ■

Robert Scheer writes a syndicated column.

Commentary

Abortion Isn't Just a Federal Issue

By NANCY L. SASAKI

During the gubernatorial primary, some Californians seemed astonished that Gov. Gray Davis raised a woman's right to choose safe, legal abortion as a campaign issue. Clearly, some California voters believe this is a federal matter and are not aware of the effect a state governor can have on a woman's right to choose.

But Davis was correct to focus on the issue, and he must continue to do so during his general election campaign against Bill Simon, who is staunchly anti-choice.

Californians live in a state that sets the standard for protecting a woman's right to family planning. Californians are overwhelmingly pro-choice. Where a candidate for state office stands on this issue can be a deal breaker.

While many people are familiar with the role of the U.S. Supreme Court in protecting choice, they may not be aware of just what kind of threats to reproductive freedom can—and do—exist at the state level.

Largely because of anti-choice measures introduced in states during the past six years, a woman's reproductive rights today are more restricted than they were in 1973, when the Supreme Court handed down its Roe vs. Wade decision legalizing abortion. In 2000 alone, 45 new anti-choice measures were adopted at the state level.

How can this be, given that Roe

vs. Wade made a woman's right to abortion "the law of the land"? For starters, an increasingly conservative U.S. Supreme Court has given states great leeway in restricting abortion.

In its 1989 decision in Webster vs. Reproductive Health Services, a majority of the court failed to reaffirm Roe vs. Wade's "strict scrutiny" standard for reviewing abortion restrictions, meaning more restrictions could be passed into law. Many states set out to test what types of antiabortion restrictions the court would uphold.

Now, in 14 states, a woman may have to travel many miles to reach an abortion provider and then must wait 24 to 48 hours after seeing the doctor to actually have the procedure.

At least 25 states, plus the District of Columbia, limit public funding for abortion only to cases of life endangerment, rape and incest. In 2000, a total of 21 governors signed anti-choice legislation into state law.

Most important, if Roe vs. Wade were overturned, 11 states probably would pass a ban on abortion in all or most circumstances. With the U.S. Supreme Court one vote away from overturning Roe, the danger of this happening is real.

Clearly, states can wield tremendous power over a woman's right to choose. In a striking example of this power, Davis, a Democrat, recently declared his support for state Senate Bill 1301. Among other things, the bill would codify Roe vs. Wade in the state, protecting California women's right to choose regardless of what happens to Roe vs. Wade at the national level.

Meanwhile, GOP candidate Simon has declared his opposition to abortion and has stated that he does not want to discuss it during this last leg of the California gubernatorial campaign. Instead, he seeks to woo moderate GOP women back to the fold by focusing on education.

As governor, Simon would be able to appoint anti-choice judges to our state's Supreme Court and to other state court positions, which would be problematic if Roe is overturned. And with veto and budget power, Simon would be able to put up dangerous roadblocks to a right that women in California have had for so long.

Davis, the media and the people of California must hold Simon's feet to the fire on the issue of choice. And everyone should understand exactly why it is so critical to do so. ■

Nancy L. Sasaki is president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Los Angeles.

To Our Contributors

The Times welcomes manuscripts for possible publication. Each commentary must be exclusive to The Times. Unpublished manuscripts will not be returned. For a recorded explanation of Op-Ed requirements, please call (213) 237-2121. Articles may be sent to oped@latimes.com (not as attachments) or faxed to (213) 237-7968.

Commentary

One Strike, You're Out on the Street

By ARIANNA HUFFINGTON

In an infuriating blow to reason, logic, fairness, compassion and equal justice, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled last week that people living in public housing can be evicted for any drug activity by any household member or guest, even if the drug use happened blocks away from the housing project and even if the tenant had no inkling that anything illegal was taking place.

Chew on that for a second. The highest judicial body in the land has said—unanimously—that it's OK to toss innocent people out of their houses for crimes they didn't commit and didn't even know about.

The generals in the drug war are getting mighty desperate—and silly.

The justices did not merely uphold the constitutionality of the “one strike and you're out” eviction policy implemented by the Clinton administration in 1996; they also rushed to its defense, calling it “reasonable.”

Tell that to Herman Walker, a co-defendant in the case, a disabled 79-year-old man who now stands to lose his home because his full-time health-care worker was found with drug paraphernalia in the apartment.

Or to Pearlle Rucker, the named defendant, a 63-year-old great-grandmother who found herself facing eviction when her mentally disabled daughter was caught possessing cocaine three blocks away from Rucker's apartment (officials later revoked Rucker's eviction after she kicked her daughter out of her home).

The high court's opinion, written by Chief Justice William Rehnquist, tried to buttress its cold-hearted argument by claiming that so-called “no-fault” evictions are justified because drug use leads to “murders, muggings and other forms of violence.”

In reality, two of the four plaintiffs in the case before the court were elderly women whose grandchildren were caught smoking marijuana in a housing project parking lot.

The ruling is a gut-wrenching reminder of just how differently America treats its rich and its poor. The multimillion-dollar homes of Beverly Hills or the Upper East Side of Manhattan have their fair share of kids struggling with drug problems.

But as concerned as these kids' parents are, you can bet that their problems are not compounded by the additional worry that the entire family will be tossed out onto the street because their kid is smoking a joint three blocks away. Why should we hold poor people to a standard many of us could never meet?

“A tenant who cannot control drug crime,” wrote Rehnquist, “is a threat to other residents and the project.”

I wonder if the chief justice would apply the same condemnatory logic to Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who also lives in public housing and apparently was unable to control his troubled daughter.

Indeed, our political establishment, whether ensconced in gov-

ernors' mansions or not, is filled with people unable to “control drug crime” by a household member.

But the politicians—including Sens. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.), Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) and Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) and Reps. Dan Burton (R-Ind.), Spencer Bachus (R-Ala.), John Murtha (D-Pa.), Randy “Duke” Cunningham (R-San Diego) and Maurice Hinchey (D-N.Y.)—weren't punished for the sins of their kids.

What's more, unlike the thousands of mostly poor and minority drug offenders who have had the book thrown at them, these lawmakers' offspring were frequently granted special treatment.

It's not surprising that poor kids are routinely sent to jail while rich kids are given a slap on the wrist and a ticket to rehab, or that poor parents are thrown out of their houses for not knowing what their kids are doing while powerful parents are given our sympathy and understanding.

But it is unjust.

Here's a thought: Why don't Kennedy and Burton call a joint Senate-House hearing on “one strike and you're out” no-fault evictions.

They can call Jeb Bush, Pearlle Rucker and their respective daughters (one who was taken to rehab, one who was taken to jail) as the first witnesses. ■

Arianna Huffington writes a syndicated column. E-mail: arianna@ariannaonline.com.

LETTERS TO THE TIMES

'Just What Is Wrong With This Governor?'

Re "Davis Is Reversed in Parole Dispute," March 31, and "Davis Gets More Money From Prison Guards," March 30: Could anyone be more off base than Gov. Gray Davis? A man with terminal illness declared by the presiding judge to be the least culpable in a killing is a threat to society, parole denied?

Just what is wrong with this governor? Does part of his sellout to the correctional officers' union include stocking the prisons so that they can get 34% raises and he can get hundreds of thousands of dollars in political payoffs? What a deal. Then he fulfills a promise to the union to close private prisons to save "the taxpayer" money, except the budget pros say it won't. The decision does, however, increase the union staff in state prisons so the governor can get more than the measly \$251,000 he just got from this union (oh yes, three weeks after he signed the raises).

Bob Driscoll
Woodland Hills

I have been a Democrat my entire life and have never been as embarrassed (even including Bill Clinton's indiscretions and pardons) as I have been by our governor's parole policy. How sinful! To make sure that a Willie Horton does not haunt him in his majestic quest for higher office, Davis has decided to totally ignore a parole board that has recommended that only 1% of the murderers before it be released. I pity you, dear gover-

nor, when the true judgment day comes around.

Martin Kodish
Calabasas

In what state can a large contribution to a gubernatorial candidate get your group a large pay raise when he becomes governor and then get the new governor another large contribution from the group? Hint: Its motto is "Eureka."

Sandy Friedfeld
Ranch Palos Verdes

Davis should be the poster child for campaign finance reform. He has been an utter failure the last four years, and I blame money. He knows that to win reelection he has to spend night and day dialing for dollars.

He had all the makings of a good governor: liberal background, government know-how and a landslide of support in his election. His campaign promised all the right things. But he has failed every promise, from education to the economy. It's not that he couldn't succeed, but he hasn't been able to concentrate. He has been too distracted with fundraising. But who can blame him? It's the corrupt system we live in.

Craig Burlingame
San Diego

Blame me, I voted for Davis. I'm not sure what I saw in him. I guess I thought he would be Clinton without the scandals. But instead, Davis has failed us every chance he had. As hard as I try, I can't think of one good thing Davis has done for the state. Throw him out.

Geno Regetti
Palm Desert

Burmese Must Unite Against Dictatorship

I admire Anna Husarska for her straightforward, practical and very constructive analysis on Burma ("It's Not Easy to Bring Down a Dictator," Commentary, March 28). Four decades have passed, with tens of thousands of people killed, jailed and displaced, and Burma's dictatorship is still as strong and alive as ever. Husarska's analysis on the insufficient unity and focus of the democratic forces in and out of Burma is an accurate assessment.

Burma lacks unified opposition to the regime outside of the country. People inside cannot move, more than what they have done bravely so far. The duty is now with people outside Burma, especially exiled Burmese. We must understand that we have a common enemy, the dictatorship. We must be able to set aside the differences among ourselves in order to establish a united front. Unity will bring victory. I am sure that the democratic governments want to see the Burmese people unite in the quest for democracy and the leadership of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Pye Nyein
San Gabriel

Catholics' Easter Faith

Re "Catholics Take Comfort in Easter," April 1: With all the scandal surrounding the Roman Catholic Church, I expected that disillusioned Catholics would stay

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LETTERS

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away from Easter Sunday Mass. Instead, on Easter morning I found our church literally packed to the rafters. Friends and family reported the same phenomenon at their parishes. It seems to prove what we've really known all along—our faith is not in fallible priests or their fallible hierarchy.

Our faith is in Jesus Christ, who rises above all scandal and sin.

Steve Mills
Glendale

Arafat Should Be Removed From Power

I believe the time has come for the U.S. to endorse the Israeli military action against Yasser Arafat and his Fatah movement for their heinous crimes against innocent civilians and nonmilitary targets. I also believe that military action against the Palestinians should lead to the removal of Arafat as leader of the Palestinians. Twenty people were killed in Netanya during the Passover massacre. Since the intifada started, approximately 400 Israelis have been killed. This would translate into 22,400 Americans being killed if it happened here. We would not put up with this, so why should we expect Israel to?

Israel and Jews all over the world want peace. This peace is not possible as long as a murderer and terrorist like Arafat is in power. Arafat must be removed in order for the peace process to move forward and the violence to end.

Bernard Hoffman
Los Angeles

It takes great statesmen to change history. Both Ariel Sharon and Arafat failed the test of history, and it is time for both of them to go. It is Sharon's policy and actions that led to the suffering of both the Israelis and the Palestinians. In contrast, Arafat's lack of policy direction and actions led to the suffering of his people and their overwhelming feelings of desperation. We can say Arafat is being stripped of his power by Sharon's actions, but Arafat was not bold enough to turn the tables in his own favor.

To both, Sharon and Arafat: Remember that God almighty is powerful and in control.

Khaled Soliman
Glendale

If Arafat is honest about restraining suicide bomber terrorists, instead of their being rewarded, he will declare the act a crime. Further, he should arrest the bomber's entire family—mother, father, sisters, brothers—as conspirators. This will surely deter bombers and enable Arafat to demonstrate his seriousness about fostering peace.

Bert Eifer
Woodland Hills

Yes, Sharon's policies make perfect sense. Because isolating Arafat is going to make everything better. No one is going to get angry; they're just going to give in once their leader is held hostage and martyred. Just give in to Israel's demands, even though Israel is illegally occupying Palestinian land, illegally building and supporting settlements. Basically, Sharon is a warlord, a criminal. If anything, his actions will only spark more bitter hatred

for him and his administration. He is risking the lives of millions of innocents, as well as the stability of the world to settle a personal score he has with Arafat.

If Sharon's idea of extending his hand in peace is surrounding his counterpart's headquarters, occupying his cities and towns, demolishing civilian homes, razing acres of olive trees, killing women and children, rounding up all the Palestinians he can and imprinting individual numbers on them, then all I can say is that he is doing Hitler proud. Ironic, isn't it!

Wasim Muklashy
Los Angeles

As one who supported the Palestinian position in the present conflict, I must now admit that I was wrong. It is absolutely impossible to justify in any way the disgusting act of murder committed by the Palestinians this Passover. I now feel that Israel must by any means necessary end the threat posed by Palestinian terrorists.

Jeff Lane
Riverside

Re "The Power of Restraint," editorial, March 29: It's easy to call for restraint from 7,500 miles away, when it's not your family members that were killed for no other reason than because they were eating dinner in the wrong hotel. The U.S. didn't exercise all that much restraint in responding to the terrorists who brutally damaged our nation. Neither should Israel restrain itself, after hundreds of senseless murders and dozens of attacks. Any other response legitimizes the

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terrorist murder of civilians as a negotiation device.

David Marinoff
New York

Socially Responsible Environmentalism

Patrick Moore's March 26 commentary, "Greens Don't See Forest for the Trees," was of great interest to us; however, he misrepresents the origin and role of the Forest Stewardship Council. Moore portrays the FSC as a tool created by North American environmental activists to impose their agendas on the corporate world. Not only was Greenpeace at the table when the FSC was founded but so was a balance of other environmental, social and business interests, including World Wildlife Fund, Ikea and the Home Depot.

The FSC does not, as Moore says, "make the rules and hand out the certificates." Under the FSC system, forest management standards are developed in open, democratic and transparent processes by independent groups of stakeholders representing a broad range of interests. They are ultimately reviewed by scientists to ensure that they represent leading-edge thinking on the management of forests.

The FSC is international in scope, with a balanced membership representing interests from 60 countries—and nearly 70 million acres of forests certified through

its system in 47 countries on five continents.

Henry A. Cauley
Executive Director
Forest Stewardship Council U.S.
Washington

Moore fails to make any distinction between timber monocrops, grown for harvest, and native forests in his claim that "there is about the same amount of forest cover today as there was 100 years ago." Native forests are biologically diverse, self-sustaining ecosystems that host countless species, create new soil, prevent erosion and do not require human intervention. Timber monocrops are to a real forest what a fast-food hamburger is to Sunday supper prepared by a grandma—a pale imitation of the real thing.

Suebob Davis
Thousand Oaks

Welfare 'Credit' Won't Pay the Bills

Re "Welfare Plan Would Count Family Time," March 28: The Bush administration welfare plan, which has declared the "well-being of children" a primary concern, would allow low-income parents to receive credit for part of their work by participating with their children in organized activities. This sounds compassionate; in reality, it is shortsighted and doomed to failure.

A parent who has come off welfare, in all probability, has a minimum-wage job without medical benefits. Many single parents working at minimum wage need two jobs to barely break even. This does not allow time to participate with their children in other activities even if

they are given credit for the hours. Credit for time worked is not pay for time worked. Minimum wage does not cover necessities and certainly won't stretch to meet the costs of organized activities.

Before the administration proposes another simplistic solution to help the poor, the Barbara Ehrenreich book "Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America," in which the author goes to several major cities and tries to live on minimum wage, should be required reading.

Estelle Waslosky
Brea

Dangerous Driving

According to your March 28 headline, "Most Teens Admit Risky Road Behavior." "They think they are 10 feet tall and bulletproof," says Tina Pasco of MADD.

So, then, must adults. I am a frequent pedestrian and have nearly been run over by any number of hostile, unskilled and oblivious drivers. The vast majority are grown-ups; no teenager has ever shouted profanity at me for crossing the street too slowly, for instance. It is ludicrous to assume that risky driving is a "teen problem." Rude and dangerous driving is the rule, as opposed to the exception, on our roads. We all need to open our eyes and realize that dangerous driving is everyone's problem. ■

Kate Bower
Pasadena

SECTION

C

SPORTS

Los Angeles Times

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL • MARYLAND 64, INDIANA 52

Hoosiers Shell Shocked

By PAUL GUITIERREZ

Juan Dixon leads the Terrapins with 18-points in 64-52 victory over Indiana for team's first national title. »



Reuters



Reuters

This Could Be the Start of Some Dream Gig

OPENING GAMES

San Francisco at Dodgers

Today, 1 p.m. PST

Giants'

Livan Hernandez
(13-15, 5.24 ERA)

vs. Dodgers'
Kevin Brown

(10-4, 2.65 ERA)

More on Dodgers »

By MIKE DIGIOVANNA

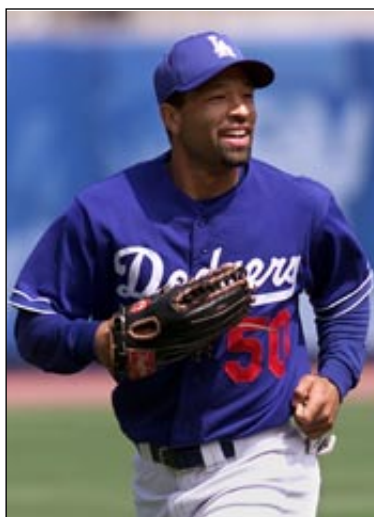
After years in minors, Dave Roberts gets his big break as Dodgers' opening-day center fielder. »

BILL PLASCHKE

A Gridiron Horse

Replaces a Toxic Chef's

Blend in Left »



VINCE COMPAGNONE / Los Angeles Times

Parting Shot for Lakers

By TIM BROWN

Game tonight might be their last chance to match skills with Jordan. »

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MORNING BRIEFING

He Wasn't Invited to the Donner Party

Was Bob Knight, the Hoosiers' long-time coach, really a legendary "ogre"? »

NEWSWIRE

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AMERICAN LEAGUE ROUNDUP

White Sox Edge Mariners in Season Opener

Chicago White Sox 6, Seattle 5 • Minnesota 8, Kansas City 6 • Baltimore 10, N.Y. Yankees 3 • Toronto 12, Boston 11 »

NATIONAL LEAGUE ROUNDUP

Boone's Sacrifice in 9th Puts Reds Over the Top

Cincinnati 5, Chicago Cubs 4 • St. Louis 10, Colorado 2 • Arizona 2, San Diego 0 • N.Y. Mets 6, Pittsburgh 2 • Atlanta 7, Philadelphia 2 »

J. A. ADANDE

Home Free Isn't Always Good

Sometimes a game, a series or even a championship comes down to the sound or the silence of a whistle—and at that moment location can mean everything. It did for the Lakers. »

DIANE PUCIN

Point Wasn't Lost on Them



The NCAA women's championship wasn't all about the money or the agents or the egos. It was a victorious journey for both teams. »

LONNIE WHITE
ON THE NHL

Kings Want Their Playoff Cake and Eat It, Too

With 30 teams and 16 playoff berths, making the Stanley Cup playoffs is a lot tougher for the Kings than it might have been years ago. »

NHL ROUNDUP

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TENNIS LISA DILMAN

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Comparisons with Andre Agassi in his early days are easy to make. »

Toledo Gives It a Paus When Deciding on Quarterback

By ROB FERNAS

Going into spring drills, the UCLA coach says the position, and others, are up for grabs. »



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Fire Ravaged-Lower Owens River Braces for Trout Opener

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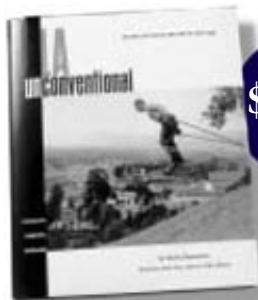
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Los Angeles Times

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL • MARYLAND 64, INDIANA 52

Hoosiers Shell Shocked

NCAA Championship: Juan Dixon leads the Terrapins with 18 points in 64-52 victory over Indiana for team's first national title.

By PAUL GUTIERREZ
TIMES STAFF WRITER

ATLANTA —Entering the national championship game, Indiana Coach Mike Davis had made a bet with his players. He gambled that if the Hoosiers could somehow pull off the upset and beat heavily favored Maryland, Davis would consider allowing the players' last names to be sewn into the backs of their jerseys—a move equal with heresy in certain parts of Indiana.

Unfortunately for the Hoosiers, the only names they saw Monday night were those on the backs of the Terrapins as they raced by Indiana down the stretch to a 64-52 win at the Georgia Dome.

Maryland senior guard Juan Dixon led the Terrapins with 18 points. Indiana junior forward Kyle Hornsby led the Hoosiers with 14 points, including four three-pointers.

After Maryland jumped out to an early 12-point lead, 23-11, with 9:25 remaining in the half, Indiana used its hot three-point shooting to close the gap to six points, 31-25, at the half.

The Hoosiers slowed the Terrapins down at the start of the second half and three of their first five field goals were three-pointers as Indiana took its first lead of the game at 44-42



Reuters

Hoosier A.J. Moye is cornered by a host of University of Maryland defenders, Juan Dixon (3), Drew Nicholas (12) and Lonny Baxter.

with 9:53 to play. But while Indiana cooled off, Maryland took off.

Maryland's first national championship ended Indiana's improbable march to the Final Four.

With the victory, the Terrapins (32-4), the No. 1 seed from the

East Regional, became the fourth straight No. 1-seeded team to win the national title.

Maryland Coach Gary Williams also erased his 0-7 lifetime coaching record against Indiana with the

CONTINUED »

HOOSIERS

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win and the Terrapins shook the monkey off their back that had them making more NCAA tournament appearances (19) than any school to not win a national title.

Indiana (25-12), the No. 5 seed from the South Regional, dropped its first championship game in six tries. The Hoosiers, who upset top-ranked Duke in the regional semifinals, were looking to become first No. 5-seeded team to win it all and the fourth to win it with at least 10 losses, joining Kansas (27-11 in 1988), Villanova (25-10 in 1985) and North Carolina State (26-10 in 1983).

Still, Davis, a second-year coach who took over when Bob Knight was fired in September of 2000, won more NCAA tournament games this year (five) than Knight won in his last seven seasons combined at Bloomington (four). ■



Reuters

University of Maryland guard Juan Dixon passes under pressure from Indiana University guard Dane Fife during the first half.

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This Could Be the Start of Some Dream Gig

Baseball: After years in minors, Roberts gets his big break as Dodgers' opening-day center fielder.

By MIKE DiGIOVANNA
TIMES STAFF WRITER

"And now, the starting lineup for your Los Angeles Dodgers—leading off, and playing center field, No. 30, Dave Roberts..."

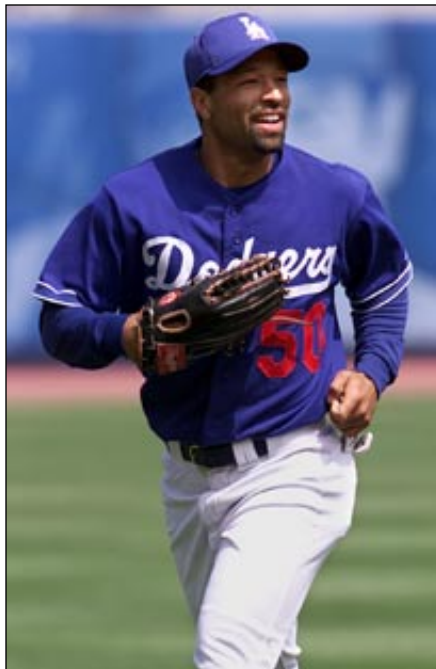
When he hears those words from the Dodger Stadium public address announcer before today's season opener against the San Francisco Giants, all those summers in Visalia, Jacksonville, Akron and Buffalo, all those years of trying to emerge from the shadow of six-time all-star Kenny Lofton, will melt away.

Dave Roberts has finally made it.

In his ninth year of professional baseball, after 798 minor league games and 3,079 minor league at-bats and a batch of late-March disappointments, the former UCLA standout will make his first big league opening-day start today.

It won't be Roberts' major league debut—the 5-foot-10, 180-pound speedster played in 75 games for the Cleveland Indians in the last three seasons—but this is the first time he's broken camp with a big league team and has a starting job to call his own.

"Playing in the big leagues was a dream come true, but to play on opening day in Los Angeles is off the charts," Roberts said. "This is



VINCE COMPAGNONE / Los Angeles Times

Dave Roberts, 29, nine years into a pro career that has included only 75 major league games, will be Dodgers' leadoff hitter today.

something I can't describe. It didn't even seem like this was possible."

Roberts was probably fourth on the center-field depth chart when camp opened, behind Marquis Grissom and his guaranteed \$5-million contract, Tom Goodwin and his \$3.25-million contract, and McKay Christensen and his short-but-successful track record of hitting .327 in 28 games for the Dodgers last season.

But the more Manager Jim Tracy saw of Roberts, the more Roberts, 29, seemed the solution to filling a four-year void at the top of the Dodger order.

DODGER REPORT

Time Will Tell if Gagne Pays the Closing Cost »

Roberts hit .368 with a .478 on-base percentage, nine runs, three doubles, five runs batted in, eight walks, four strikeouts and six stolen bases in 18 Grapefruit League games.

He worked counts, bunted for hits and ran the bases aggressively. He got good jumps and ran good routes in the outfield, and although he doesn't have the world's best arm, he hit cutoff men and threw to the right bases.

Eventually, Grissom was sent to the bench, Goodwin and Christensen were designated for assignment, and Roberts, acquired for two minor league pitchers in a winter trade with Cleveland, is still standing.

"He sent a clear message that he's the guy to play center field and lead off," Tracy said. "We weren't asking for things from that position, we were demanding things. From the beginning of camp, his instincts, his intelligence, his willingness to do things for the club to be successful stood out.

"If he can do those things to the level he's done them in spring training, he could be a valuable addition and something this team hasn't had since Brett Butler [who led off from 1991-97] was here."

In Roberts, Tracy sees a lot of

CONTINUED »

DODGERS

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Paul Lo Duca, the Dodger catcher who spent eight years in the minor leagues before winning a starting job in spring training last year.

Lo Duca batted .320 with 25 homers and 90 runs batted in after a manager finally gave him a chance. Tracy thinks Roberts can have a similar breakthrough season, though no one expects him to approach Lo Duca's power numbers.

Dodger leadoff batters—mostly Goodwin and Grissom—combined for a .306 on-base percentage in 2001, 15th among 16 National League teams, but Tracy believes Roberts and speedy No. 2 batter Cesar Izturis will bring some energy and a run-producing punch to a sluggish offense.

But to do that, they have to get on base a lot. Roberts had a .381 career on-base percentage and a .295 batting average in the minor leagues and has a .292 on-base percentage and a .242 average in the big leagues.

"If I don't give at-bats away, if I have a game plan, positive things will happen," Roberts said. "Being a leadoff hitter, it's not just about getting hits, it's about getting on base. And sometimes if you don't get on, it's about seeing a lot of pitches so your teammates get a feel for what the pitcher is throwing. I just have to play my game."

Roberts, a former three-sport star at Rancho Buena Vista High in North San Diego County, didn't get much of a chance to play his game in Cleveland.

"When the guy you're playing behind is making \$8 million a year, that's a pretty good-sized road

CONTINUED »

DODGERS, FOR OPENERS

- **Gates open:** Parking lots, 10:40 a.m.; stadium turnstiles, 11:10 a.m.

- **Ceremonial first pitch:** Peter O'Malley, who succeeded his father, Walter, as Dodger president in 1970 and held the post until 1998. Peter's mother, Kate, threw out the first pitch 40 years ago before the season opener in 1962, the club's first year at Dodger Stadium. The Cincinnati Reds won that game, 6-3.

- **National anthem:** Patti LaBelle.

- **Other ceremonies:** The team will honor members of its 1962 squad, including hall of famer Duke Snider, Maury Wills, Tommy Davis and Johnny Podres. In 1962, Wills stole a then-record 104 bases, Davis led the National League with a .346 batting average and the Dodgers finished tied with the Giants atop the standings. However, the Dodgers lost a best-of-three playoff. A high school honor band made up of students from throughout Southern California also will perform. During the seventh-inning stretch, Erin Bradley, 3, of Vandenberg Air Force Base will sing "God Bless America."

- **Military presence:** The Elite Frogs parachute team will land on the field, and there will be a flyover by two F-14 Tomcat and two F-4 Phantom jets.

- **Something new:** The outfield wall will feature the greatest moments in Dodger Stadium's 40-year history.

- **Opening-day memories:** Today's season-opening start will be Kevin Brown's third with the Dodgers, who are 24-20 in season openers since moving to Los Angeles. In Brown's first start for them, the Dodgers rallied for a dramatic, 11-inning 8-6 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks in 1999 at Dodger Stadium.... The last time the Dodgers lost a home opener was in 1997, when Curt Schilling, then with the Philadelphia Phillies, beat them, 3-0.... Don't expect any help from last year's Dodger heroes in today's game. In a 1-0 victory over the visiting Milwaukee Brewers, Gary Sheffield (traded to the Atlanta Braves) homered in the sixth inning, starter Chan Ho Park (signed as a free agent by the Texas Rangers) went seven scoreless innings and Jeff Shaw (retired) pitched a perfect ninth for the save. It marked the Dodgers' fourth consecutive victory in a home opener.... In opening-day ceremonies in 1972, the Dodgers retired uniform numbers for the first time in franchise history: Sandy Koufax (32), Roy Campanella (39) and Jackie Robinson (42).... Koufax pitched only one season opener, in 1964, the year after the Dodgers swept the Yankees in the World Series and he won the first of his three Cy Young awards. Koufax beat the St. Louis Cardinals, 4-0, at Dodger Stadium.... Right-handers Don Drysdale and Don Sutton lead the team in opening-day starts with seven each.

Bob Rohwer

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DODGERS

« CONTINUED

block," Roberts said.

That barrier was removed for a month in 1999, when Lofton was on the disabled list. Roberts was recalled from triple-A Buffalo and installed as the Indians' regular center fielder for 32 games, during which he hit .248 and stole 10 bases, showing flashes of brilliance.

Roberts had three hits and scored three runs in his big league debut against Tampa Bay on Aug. 7 that year and had nine multi-hit games from Aug. 7-Sept. 10.

He played solid defense, created some havoc on the basepaths, and his hard-nosed style of play endeared him to Indian fans, who considered Roberts such a mirror image of Lofton that they started

calling him "Lenny Clofton."

Roberts was flattered.

"I've had a couple of different nicknames," he said. "But anytime you can be compared to a perennial all-star, it's a compliment."

Though Roberts was something of a Lofton clone, former Indian second baseman Roberto Alomar made the bigger impression on Roberts.

"He taught me to not be afraid to make a mistake, that you can't always have a great game but you can always do something positive to help the team win," Roberts said. "Whether he went 0 for 4 or four for four, he always did something to help the team. He told me to be fearless, to put pressure on the defense."

Tracy told Roberts the same thing this spring. Roberts stole 65 bases for Class-A Visalia in 1996 and 39 for triple-A Buffalo in 1999 and again

in 2000. He has an explosive first step—"It takes him one step to reach full speed," Tracy said—and will have the green light most of the time.

"I have the luxury of Trace letting me be aggressive," Roberts said. "I've always been a base stealer. That's a big part of my game."

Roberts knows he'll be under a microscope in Los Angeles. He's never experienced the physical and mental rigors of a full big league season, and there will be questions as to whether he will be exposed by a steady stream of major league pitching.

"I haven't proven I can play in the big leagues for six months ... but I think that's overrated, because if you can't get up to play 162 games in the big leagues, there's something wrong with you," Roberts said. "I've played too long in the minor leagues to give it away now." ■



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BILL PLASCHKE

A Gridiron Horse Replaces a Toxic Chef's Blend in Left

The Dodger left fielder barreled into the manager's office this spring with a demand.

It's not what you think.

It's not even close.

"I want to play," the left fielder threatened. "I don't care where you bat me. I don't care how you use me. I just want to play."

This is the story Jim Tracy tells when describing Brian Jordan.

This is the only story he tells.

"Do I need another one?" he says.

His locker is in the same corner of the room. His position is the same patch on the field.

But the difference will be as clear as a collision with a second baseman or a fence.

Gary Sheffield was about mirrors.

Brian Jordan is about breaking them.

Sheffield played hopscotch.

Jordan played football.

On this opening day, the Dodgers are careful to avoid anointing Jordan as the replacement for the Dodgers' best, and nuttiest, player.

But I wish they would.

Fans need to know that this is one chemistry class Dan Evans didn't flunk.

Fans need to understand that

while they may have acquired only 70

percent of Sheffield's instincts, they added 200 percent of his insides.

That may not equate to a dramatic opening-day home run.

But it does mean the Dodgers now have a guy who will chase down a fly ball, break up a double play, scold a slacking rookie.

At this point in the Dodger evolution, a fair swap.

"Baseball is not a contact sport," said hitting coach Jack Clark with one of his wry smiles. "But Brian Jordan doesn't mind making it a contact sport."

Certainly, this winter's deal with the Atlanta Braves was made only because it included left-hander Odalis Perez, a 23-year-old kid who was good enough that he pitched out of their rotation in his last two injury-free seasons.

But Perez will work once every five days.

Jordan works nearly every day, at least 133 games a year for each of the last four seasons.

"Everybody talks about me being injury prone," he said. "But nobody talks about how I play through those injuries."

Jordan, 35, works not just on the field, but at his locker, a former Pro Bowl alternate defensive back who outrageously likens narcissistic baseball clubhouses to huddles.

"I look at this like I looked at a football—a team sport," he said.

"We've got to rely on each other."

Jordan works the way another Dodger football player once worked.

Same work ethic, same mentality, same giant legs and small cliches, perhaps you've heard of him.

Guy by the name of Gibson.

He's not going to hit like Sheffield, so forget it.

Brian Jordan will strike out nearly 100 times. He'll barely draw 50 walks. In six full major league seasons, he's batted .300 once.

But just as important is something he probably won't do.

If the Dodgers are three games behind division-leading Arizona on Sept. 23 and facing the Diamondbacks at Dodger Stadium ... Jordan probably won't walk out.

Not like Sheffield did last fall, when his silly first-inning ejection led to the loss not just of one game, but of a season, as the Dodgers were never that close again.

Nobody around here really knows Jordan that well.

But there is a sense that he is not that sort of player.

He is, instead, the sort of player who keeps his mouth shut in big games because he loves the fall, with six homers and 26 RBIs in 31 division and league-championship series games.

He was dreadful in his only

CONTINUED »

PLASCHKE

« CONTINUED

World Series against the New York Yankees—one for 13—but the Dodgers would be thrilled if he just led them there.

He is also the sort of player who has already pumped the bad air out of that once-nasty corner of the clubhouse.

Reporters no longer sprint there for the latest dirt. Teammates no longer flee there for fear of being stained by it.

Jordan initially ripped the trade because he had not been warned, and because his wife was on the verge of having a baby.

But now he is all huge grins. And you can almost understand.

“My initial reaction to the trade was shock, thinking about my family and everything,” he said. “But I was fine the next day.”

So fine, he rushed Tracy’s office again at the end of spring training to congratulate him on a fire-and-brimstone speech.

“Tracy made me want to run through a wall, and I wanted to tell him that we need more of those speeches,” Jordan said. “Before coming here, I always heard that this team was separated.”

It was. In some ways, it still is.

But amid the Dodgers’ many dilemmas, there is finally real hope that this most ancient of problems can be fixed.

The man replacing Gary Sheffield has stalked into an old corner of the clubhouse carrying a fresh new playbook. The I-formation not included. ■

Bill Plaschke can be reached at bill.plaschke@latimes.com

DODGER REPORT

Time Will Tell if Gagne Pays the Closing Cost

Manager **Jim Tracy** insists the Dodgers will attempt to fill their closer role by committee, but converted starter **Eric Gagne** is expected to pitch in closing situations to start the season, and the club, which opens against San Francisco today at home, is hoping the right-hander steps up and makes the job his own.

“Could he eventually become our closer? I’m not ruling that out,” Tracy said. “I’m very hopeful that’s what happens, but for the time being, we’ll take it slowly.”

Gagne, who pitched a scoreless inning at Seattle Sunday, gave up one earned run and eight hits in 19 innings over nine spring-training appearances. Last Thursday night, Gagne entered an exhibition against Arizona in Las Vegas with a four-run lead. Two Dodger errors helped the Diamondbacks pull to within two runs, putting Gagne in a jam, but he retired the side with no further damage.

“I thought it was nice for him to experience problems in the ninth inning, because that’s what the ninth inning is all about,” said **Dave Wallace**, Dodger senior vice president of baseball operations and formerly their pitching coach. “The tying run was at the plate, and you have to get the guy out.”

Gagne, who has only 10 career relief appearances, also said the experience was valuable.

“You have to go through some

innings like that,” he said. “It’s not always going to be perfect. You have to go through it and learn from it, and that’s what I tried to do.”

Expectations are always high for **Barry Bonds**, the only baseball player to win four most-valuable-player awards, but the San Francisco slugger admits to some trepidation when he ponders the consequences of setting the bar in **Sergei Bubka** territory with his record-setting 73-homer season in 2001.

“I always wait for that one year that’s going to be bad,” said Bonds, whose previous season high was 49 homers in 2000. “That’s why I’m always pushing my body and pushing myself to the fullest. I know it’s going to happen one day. I just don’t know when. Sometimes I wonder if the people are going to be appreciative then. I’m only human.”

“When you do something of that magnitude, you’re proud of it, you’re happy. I’m proud that I did it in a place where I’m happy doing it. I’m proud that San Francisco could say they had it. But you just want San Francisco to be proud of you as a player, period, regardless of what you do, and appreciate something that came once and may never come again.” ■

Gary Klein and Mike DiGiovanna

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Parting Shot for Lakers

Pro basketball: Game tonight might be their last chance to match skills with Jordan.

By TIM BROWN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON — The Lakers stand across from Michael Jordan for perhaps the last time tonight. For the third time around.

Unless, of course, the knee, which recently celebrated its 39th year by submitting to a repair job by local surgeons, heals, and assuming Jordan does not step in a gopher hole striding up the 18th fairway at Pebble Beach this summer. Then there will be next year—and the fourth time.

Unless, of course, the Washington Wizards make the playoffs, which could get him to thinking about what more he could do in shorts and, well, then he'd have accomplished what it was he left his closet of suits for. Who knows then?

If it is becoming difficult to follow the man, perhaps it is because The Times does not employ a Michael Jordan beat writer, not to be confused with a Washington Wizard beat writer, the Washington Post has one of each, often standing side by side, notepad by notepad.

Meanwhile, the Lakers continue their on-again, off-again quest for home-court advantage in the first of four rounds of the playoffs. The Wizards, out of the playoffs since 1997, arrive tonight 2 1/2 games and two teams out of the Eastern Conference's eighth and final playoff spot.

The Lakers appear to have decided that early-round games at Staples Center are pleasant but not critical. This four-game trip—stops in New Jersey, Boston and Miami follow Washington—could go a long way toward determining if the Western Conference finals will open in Sacramento or Los Angeles, should it come to that. The Lakers sit two losses behind the Kings, with the season's final game against the Kings in Los Angeles.

They have won five of six games since they lost twice in Texas. And, they haven't lost to a good team since then, which, if you follow the Lakers closely, makes perfect sense.

"We're getting there," Shaquille O'Neal said on the way to his car Sunday night. "I know once the playoffs come, our guys will have a while different energy and a whole different adrenaline."

Their guys say the same about

O'Neal, perhaps headed for off-season surgery on his rigid big toe.

"It's important that he pick his spots, and he does that," Kobe Bryant said. "He waits for the right time to suck up the pain, to make the necessary slides defensively."

Jordan could be making those same decisions, asking his knees for enough to compete, for enough lift for his jump shots, for just enough to push the Wizards past Toronto and Indiana (or Philadelphia) in the next nine games. He came off the bench Sunday and scored 10 points in 28 minutes in the Wizards' 110-103 loss to Dallas, two days after dropping 34 points in 26 minutes on the Milwaukee Bucks.

"He could find a way to play even though he's limited," said Phil Jackson, Jordan's coach for six championships in Chicago. "All he wants his team to do, I'm sure, is get to the

CONTINUED »



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LAKERS

« CONTINUED

playoffs. He'd like to help lead that charge, as long as he's been part of the team all year and committed himself, I'm sure he wants to have an outcome of success."

Beyond that, Jackson said, "I think then he'll assess where his knee is at. In this case, very often they go in—and I'm not trying to say anything about it—but at some point in time, there's arthritis, and there's not a whole lot of cushion there for the knee.

"Regardless of how much you want to rehabilitate the knee, the knee is only going to be able to do so much. You start getting bone on bone when you're out there on the court, to me there's not a whole lot you can do."

The Lakers are taking unsteady steps as well, trying to live with O'Neal's condition and, subsequently, curious about whence the rebounds and defensive stops will come.

They beat Sacramento, Portland and San Antonio in eight days, but the Kings lacked Peja Stojakovic and the Trail Blazers played without Rasheed Wallace.

"Portland game doesn't count because Rasheed didn't play," Laker forward Robert Horry said. "We didn't take them out like we should have. We played all right [against San Antonio]. We could've played a lot better. I'll tell you when we get back from this road trip if we are where we should be." ■

LAKER REPORT

Jackson Frequently Adjusts the Role of Horry

WASHINGTON—In the 10 games since **Samaki Walker** was activated from the injured list, Coach Phil Jackson has started him at power forward three times.

Robert Horry, the veteran bench player who averaged 10.2 points and 8.1 rebounds in the 13 games Walker missed because of a hyperextended elbow, has started the others.

Although it sometimes appears that Jackson has a matchup in mind—Walker started both games against San Antonio, Horry both against Dallas—it is not that complicated. "I usually go talk to Robert about it, see how he's doing," Jackson said.

It takes Horry a while to warm up to a game and occasionally he runs as though he is on someone else's legs, which concerns Jackson.

In the last six weeks, however, Jackson, when he sees an odd gait from Horry, has resisted the urge to replace his veteran forward, who often plays better as the game progresses.

Mitch Richmond returns tonight to Washington, where he spent three seasons before having his contract bought out by the Wizards, which allowed him to sign with the Lakers.

Never really in Jackson's rotation, Richmond has not played in five of the last six games, running to 13 the number of games he has not played because of the coach's decision. "There'll be opportunities at some point still," Jackson said.

Brian Shaw has played most of those minutes lately, probably because of his comfort in the triangle, particularly as the playoffs approach. ■

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Record vs. Wizards—1-0.

Update—The Lakers were 103-94 winners in the first meeting, Feb. 12 at L.A. Kobe Bryant—absolutely, positively not inspired by Michael Jordan—led the Lakers in points (23), rebounds (11) and assists (15), his only triple-double of the season. Shaquille O'Neal was on the injured list because of his arthritic big toe. Jordan had 22 points. Former Laker Tyronn Lue averages 7.7 points in 20.2 minutes, and Chris Whitney has made 41.3% of his three-point shots.

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ROSS NEWHAN
ON BASEBALL

Season Opener Has a Familiar Ring to It

It is generally unwise to read too much into the events of a season opener, one game in a long schedule.

Then again, is it just too cynical to point out that the way the Angels opened the 2002 season Sunday night was numbingly similar to the way they ended the 2001 season?

In fact, it was only a few minutes after the eight members of the Navy SEAL skydiving team had landed on the outfield grass at Edison Field as the highlight of a patriotic pregame ceremony that the hype and hope that began building when Disney turned serious in the off-season suffered an initial grounding.

For an excited crowd of 42,697, it was suddenly September again, the month when the Angels' wild-card hopes evaporated amid 25 losses in their last 31 games, including seven in a row to end the season.

Operating without Roberto Alomar, Juan Gonzalez and Kenny Lofton, the Cleveland Indians scored four runs in the first inning and went on to a 6-0 victory behind Bartolo Colon's five-hitter.

Maybe Mike Scioscia, beginning his third season as the Angel manager and spin doctor and convinced that his club is a contender (of course, when hasn't he been?), was trying to ask the media to keep the results in perspective even before the first pitch.

"The opener probably draws more of a microscope than any

ANGEL REPORT

Pitching prospects could be trade bait »

other game during the season," Scioscia said. "Obviously, if you play well, you hope it carries over.

"But honestly, it's one of 162 games and its impact on the season may be overstated as far as what we have to do to be a championship team."

What the Angels have to do to reach that lofty level has been chronicled.

They need quality innings from a rotation enhanced by the additions of Kevin Appier and Aaron Sele, and increased run production from an offense that outscored only Baltimore and Tampa Bay last season. In particular, they need Darin Erstad and Tim Salmon to regain their form of two years ago.

"If spring training was a litmus test, every level is where we hoped it would be," Scioscia said before every level failed in the opener.

Salmon struck out twice, grounded meekly in front of the plate and contributed a throwing error to Cleveland's first-inning push. Erstad had only an infield hit in four at-bats and got a bad jump on Jim Thome's shallow fly that fell for a bloop single as the Indians built their first-inning lead against Jarrod Washburn, the young left-hander being touted as his club's new ace.

It is hard to criticize Scioscia and the Angels for showing faith in one of their own by starting Washburn, but the adrenaline may not have been pumping as much for the more experienced Appier or Sele.

Washburn insisted it wasn't a case of nerves, but he walked lead-off batter Matt Lawton and consistently was behind in the count during that first inning in which the first five Indians reached base.

"I made good pitches, they got their bats on the ball, a few bloopers fell and it exploded into a big inning and ruined any excitement we had going into the opener," Washburn said. "It's very frustrating to lose any time and I'll take full responsibility. I put us in a hole that was impossible to come back from the way Colon was pitching."

If the Indians are to remain dominant in the American League Central as they retrench financially and rebuild with younger players, it will probably have to be done more with pitching than their once-celebrated power, and much will hinge this season on a rotation that includes Colon, C.C. Sabathia (who faces the Angels on Tuesday night), Chuck Finley (who starts Wednesday) and Danys Baez.

Colon was 0-2 with a 5.40 earned-run average against the Angels last year, when he was 14-12 overall, but the Angels never mounted a serious threat against the 28-year-old right-hander, who

CONTINUED »

NEWHAN

« CONTINUED

was still throwing in the high 90s in the ninth inning and needed only 98 pitches to finish what he started.

It is rare to get a complete game on opening day and rarer yet to get a shutout. This, in fact, was the first opening-day shutout since Dwight Gooden of the New York Mets beat the Colorado Rockies in 1993.

“We did a better job against Colon last year,” the understated Scioscia said, “but he was the story of the game tonight. Wash came back and settled down after the first inning, but we couldn’t do anything with our bats. You tip your cap, turn the page and go on.”

Actually, the Angels will have a brief wait before going on.

They are off today before trying to snap a 10-game home losing streak Tuesday night against Sabathia, who was the American League’s rookie pitcher of the year in 2001, when he went 17-5. The Indians may not pound the ball as they once did with Alomar, Lofton and Gonzalez gone, but they can still throw their weight around considering Colon and Sabathia are said to tip the scales at more than 550 pounds combined.

In sitting on the Angels in the opener, Colon disappointed the partisans in a sellout crowd attracted by developments of the off-season but still skeptical about a franchise that has not been to the playoffs since 1986. There were boos, in fact, as early as that first inning Sunday night while the visitors—as it always is in Ana-

heim—drew pockets of support as they produced a four-run Easter parade that proved to be decisive behind Colon.

The Angel manager understands the way it is in Anaheim and knows only one thing will convince the skeptics.

“The bottom line?” Scioscia said. “We have to win. It’s the only thing that will put the Anaheim Angels on the map.”

One game in a new season is not enough to say that won’t happen, but linked—fairly or not—to the final games of last season, the opener takes on a different tone. ■



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ANGEL REPORT

Pitching Prospects Could Be Trade Bait

After two years of replenishing and developing the Angels' stock of young pitchers, General Manager **Bill Stoneman** might soon have to drain that pool. Top pitching prospects are the most prized commodity in baseball, and Stoneman might well have to trade several of his for the Angels to win this season.

The Angels have long believed that **Scott Spiezio** would be most effective off the bench, playing a variety of positions. With **Shawn Wooten** expected to be sidelined two to four months after thumb surgery, Spiezio is expected to get most of the playing time at first base, weakening a bench otherwise lacking in power. The projected triple-A lineup is short on power too, with only two players who hit more than 11 home runs at any level last season.

If Spiezio plays well, and Wooten returns relatively soon, the Angels might do nothing. But Baseball America ranks the Angels' first-

base personnel as the worst in the league, and the Angels now have the young pitching to trade for the proven first baseman that could make the difference in a pennant race.

"The more depth you have with power arms and high-ceiling pitchers, the more you raise the interest of other scouts and other organizations," Angel Scouting Director **Donny Rowland** said. "Once you have that depth, you're a club people come to."

"We have plenty of arms to offer if we need a position player."

The Angels believe left-hander **Joe Torres** and right-handers **Chris Bootcheck**, **Bobby Jenks**, **John Lackey**, **Francisco Rodriguez**, **Johan Santana** and **Matt Wise** all could develop into legitimate major league starters. They also consider right-handers **Brendan Donnelly**, **Bart Miadich** and **Scot Shields** as qualified for major league relief roles.

Two or three of those pitchers

could net the Angels a proven first baseman for years to come; one or two could bring a veteran hitter eligible for free agency at the end of the season. Stoneman declined to discuss the chances of his making such a trade to boost the Angels' offense.

"We'll judge that in May and June and July," he said.

With Spiezio suspended for the first five games of the season for his aggression during spring training brawls with the San Diego Padres, **Benji Gil** started Sunday's season opener at first base.

Does Stoneman consider first base a weak spot on an otherwise strong club?

"I wouldn't judge it that way," he said. "Nobody questions the way Spiezio plays defensively. He's a better hitter left-handed than right-handed, but he's all right. He fits this club fine." ■

Bill Shaikin

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CLIPPER REPORT

Playoffs Are Unlikely

The Clippers' playoff chances have dwindled to next to nothing, but they have other goals to reach before they put 2001-02 to rest.

A winning record, the first in a decade is still possible. They are 37-37 with eight games to play.

"Obviously, it hasn't happened a lot," Coach **Alvin Gentry** said.

The Clippers were 41-41 in 1992-93, technically not a winning mark, but close enough. They also were 45-37 in 1991-92.

And that's it for .500 records since the franchise relocated to Los Angeles from San Diego before the 1984-85 season.

The Clippers also can become the first team since the Houston Rockets to go from 15 victories to 40 or more in two seasons, according to Gentry. In fact, the Rockets won 14 games in 1982-83, improved to 29-53 the next season and to 48-34 during the first season **Hakeem Olajuwon** and **Ralph Sampson** were teamed together.

The Clippers won 15 games in 1999-2000, then 31 in Gentry's first season as coach—the league's best improvement in 2000-01.

"We've still got a lot of positive things we can accomplish," Gentry said. "We're still going to play as if we're in the playoff chase because we are."

Gentry indicated he would not alter his rotation in the final eight games except perhaps to give **Corey Maggette** minutes.

For now, **Tremaine Fowlkes** will continue to start at small forward, with Maggette coming into the game as a reserve.

Maggette was sidelined more than a month because of two dislocated bones in his right hand, suffered when he punched the scorer's table in anger during a Feb. 21 loss against the Orlando Magic. He also underwent arthroscopic surgery on his left knee during his layoff.

Reserves **Darius Miles** and **Quentin Richardson** have no plans to rest nagging injuries down the stretch.

Miles continues to be troubled by a sore left knee and did not practice Monday. He is expected to play Wednesday against the Utah Jazz.

Richardson has tendinitis in his left foot. He will play Wednesday. ■
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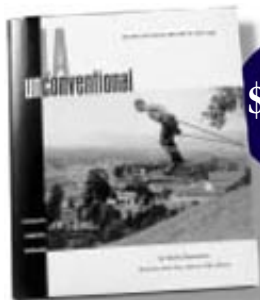
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MORNING BRIEFING

He Wasn't Invited to the Donner Party

When Indiana surprised most media pundits by advancing to Monday night's NCAA title game, some sportswriters, including Jay Mariotti of the Chicago Sun-Times, praised Coach Mike Davis while taking shots at Bob Knight, the Hoosiers' long-time coach before Davis replaced him last season.

"It is Davis, the outsider who has been harassed mercilessly by Knight loyalists, who ends up fitting the state's values far better than the legendary ogre he replaced," Mariotti wrote.

The dictionary definition of an ogre: "A hideous giant of fairy tales and folklore that feeds on human beings."

Aw, come on, Jay, Knight isn't *that* bad.

Trivia time: What was the result of the Dodgers' first league game played in Los Angeles in 1958?

Augusta bargains: GolfWorld magazine reporting on the Masters, which will be played next week: "The slumbering economy and aftereffects of Sept. 11 have combined to make this one of the quietest springs for corporate hospitality in recent memory.

"Houses are renting for as much as 50% less than last year, say local travel brokers; the cost of a black-market weekly badge is between \$2,500 and \$2,800, down from \$4,200 last year."

Oh, no! Reader Bob Barrows to the San Francisco Chronicle:

"When I umpired a girls' fast-pitch softball game the other day, the home coach gave me a lineup card without listing either his catcher or pitcher.

"I asked him why and he explained, 'Batteries not included.'"

Precautions: Comedy writer Earl Hochman: "Even though Ruben Rivera signed a minor league contract with the Texas Rangers and will start the season at Tulsa, Ranger shortstop Alex Rodriguez, taking no chances, already has installed a dozen new fool-proof locks on his equipment locker."

Slim chances: Jim Armstrong in the Denver Post:

"I'm sorry, but I don't see the Diamondbacks repeating this year. After [Randy] Johnson and Curt Schilling, their pitching is thinner than Gwyneth Paltrow's Oscars dress."

Amen: The late Bill Veck once said, "Baseball is almost the only orderly thing in a very un-orderly world. If you get three strikes, even the best lawyer in the world can't get you off."

Do you remember Nat? Dave Lewandowski in the Indianapolis Star:

"Now that John Stockton has turned 40, he's one of 10 men to play in the NBA after that milestone birthday. The oldest was Nat Hickey, who played one game at age 46 for Providence in 1947-48."

Trivia answer: The Dodgers beat the San Francisco Giants, 6-5, at the Coliseum before a crowd of 78,762.

And finally: Dan Cook of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, commenting on the Pirates' prospects: "The Pirates were 69-93 in the 2000 season for the second time in three years. It was their eighth consecutive losing season....

"It can't possibly get worse," you said at this time last year. But it got a lot worse. The Pirates were 62-100 last season in beautiful new PNC Park and were one of the big jokes in baseball.

"Don't make the same mistake. This season could be uglier." ■

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Sorenstam Is Keeping Busy

Annika Sorenstam, who won the Kraft Nabisco Championship Sunday at Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage, is going to have a busy week.

Sorenstam, who set a record last year when she came from 10 shots down to win the Office Depot Championship at Wilshire Country Club, her fourth consecutive LPGA Tour victory, is back for more.

This week, Sorenstam returns to defend her title, but at El Caballero Country Club in Tarzana and for a purse that has been increased \$200,000 to \$1 million.

Sorenstam and Karrie Webb, the No. 1- and No. 2-ranked players, who were in the last group of Sunday's Kraft Nabisco Championship, lead a strong field in the Office Depot tournament, which is hosted by Amy Alcott.

Se Ri Pak, Rosie Jones, Lori Kane, Liselotte Neumann, Laura Diaz and Mi Hyun Kim are among the top players who have entered the event.

Last year at Wilshire, Sorenstam started the final round 10 shots behind leader Pat Hurst, but finished with a 66. When Hurst closed with a 77, Sorenstam wound up in a playoff with Kim, who had a 65. Sorenstam beat Kim on the first hole of a sudden-death playoff.

The Office Depot is the 25th of the LPGA's 31 official events to offer prize money of at least \$1 million, up from 12 in 2000.

The 54-hole event is Friday, Saturday and Sunday. ■

Thomas Bonk

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NEWSWIRE

Stewart Won't Try Double, Says No Indy

From Staff and Wire Reports

Tony Stewart made his double-duty plans official Monday, saying he will not drive in the Indianapolis 500.

Stewart, a former Indy Racing League champion, will only compete in the Coca-Cola 600 and not make a third attempt at the grueling 1,100-miles of racing.

He cited his desire to win the Winston Cup championship this year and his shot at a \$1-million bonus if he wins the 600, for not entering the Indy 500.

"Running Indy again is something I've put a lot of thought into, but when it came right down to it, the long-term goal of winning the Winston Cup championship won out," Stewart said.

Stewart is 12th in the Winston Cup standings, 204 behind leader Sterling Marlin.

Pro Football

The Denver Broncos have confirmed they have signed free-agent wide receiver Rob Moore to back up Rod Smith and Ed McCaffrey.

Moore, 33, missed most of the last two seasons in Arizona with injuries and was released by the Cardinals in February.

He is a two-time all-pro and has caught 628 passes for 9,368 yards and 49 touchdowns in a 10-year career.

Spencer Folau, who started 15 games at left tackle for Miami last year, has signed a two-year contract with the New Orleans Saints,

becoming one possible replacement for the departed Willie Roaf.

The Miami Dolphins signed their lone free agent, tight end Jed Weaver, to a one-year contract.... The Cleveland Browns have signed offensive tackle Barry Stokes, who played last season with the Green Bay Packers.... Former NFL general manager Bobby Beathard joined the Atlanta Falcons as a senior adviser to new owner Arthur Blank.

Jurisprudence

Darryl Strawberry must remain in a Tampa, Fla., jail until a judge decides his fate later this month and while his new lawyer reviews his case.

Hillsborough Circuit Court Judge Florence Foster denied bail for Strawberry while he awaits an April 18 court date on allegations he broke rules at the drug treatment center where he was serving two years of house arrest.

Dominic Rhodes, who led the Indianapolis Colts in rushing last season, pleaded innocent to charges he hit and shoved the woman with whom he lives. Both charges carry

a maximum sentence of one year in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

Tennis

Top-seeded Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia advanced to the second round of the Sarasota Open in Florida, defeating Spain's Conchita Martinez, 6-2, 7-5.

Seventh-seeded George Bastl of Switzerland defeated American Justin Gimelstob, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4, in the first round of a USTA Challenger event at Braemar Country Club in Tarzana.

Miscellany

Samoa Fili, a 17-year-old pole vaulter from Wichita (Kan.) Southeast High, died two days after striking his head during a meet, a spokeswoman for Wesley Medical Center said.

The Galaxy will face the CSD Municipal Rojos, a powerful club from Guatemala in an exhibition game May 8 at the Rose Bowl.... Midfielder Braulio Luna will replace the injured Ramon Morales for the Mexican national soccer team's exhibition match with the U.S. on Wednesday at Denver. ■

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AMERICAN LEAGUE ROUNDUP

White Sox Edge Mariners in Season Opener

The Associated Press

SEATTLE—The Seattle Mariners, who led the entire way en route to a major league record-tying 116 wins last season, fell short in their opener Monday when Mike Cameron flied out with the bases loaded to end a 6-5 loss to the Chicago White Sox.

Seattle rallied for four runs in the eighth to make it 6-5, then threatened in the ninth against Keith Foulke.

Mark McLemore and Ichiro Suzuki led off with singles and moved up on Jeff Cirillo's sacrifice. But Bret Boone grounded back to Foulke and, after Edgar Martinez was intentionally walked, Cameron hit a routine fly ball.

Mark Buehrle (1-0) pitched six innings for the win. He gave up two hits, including a home run by Cameron.

Minnesota 8, Kansas City 6—Jacque Jones homered on the second pitch of the game, then hit a go-ahead three-run shot in the seventh inning as the Twins connected five times in a season-opening victory.

David Ortiz, Brian Buchanan and Torii Hunter also homered for the Twins, who survived major league baseball's attempt to eliminate them when a Minnesota judge issued an injunction that forced the team to honor its lease at the Metrodome.

Minnesota, which sent Kansas City to its 14th loss in its last 17



Associated Press

Baltimore shortstop Mike Bordick dives in vain for a single hit by New York's Shane Spencer during the second inning Monday.

openers, took a 3-0 lead, then fell behind 6-3 in the fifth when Neifi Perez and Carlos Beltran hit consecutive RBI triples.

Hunter homered in the sixth off starter Jeff Suppan, and the Twins came back in the seventh against loser Cory Bailey.

Baltimore 10, N.Y. Yankees 3—Tony Batista jolted Roger Clemens with a grand slam and Scott Erickson won his first outing in 20 months as the Orioles opened with a victory.

Clemens, coming off his record sixth Cy Young Award, gave up eight runs, walked five and threw two wild pitches—all after he tried to field a hard grounder with his bare hand. Clemens was taken to a hospital for precautionary X-rays.

Jason Giambi, the centerpiece in the transformation of the four-time

defending AL champions, went 1-for-4 with a walk as the Yankees started their 100th season.

Toronto 12, Boston 11—Darwin Fletcher hit a sacrifice fly in the ninth inning off loser Ugueth Urbina as Toronto rallied after taking a 7-1 lead against Pedro Martinez only to fall behind, 11-8.

Jose Offerman, Trot Nixon, Jason Varitek and Tony Clark homered for Boston in the first game since John Henry's group bought the team, fired general manager Dan Duquette and replaced manager Joe Kerrigan with Grady Little.

Martinez struggled with his control and allowed seven earned runs for only the fourth time in his career. Martinez lasted three-plus innings, giving up eight runs overall and nine hits.

Kelvim Escobar got the save. ■

NATIONAL LEAGUE ROUNDUP

Boone's Sacrifice in 9th Puts Reds Over the Top

From Associated Press

CINCINNATI—Aaron Boone hit a bases-loaded sacrifice fly in the bottom of the ninth inning Monday, giving the Cincinnati Reds a 5-4 victory over the Chicago Cubs and a pulsating start to their last season at the former Riverfront Stadium.

Right fielder Juan Encarnacion misjudged a fly ball, helping the Cubs rally for two runs to tie it in the eighth.

Jeff Fassero, who has such good control that he hit only two batters in the last two seasons, plunked three in less than two innings to help the Reds pull it out.

Danny Graves got the win after blowing a save by giving up two unearned runs in the eighth, when Encarnacion misplayed Mercado's fly for a two-base error that started a Cubs comeback.

St. Louis 10, Colorado 2—Albert Pujols, last year's NL Rookie of the Year, broke open a tight game with a three-run double in the fourth inning, Matt Morris breezed and the Cardinals beat up on Mike Hampton to beat the Rockies.

Mike DiFelice, who won the Cardinals' catching job with a strong spring training, homered and drove in two runs as St. Louis played a regular-season game for the first time since Mark McGwire retired because of a sore right knee.

Tino Martinez, signed as McGwire's replacement, was 1-for-3 with two RBIs as St. Louis got 14 hits off six pitchers.

Morris, whose 22 wins last year tied Arizona's Curt Schilling for the major league lead, made his first opening-day start and allowed one run and five hits in seven innings, striking out seven and walking two. He was 15-2 with a 1.62 ERA.

Arizona 2, San Diego 0—Randy Johnson threw a six-hitter as the Diamondbacks opened defense of their World Series championship by beating the Padres.

With a fastball that topped out at 100 mph, the 38-year-old left-hander struck out eight and walked one to beat San Diego's Kevin Jarvis. Mark Grace homered and Danny Bautista doubled in a run.

When Johnson last left the mound at Bank One Ballpark on Nov. 4, he had come out of the bullpen to get the final four outs in Game 7 of the World Series against the New York Yankees. Then he watched from the dugout as Arizona rallied with two runs in the ninth to win, 3-2.

Jarvis allowed two runs and five hits in seven innings. He struck out four and walked none.

N.Y. Mets 6, Pittsburgh 2—Newcomers Roberto Alomar and Roger Cedeno drive in runs with soft hits and Al Leiter allowed one

unearned run in six innings as the Mets revamped their offense, adding Alomar, Cedeno, Mo Vaughn and Jeromy Burnitz.

The four new starters struggled, going 2-for-17 with nine strikeouts. But Cedeno blooped an RBI double in a three-run second inning and Alomar added a soft, two-run single in the eighth.

Edgardo Alfonzo, who hit .243 during an injury-plagued 2001, had three hits, and light-hitting Rey Ordonez went 2-for-2 with an RBI.

Atlanta 7, Philadelphia 2—The Braves' new sluggers made quite an impact on opening day, with Vinny Castilla hitting a three-run homer and Gary Sheffield a two-run shot to lead Atlanta to victory.

Tom Glavine, starting in place of the injured Greg Maddux, went six scoreless innings before tiring in the seventh.

But pitching excellence is old news in Atlanta.

The focus has shifted to offense after the Braves finished 13th in the National League in runs a year ago, even while capturing their 10th straight division title—although they have only one World Series championship to show for it. ■

J. A. ADANDE

Home Free Isn't Always Good

This is why home-court advantage matters. It's not always about comfort or crowd noise. Sometimes a game, a series or even a championship comes down to the sound or the silence of a whistle—and at that moment location can mean everything.

The site happened to be the eastern side of Staples Center on Sunday. One time down the court, the whistle blew and Derek Fisher got a trip to the free-throw line for the deciding points in the Lakers' 96-95 victory over the San Antonio Spurs.

The next time play came to that end, the officials ruled that Shaquille O'Neal got his hand on Tim Duncan's shot and nothing else. Duncan's jumper fell well short and the Lakers had their 11th consecutive victory at Staples—and another day of contention for the best record in the league and home-court advantage throughout the playoffs.

The arena influences the referees in basketball more than any other sport. At least, that's the perception.

"If you're a team respected by the officials, home court makes a big difference," Laker forward Robert Horry said. You won't find one player who disagrees.

Maybe the Lakers don't get those calls if 35,000 fans in the Alamodome are ready to scream their displeasure. Perhaps a call in a critical game at Arco Arena in

Sacramento would go the other way. The NBA schedule gave the Lakers the benefit Sunday. Anything they get in the playoffs will have to be earned in these final three weeks of the regular season.

The Lakers didn't need home court last year. They went 8-0 on the road in the postseason, including two victories in San Antonio to start the Western Conference finals. And the Lakers won't be intimidated if they have to go on the road to begin a series this year. They already have won at Sacramento and Dallas, their two biggest rivals for the No. 1 seed in the West.

Right now Sacramento (53-19) leads the Lakers (52-21) by two games in the loss column. If the Lakers had lost Sunday they could have gone ahead and booked rooms at the Sacramento Hyatt—while looking over their shoulder at the Spurs. Now the Spurs (49-24) are a little too far back, while the Lakers still have a shot at catching Sacramento.

"I'd just like to have [home-court advantage] for the first round," Laker forward Rick Fox said. "Then after that ... it doesn't scare me to go on the road the first two games. It's actually slightly fun."

It's not that the Lakers would be afraid of Sacramento. It's just that Sacramento plays with so much more confidence at home—and the

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Kings are great front-runners.

As Fox said: "You're always braver in your backyard, because you can always run in your house to your mom when you need her."

Fox is big on this fear thing lately. He said Saturday that the Spurs were "still scared" of the Lakers, and he didn't back off those comments after Sunday's game.

"You know you look in somebody's eyes and you can tell whether they believe or not?" Fox said. "I think a lot was still lingering from last year."

Duncan's response: "Good for him. Basketball is not a sport where you're scared of anybody. I'm not afraid of anybody on the court. It's great that they won two championships and all that great stuff, [but] why would you be afraid of somebody?"

There's nothing fun and no empty rhetoric about having critical calls go against you in the playoffs. Ask Phil Jackson if he still thinks a foul should have been called on Chicago's Scottie Pippen against Hubert Davis in Game 5 of a series against the New York Knicks at Madison Square Garden eight years ago.

That play was similar to Sunday's no-call. Contact after the play on the ball. Replays indicated that O'Neal brushed Duncan's arm after he blocked the shot with his fingertips. Only this time, no whistle.

"That's a call I can't make," Duncan said.

"You'll have to make your own call," Spur Coach Gregg Popovich said. "The call wasn't made, the game's over. But you can make your own conclusions."

Here are mine: the players

should decide the game, not the referees, and this wasn't a blatant enough foul to demand a whistle.

As Kobe Bryant said, "If that's a foul, I get fouled on every shot."

Here's O'Neal's view: "That was all ball. Even if I didn't get all ball, they owe me that call. What about all the times when I get hit on the arms? I didn't complain, not once today, on this beautiful Easter."

Would it be a foul if the game had been played in San Antonio?

"Probably," O'Neal said. "It's kind of unfair sometimes, but it doesn't matter. ... That was good defense at the end. If they don't like it, too bad."

The other play the Spurs found difficult to swallow came after Fisher rebounded a Duncan miss with 15.9 seconds left. Fisher fell, Malik Rose was called for a foul and with the Spurs in the penalty, Fisher went to the free-throw line.

Even Jackson thought it was curious.

"I don't know if I've ever seen a finish where you get free throws off a rebound foul," Jackson said. "But that was a big benefit to us."

Said Rose: "I didn't think I got him. But then when I saw the replay I was really sure I didn't get him. It probably is a home call. I don't know."

The Lakers had their share of complaints—did Duncan foul Bryant on a reverse layup in the final minute?—but they couldn't complain too much. They shot nine free throws to San Antonio's two in the fourth quarter, and both of San Antonio's free throws came from technical fouls.

It's good to be home for the holidays. ■

J.A. Adande can be reached at j.a.adande@latimes.com.

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Point Wasn't Lost on Them

SAN ANTONIO—College sports can be filled with ugliness and jealousy, with cheating and no more attention paid to academics than a wink and a nod. ESPN did a big piece on gambling and college sports to welcome us to this Final Four weekend.

Sad.

And so was seeing how Bob Knight has refused to acknowledge the immense and wonderful accomplishment of the underdog Hoosier men, the players who had come to Bloomington, Ind., because Knight had asked them and who had stuck up for him when he was at his worst. Thanks, Bob, for erasing any good feelings about what you had done at and for Indiana University.

But then Oklahoma and Connecticut ran onto the court at the Alamodome Sunday night for the NCAA women's final and 29,619 people stood and cheered. The Sooners and the Huskies are teams filled with seniors who had built things, good things, amazing things, worthwhile things. Seniors who probably will all receive college degrees.

The seniors from Oklahoma built a program where there wasn't one and will be remembered in Norman for their determination and exhilaration and for being the first Big 12 team at a women's Final Four and for being the only team this season to scare Connecticut.

And the Sooners did scare Con-



Associated Press

Tamika Williams, left, Diana Taurasi and Sue Bird celebrate Connecticut's second title in three years.

necticut. Don't doubt that.

The seniors at Connecticut were building perfection, constructing history, advancing on toward their destiny. The Huskies finished a 39-0 season by winning the national championship game over Oklahoma, 82-70. Think that's easy? No matter how good you are, when everybody expects you to win by 30

every night, that's pressure.

The pressure showed. Sue Bird, one of the seniors, the player of the year, the best point guard going, couldn't stand still, even at the solemn part when she was holding the tattered World Trade Center flag and trying to sing the national anthem and then she couldn't slow

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down enough to shoot well.

Bird and the other three Connecticut seniors—Swin Cash, Asjha Jones and Tamika Williams—had gone to Storrs because they wanted to be like the 1995 Connecticut team, the one with Rebecca Lobo and Jennifer Rizzotti that went 35-0 and won a national title. Some goal, perfection. Some achievement.

“I won’t believe history or the undefeated part,” Williams said, “until I am 35 or 36 years old and my kids are 7 or 8. I’ll tell them I played with some of the greatest players, and it was the best thing that ever happened to me.

“I didn’t want this to be an easy game. I wanted to make it a game. I

am sure everyone enjoyed it.”

The game was not beautiful, but it was emotional and played at a frenetic pace. Connecticut had 21 turnovers. For the first time this season, the Huskies didn’t make a three-point shot. With three minutes to go, Connecticut led by only six points. It was close because the Sooners had five seniors who would not quit making plays.

Stacey Dales, the star, had come from Canada, a skinny thing with a great first step and the need to be part of the foundation of something. She didn’t want to add to a legend. She wanted to make one. LaNeishea Caufield, so quiet she needs to be poked in the side to speak up, came from little Ada, Okla., even though she had been a budding star when the state university almost dropped the program.

Rosalind Ross has played on a right knee braced tight because it pretty much has no ligament left. Jamie Talbert signed on because no one else much asked. Shannon Selmon decided to join them because her father, Dewey, and her two uncles played football at Oklahoma and if you’re a Selmon athlete you go to Oklahoma.

Dales couldn’t stop crying after the game. She wanted to tell us what it felt like

to be part of the first Oklahoma women’s basketball team in a national championship game. But she couldn’t. It was too hard.

Dales pointed at Coach Sherri Coale and choked out, “For me, Coach—she’s pretty awesome ... I’m upset that I’m going to have to leave these guys and Coach because she’s taught me a lot about basketball and more about life.”

Life for these seniors will not be filled with millions of dollars earned from basketball. Bird and Dales will play in the WNBA, but not for millions. Some of these seniors might coach someday, but not for millions.

All of them will celebrate this moment, though, the winners and the losers.

Bird, Williams, Jones and Cash dove into a pile and howled collectively. This, of all their 39 victories, was, in its way, most impressive. They had withstood the pressure, imposed on themselves and by Oklahoma. They fought in a physical, grinding game and gave better than they took. They shot 52.6% from the field and outrebounded Oklahoma, 44-25.

An hour after the game, Dales had dried her tears and was snapping a photo of the scoreboard. She is wise. What happened to her was not a loss but a victorious journey and she will, in a day or a week or a month, take away only the good.

And so should the rest of us. A college sport that filled a dome for a weekend was not all about the money or the agents or the egos. It was about the seniors who walked out together, from Oklahoma and Connecticut, ready for the future and well prepared for it. ■



Associated Press

Asjha Jones and Jamie Talbert battle for a loose ball.



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LONNIE WHITE
ON THE NHL

Kings Want Their Playoff Cake and Eat It, Too

For the Kings and other teams fighting for their postseason lives, it may be hard to believe that there are people who believe that making the Stanley Cup playoffs is a piece of cake.

That might have been true years ago, when three or four sub-.500 teams made the playoffs every spring.

Now, though, with 30 teams and 16 playoff berths available, making the cut is a lot tougher. In the Western Conference alone, there probably will be at least two teams with winning records left behind. The Kings are hoping they won't be one of them. But after going 0-3-1 on their recent four-game trip, they no longer are a postseason lock.

Including tonight's game against Vancouver, six of the Kings' seven remaining games will be against teams with better than .500 records, and the seventh game is against the Mighty Ducks, who would love nothing more than to knock their Southern California rivals out of the playoffs.

"Every game is so crucial now," King Coach **Andy Murray** said last week. "Points are so hotly contested."

Another team in jeopardy is the Dallas Stars, who are crawling down the stretch after going 0-2-2 in their last five games.

"We've had a lot of cracks this

season, which we haven't had in the past," center **Mike Modano** said about the Stars.

Dallas, which has won five consecutive Pacific Division titles, is in 10th place in the conference but the Stars are not ready to be left out of the playoffs for the first time since 1995-96.

"We're not done yet," Dallas winger **Brenden Morrow** said. "We still have a couple of games in hand and we can make these points up."

But like the Kings, Dallas does not have an easy schedule. Five of the Stars' last seven games are against winning teams, among them road games against the Kings and Colorado, the defending Stanley

Cup champion. Going in the right direction are the Edmonton Oilers and Vancouver Canucks, the league's hottest teams heading into the last two weeks of the regular season.

Edmonton is unbeaten in its last eight games (7-0-1-0) and getting solid play from goaltender **Tommy Salo**. But the key to the Oilers' turnaround has been the play of forwards **Mike Comrie**, **Anson Carter** and **Ryan Smyth**, who have regained their early-season offensive touch.

Edmonton, in eighth place in the West, has a favorable schedule, with four of its remaining games against non-playoff clubs. Vancouver is right behind the Oilers in

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ninth place and has won eight of its last 11. The Canucks have been a streaky team all season and captain **Markus Naslund** feels good about their playoff chances.

"If we keep winning like this, I don't think the other teams can keep going, keep winning the same way," Naslund said after the Canucks defeated the Ducks on Saturday.

After tonight's game against the Kings, the Canucks will play two of their last five against sub-.500 teams, so Naslund could be right.

Phoenix and St. Louis, who played each other Monday night, are trying to maintain their playoff positions. Behind goaltender **Sean Burke**, the Coyotes have surged since the Olympic break. But they will have to get it done the hard way with four of their final six games on the road. The Blues also will have to earn their playoff berth, what with four of their last seven games against Detroit, Colorado or San Jose.

And in the East ...

The playoff picture in the Eastern Conference isn't as complicated but it has an interesting story line, the Montreal Canadiens being locked with Washington in a struggle for the final berth.

The Canadiens are trying to reach the playoffs for the first time in four years and have been playing with the added motivation provided by teammate **Saku Koivu**.

Koivu, battling back from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma that went into remission in early February, is traveling with the Canadiens on

KING REPORT

Smolinski Feels Heat During Goal Dry Spell

To his King teammates, **Bryan Smolinski** is known as "Smoke." So, with the veteran center mired in the longest goal-scoring drought of his career, it can be said that the King offense has been Smokeless for months.

It's a growing source of frustration for Coach **Andy Murray**.

"I guess he's yet to deserve it," Murray said Monday, searching for an answer to why Smolinski has not scored a goal since Jan. 17, a span of 27 games.

"You could say whatever: He's not shooting fast enough; he's not shooting hard enough; he's not shooting accurate enough—everything that goes into scoring goals. Is he going into the traffic areas? I don't know if it's one particular thing.

"He's been certainly getting his opportunities lately. He's hit a couple of goal posts, had a great chance at Calgary in the slot. There's usually a reason for things, and it's usually that you're not deserving. He has to do more to deserve it."

their two-game road swing.

"I am really excited, it's my first trip with the team," Koivu told Montreal reporters over the weekend. "I'll practice with my teammates and try to push it. That's the best way to do it."

Eric Belanger, sidelined since Jan. 15 because of a left wrist injury, is expected to return to the lineup tonight against the Vancouver Canucks.... "I'm going to have some discomfort, I know that," the second-year center said. "But I'm a hockey player and that's how we live all the time. We have pain every game. I don't know of anybody in this room who doesn't have a bruise somewhere. It's a big time of the year and I want to be on the ice with the guys."

Defenseman **Aaron Miller**, who sat out the last two periods of Saturday's 5-3 loss to the Calgary Flames after suffering a right rib strain, did not practice Monday and his status for tonight's game will be determined today, Murray said.

Jason Holland is expected to be recalled from the Kings' American Hockey League team at Manchester, N.H., if Miller is unable to play. Defenseman **Philippe Boucher**, suffering from an ankle injury, also sat out practice but is expected to play tonight. ■

Jerry Crowe

Koivu, who went through eight sessions of chemotherapy, hopes to be able to return to the lineup for the Canadiens' last two games of the season.

"Generally you need two months

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before you can get back to a normal life," Koivu said. "But for me, I was lucky to start feeling better as soon as the treatments were over. Up until now, there hasn't been any setbacks."

And the Canadiens are hoping that Koivu's health continues to improve, whether they make the playoffs or not.

Only in the NHL

Imagine the national media attention the NBA and Clippers would have received if 20-year old **Darius Miles** had been cited for underage drinking and driving. Not only would the league have been ripped again for drafting players directly out of high school, but the

Clippers would have been criticized for not keeping a closer watch on their players.

The NHL and the Minnesota Wild had no such problem when forward **Marian Gaborik** was caught in a similar situation earlier this month. According to a police report, Gaborik, who turned 20 on Feb. 14, was stopped March 4 in Woodbury, Minn., because the license plate registration on his car had expired.

Gaborik had to take a breath test because he smelled of alcohol and his blood-alcohol level was .055%, well below the state's legally drunk level of .10%. Gaborik was issued a misdemeanor citation and released. Minnesota General Manager **Doug Risebrough** said he decided not to take any disciplinary action after discussing the incident with

Gaborik, who happens to lead the Wild in scoring.

"I saw how extremely disappointed he was," Risebrough said. "He explained how much he regretted what he did, and that was enough for me."

Changing of the Guard

If Calgary winger **Jarome Iginla**, who leads the league in goals and points, is able to hold onto his scoring lead, he'll become the first player not named **Jaromir Jagr**, **Mario Lemieux** or **Wayne Gretzky** to take home the league's Art Ross Trophy in more than 20 years.

Iginla, who needs only four goals in seven games to reach 50, said after having scored two goals in beating the Kings on Saturday that he's getting excited about winning the scoring title. ■

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NHL ROUNDUP

Islanders Rally to Beat Devils, 4-2

From Associated Press

UNIONDALE, N.Y.—Oleg Kvasha and Shawn Bates scored unassisted goals 53 seconds apart in the third period as the New York Islanders came from behind to take sole possession of sixth place in the Eastern Conference with a 4-2 win over the New Jersey Devils on Monday night.

The Islanders, trying to make the playoffs for the first time in eight years, are now two points ahead of the Devils for the sixth slot with a game in hand.

Alexei Yashin and Kenny Jonsson also scored for the Islanders.

Buffalo 3, Philadelphia 1—J.P. Dumont scored with 5:15 remaining, keeping Buffalo in playoff contention with a victory over Philadelphia.

Miroslav Satan had two goals—including a game-sealing empty-netter—and an assist while Martin Biron stopped 35 shots for the Sabres.

The Sabres, coming off a 3-1 win at Philadelphia on Saturday, completed a home-and-home series sweep.

N.Y. Rangers 6, Tampa Bay 4—Petr Nedved scored twice to snap an 18-game goal drought as New York beat Tampa Bay.

Nedved gave new York a 5-4 lead with 5:19 left when he took a pass from Matthew Barnaby and put a backhand past Nikolai Khabibulin.

Pavel Bure's second goal of the game was an empty-netter.

Montreal 3, Pittsburgh 0—Jose



Associated Press

Tampa Bay's Brad Richards, left, tries to get the puck past New York's Petr Nedved during the first period Monday.

Theodore shut out Pittsburgh for the second time this season and Chad Kilger got Montreal going by scoring short-handed in the first period.

Montreal beat the Penguins for the second time in three nights to open a two-point edge over idle Washington for the Eastern Conference's eighth and final playoff spot. The Canadiens lead the Capitals 79-77 with six games remaining for each team.

Toronto 5, Detroit 4—Mats Sundin scored with 1:26 left in overtime and Toronto clinched a playoff spot with a victory over Detroit.

Detroit had rallied from a two-goal deficit to send the game into overtime.

Brendan Shanahan tipped in a cross-crease from Mathieu Dandenault with 4:39 left in the third period to tie the game at 4. ■

TENNIS LISA DILMAN

Another All-New Episode of the Serena Show

The stories about the new Serena Williams—or is that the new, new Serena Williams?—are starting to sound a lot like the ones about Andre Agassi in his early days, the ones everyone has been so used to hearing, about reinvention.

He's more serious. She's more serious.

He's mentally tougher. She's mentally tougher.

He changed his hair again. She changed her hair again.

He's getting stronger. She's getting stronger.

Which makes it somewhat fitting that Agassi and Williams walked away from Miami as the biggest winners. Williams beat Jennifer Capriati on Saturday in the final, fighting off seven set points in the second set. On Sunday, Agassi beat Roger Federer of Switzerland in the men's final and, more important, tied wife Steffi Graf with his fifth title in Miami. "I'm moving up in the household," Agassi said.

Much had been made about another household rivalry, that of Serena and her older sister, Venus. In the semifinals, Serena dispatched Venus, 6-2, 6-2, only her second victory in their seven matches. More about the quirky nature of those matches later.

What can be said about Serena's newfound mental toughness is that it was created after a particularly low moment in August. In an elec-



Agence France-Presse

Serena Williams' newfound strength can be traced to a low point in August.

tric, almost boisterous night match, Serena lost to Monica Seles in the quarterfinals at Manhattan Beach after holding six match points. In fact, Williams served for the match in the third set at 5-3, 40-0 and still managed to lose.

Since then, Serena has lost only one of the last 24 matches she has completed—the US. Open final against Venus. On that record is a January loss in Sydney where she suffered torn ligaments in her right ankle and retired against Meghann

Shaughnessy, keeping her out of the Australian Open.

The last time Serena went on such a run was in 1999. A 16-match, two-tournament winning streak—stopped by Venus in the Miami final—started after another shaky mental performance, when Serena squandered two match points against Sandrine Testud of France in the third round of the Australian Open and lost.

She went on to win her next two

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DILMAN

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events, in Paris and Indian Wells, and declared in California: "I don't lose those type of matches anymore, if I'm ahead."

Months later, Serena won the first family Grand Slam, taking the U.S. Open in September at age 17, and beating Venus for the first time at the Grand Slam Cup in Munich, Germany, the next month.

But instead of moving smoothly ahead, Serena inexplicably slipped back and the aura of dominance was erased at the Australian Open in 2000. She arrived with no match-play preparation and lost in the fourth round, and because of injuries and lackluster play, Serena was firmly back in the role of little sister by the end of the year.

Fast-forward to last week.

Buried in the hyped excitement of Serena's win against Venus in Miami was the fact that they have yet to produce something close to a compelling match. Frankly, even half the competitiveness of Seles vs. Capriati would have been refreshing.

The fans in Miami reacted accordingly, booing and whistling late in the match. John Parsons of London's Daily Telegraph wrote:

"Some in the crowd, in view of the controversy which has surrounded earlier matches between them, were not convinced that Venus was putting in maximum effort. Yet anyone who had watched the sisters in previous rounds would not have been surprised at the outcome, or the one-sided manner in which the match unfolded."

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THE TIMES' RANKINGS

LISA DILMAN'S TENNIS RANKINGS AND COMMENTS:

WOMEN

1	SERENA WILLIAMS	Playing as if it's 1999 all over again. Two titles in three events.
2	JENNIFER CAPRIATI	Blown opportunities turning Crandon Park into haunted house.
3	VENUS WILLIAMS	Seemingly unfazed by second loss to Serena in seven matches.
4	MARTINA HINGIS	Rivalry with Williams sisters on sabbatical, perhaps permanently.
5	MONICA SELES	Produced another classic in three-set loss to Capriati.
6	KIM CLIJSTERS	Logged plenty of on-air time at Miami—on court and at Hewitt's matches.
7	AMELIE MAURESMO	Forget Waldo...where's Amelie? Still in self-imposed exile.
8	DANIELA HANTUCHOVA	Going from the hunter to the hunted could be tough transition.
9	ELENA DEMENTIEVA	See above.
10	JUSTINE HENIN	Winter hard-court season in United States was one to forget.

MEN

1	ANDRE AGASSI	Birthday present (32nd) arrived about a month early in Miami.
2	LLEYTON HEWITT	Suffered first loss on American soil since August at Indianapolis.
3	ROGER FEDERER	Fed's Club: Good at stopping long winning streaks.
4	MARAT SAFIN	Men Behaving Badly in Miami. Get him an anger management course.
5	TIM HENMAN	Watch out for those spectators! Hurt neck in small collision.
6	THOMAS JOHANSSON	Loses battle of Australian Open winners in straight sets vs. Agassi.
7	MARCELO RIOS	That's all, folks. Walks after splitting sets with Agassi because of injury.
8	THOMAS ENQVIST	Nice trip: from Miami to Russia for Davis Cup quarterfinal.
9	ANDY RODDICK	Davis Cup could put his confidence (and game) back together again.
10	FRANCE	Many choices, few spots: Grosjean, Clement, Escude, Pioline, Santoro.

DILMAN

« CONTINUED

Darryl Richards of Foxsports.com interviewed one woman who had come to Miami from St. Louis to watch the Williamses. The woman noted that Venus didn't seem to hustle after every shot and lacked passion. Although Venus was erratic in her previous match against Elena Dementieva, she got down to business when necessary.

"The questions and doubts about the veracity of a match involving the Williams sisters will not go away anytime soon," Richards wrote. "Until the sisters play some compelling matches that go beyond the novelty, their matches will be viewed with some skepticism."

What needs to happen is a semi-competitive match between Venus and Serena, to turn it into sport, not a sideshow.

If it should happen in a Grand Slam tournament, so much the better for everyone involved. But we'll take anything, anywhere from Rome to Palo Alto to New Haven, Conn.

Guga Watch

Three-time French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil is set to resume practicing Wednesday, according to his representatives. Kuerten had surgery on his right hip five weeks ago and has received permission from his doctor to start hitting.

"We worked hard during the past weeks and now the good time has arrived, the time to play again," Kuerten said. "I wanted to go back feeling good in every aspect." ■

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Toledo Gives It a Paus When Deciding on Quarterback

College football: Going into spring drills, the UCLA coach says the position, and others, are up for grabs.

By ROB FERNAS
TIMES STAFF WRITER

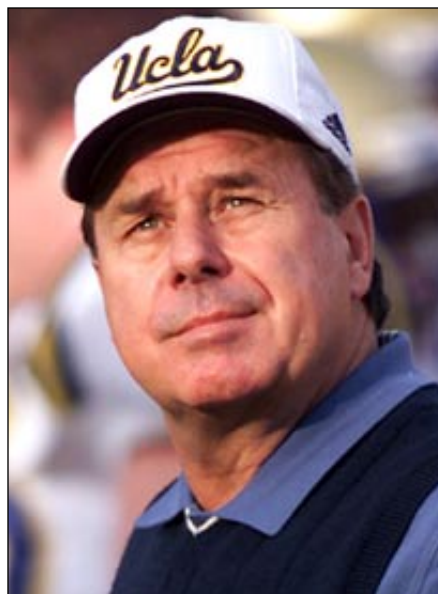
UCLA opens spring football practice today with depth at every position except the one where the Bruins seemingly could use some options: quarterback.

Cory Paus returns for his senior season as UCLA's only experienced quarterback, which isn't causing any parades through Westwood.

In fact, Coach Bob Toledo says he won't name a starter until the week before the Sept. 7 opener against Colorado State, thus giving him time to assess the untested abilities of freshmen Matt Moore and Drew Olson, who will join the team in the fall.

The embattled Paus must play his way out of the doghouse, where he landed with a thud last season after coaches learned he had failed to inform them about two alcohol-related driving convictions. Toledo, after allowing Paus to start in UCLA's 27-0 loss to USC, demoted him to third string for the season finale against Arizona State.

Though he is hopeful Paus has put his personal problems behind him, Toledo says he wants to send a mes-



Los Angeles Times

In spite of the fact the Bruins have many players returning, Coach Bob Toledo says there are positions that still need to be filled.

sage by opening up competition for a starting job that would normally be signed, sealed and delivered to Paus. Redshirt freshman John Sciarra is the Bruins' only other scholarship quarterback in spring practice. Senior Ryan McCann left UCLA without an experienced backup by transferring to Division I-AA Tennessee-Chattanooga.

"I want Cory to understand that he needs to do things right and not get into any trouble," Toledo said.

Paus served a four-day jail sentence in January for his second

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TOLEDO

« CONTINUED

alcohol-related driving conviction in two years. In addition, he was required to pay a \$1,300 fine, enroll in an 18-month alcohol-diversion program and serve five years' probation.

"He wants to move on with his life," Toledo said. "He knows there is a lot of pressure on him. But he feels like he's in good shape right now. He has a good outlook. We had a lot of good talks in the off-season.

"He hasn't been as consistent as we would have liked, but I think his attitude right now is as good as it's ever been. Hopefully he will have a good spring."

Paus performed well in spring practice last year but a summer injury to his right thumb hampered his passing during the season and contributed to a miserable four-game stretch in which he had eight passes intercepted and no touchdowns in losses to Stanford, Washington State, Oregon and USC. The Bruins finished 7-4 and out of the bowl picture after starting 6-0 with a No. 4 ranking.

"I think the injury had a big effect on him physically, and I think hiding the DUI had an effect on him mentally," Toledo said. "That's all behind him now. He wants to prove that he's the quarterback that we all thought he would be."

Moore, from Newhall Hart High, and Olson, from Piedmont High in Northern California, are expected to observe spring drills as they begin learning the Bruin offense with the knowledge that if anything happens to Paus, one of them probably would become the starter.

"I want them coming in not thinking they're going to redshirt," Toledo said.

UCLA, which returns 11 starters, must replace several key players, among them tailback DeShaun Foster, center Troy Danoff and linebackers Robert Thomas and Ryan Nece. Foster, expected to be taken in the first two rounds of the NFL draft, was ineligible for the last three games last season because he drove a 2002 Ford Expedition that was lent to him.

The off-the-field distractions caused by Foster and Paus prompted Toledo to take steps to more closely monitor his players' actions.

"The big thing we're trying to do is follow up more on what [players are] driving, what they're doing and where they're going," Toledo said. "I won't be a detective by any means, but I want coaches keeping a closer look."

Junior Akil Harris and sophomore Manuel White, who split tailback duties in Foster's absence, are the top candidates to fill the starting spot. The 6-foot-3, 241-pound White will also get a look at fullback, where the Bruins are inexperienced.

Toledo said the Bruins must devise ways to get the ball in the open field to running back Tyler Ebell, a redshirt freshman from Ventura who ranks among the team's best breakaway threats.

Coaches also will be closely watching the competition at cornerback and safety. UCLA returns two outstanding cornerbacks in junior Ricky Manning and sophomore Matt Ware, but Ware might be moved to free safety if the talent there is lacking. ■

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OUTDOORS PETE THOMAS

Fire Ravaged-Lower Owens River Braces for Trout Opener

The last time I was on the lower Owens River I felt totally removed from civilization. I was on a drift boat with guide **Tom Loe** and one of his fly-fishing clients.

We were surrounded throughout the trip by willows, cottonwoods and wild rose, which lined the banks so thickly that we seemed in our own little world.

The only thing visible beyond this world, over the tops of the trees, were the snow-covered peaks of the Eastern Sierra.

Now I'm told, by Loe and others, that I would no longer recognize this marvelous stretch of river.

A fire swept down its banks last Friday, consuming most of the cottonwoods, willows and wild rose from below the Highway 6 bridge downstream to the East Line St. bridge, covering nearly 10 miles of meandering waterway.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation but California Dept. of Forestry Owens Valley Chief **Kenneth Toy** told the Inyo Register in Bishop this week that "it doesn't appear to be natural causes."

Meanwhile, there is speculation among some Bishop locals that the blaze may have been set intentionally to enable access to a portion of river long reserved for those able to handle drift boats—a portion that had served as a sanctuary of sorts for brown and rainbow trout because of its limited access.



Brian O'Boyle / The Inyo Register

Cause of the fire that scorched the banks of the lower Owens River last week is being investigated.

There is no evidence to support such speculation, but the fact remains that now, with the terrain resembling a moonscape, anyone with a car is able to drive nearly to water's edge, get out and cast their wares wherever they please.

This part of the Lower Owens is open year-round to fishing, and it is stocked every other week through a program funded by the Bishop Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau. But the fear is that it will be overrun when the multitudes arrive for the April 27 opening of the region's general trout season.

"It's a brand new water; it's bound

to be attractive," says **Vance Spitznagel**, a clerk at Culver's Sporting Goods in Bishop. "I just hope they bring some fresh air filters [for their cars] because there'll still be lots of ash."

Karen Schmauss, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, expressed concern that so much vehicle traffic will prevent the natural rejuvenation of what had been such a beautiful stretch of river.

The Owens River runs through Los Angeles Department of Water and Power property and the stretch in question is open to public day use. There are no plans to restrict

CONTINUED >>

THOMAS

« CONTINUED

access, DWP spokesman **Chris Plakos** said.

The only two guide outfits that run drift trips on the Lower Owens—Loe's Sierra Drifters and **Gary Gunsolley's** Brock's Flyfishing Specialists—are advocates of catch-and-release fishing. There is a deep animosity between them and the catch-and-keep crowd that heretofore has had access through a handful of narrow footpaths.

On my trip with Loe, as he rounded one of many bends in the river, an old man on the river's edge made sure to show off a stringer of fish, and particularly a lone wild brown. Loe held his tongue, but muttered something about hoping the man choked on the bones.

Now Loe, who has temporarily moved to a section of river below East Line Street, is angry at the DWP for not doing a better job of enforcing after-hours restrictions.

He points to a smaller blaze last November downriver toward Big Pine, believed to have been set by an illegal campfire.

Plakos countered by saying that river patrols, using trucks and a helicopter, have been conducted daily since last Sept. 11, and that appropriate law enforcement agencies are asked to deal with those who don't heed after-hours requests to vacate.

"We don't use strong-arm tactics because that's not our job," Plakos says. "But the [Inyo County] Sheriff's Dept. has been extremely cooperative."

Laws and Order

Bishop leaders breathed a huge sigh of relief when the fire failed

to reach, by only a few yards, its preeminent landmark: the Laws Railroad Museum.

More than 450 firefighters from various agencies battled the blaze, which consumed 840 acres. No human lives were lost.

Spirit of '95

If Saturday's salmon opener is anything like the 1995 opener, "It'll go ballistic around here," predicts **Andy Manoux**, general manager at Sea Landing in Santa Barbara. "Everybody wants to catch salmon."

Local salmon seasons typically materialize this far south every few years, when king salmon find conditions cool and productive enough to make so long a trip—they typically stay north of Monterey. But seven years have passed since the tasty swimmers have come en masse.

Why all the optimism this year? For starters, anglers on coastal rockfish trips from Oxnard to Santa Barbara have been catching salmon incidentally—releasing them, of course—for more than two weeks. They've run anywhere from 10 to 30 pounds.

Plus, conditions are similar to what they were in '95, with water temperatures in the low 50s and with bait fish holding close to shore.

"All the indicators are good," says **Frank Ursitti**, skipper of the Coral Sea out of Cisco's in Oxnard. The daily bag season is two, with a minimum size of 24 inches.

Baja Blues

Every year at this time, complaints come this way from tourists and residents of the East Cape region of southern Baja California. During

Lent, many residents give up meat in favor of fish, and fisherman respond by stepping up their activities to satisfy the increasing demand. East Cape waters are popular because they're fairly productive and because enforcement of fisheries regulations is notoriously nil.

This year, one of the complaints arrived in an e-mail from an East Cape dive master sickened by what he called the wanton slaughter of mobula rays, commonly mistaken for manta rays.

"There is a fleet of several pangas parked on the beach just south of Palmas de Cortez," the e-mail read. "They mostly bottom fish at night. They make their own harpoons out of rebar. What I saw was two guys in two pangas. The one driving idles the boat up on a school of mantas on the surface. The other stands on the bow and waits for a good shot. In the past they have just brought in the whole ray. These guys were cutting off the wings and throwing the body back."

Mobulas and especially giant Pacific mantas are considered valuable tourist attractions by the diving community, but they are not federally protected.

Being easier to locate and handle, the smaller mobulas are targeted seasonally throughout southern Baja. Their flesh is stringy and brings less than 50 cents per pound, but a single mobula can yield 25 pounds.

Winding Up

Yosemite National Park announced this week that the last half-mile of the popular trail to Half Dome will be closed for repairs July 8 through Sept. 19, Mondays through Thursdays from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. ■

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BUSINESS

Los Angeles Times

State Signals Intent to Regulate DSL

By ELIZABETH DOUGLASS

Judge rules PUC has authority to address a range of issues involving the Internet access technology. »

Crude Oil Futures Hit 6-Month High

By NANCY RIVERA BROOKS

Mideast violence pushes futures prices up 8% in a week. Analysts see little relief at the pump. »



CLARENCE WILLIAMS / Los Angeles Times

Film Toys Getting Thumb's Down

By ABIGAIL GOLDMAN

The market for movie-based items has cooled. Merchants are left holding the bag. »

Xerox Agrees to Record SEC Fine

By THOMAS S. MULLIGAN

Copier giant will pay \$10 million and restate results in latest agency crack-down. »

HP Won't Reappoint Hewlett to Its Board

By ALEX PHAM

Son of co-founder opposes company's pending \$19-billion merger with Compaq Computer Corp. »

MARKETS

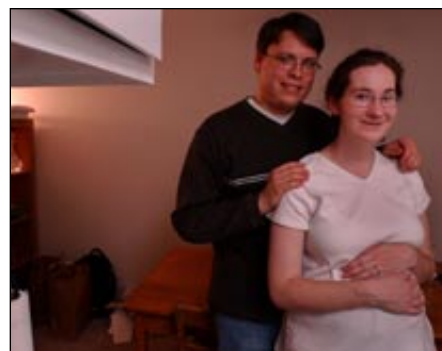
	CHANGE	CLOSE
▼ Dow indus.	-41.25	10,362.70
▼ S&P 500	-0.85	1,146.54
▲ Nasdaq comp.	+17.27	1,862.62
▲ U.S. bond 10-yr.	+0.04	5.43%
▲ U.S. bill 6-mo.	+0.01	2.10%
▲ Gold per ounce	+0.60	\$303.20
▲ Oil per barrel	+0.57	\$26.88
▲ Yen per dollar	+0.77	¥133.45
▲ Euro in dollars	+0.010	\$0.881

MONEY MAKE-OVER

Young Couples Need to Take Baby Steps Financially

By GRAHAM WITHERALL

With a small income, parents-to-be are advised to pay debt, buy insurance before saving for long term. »



RICHARD HARTOG / Los Angeles Times

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California

Sierra Pacific Shares Fall on Nevada's PUC Claim Ruling

By GENE LAVERTY

Utility commission will allow \$485 million to be collected. Moody's cuts credit rating. »

Golf Firms' Merger a Step Closer to Tee

By JESUS SANCHEZ

National Golf's board approves agreement with ailing sister American Golf. »



AL SCHABEN / Los Angeles Times

Covanta Energy Files for Chap. 11 Protection

Plan includes an agreement to sell itself to investment firm KKR for \$225 million. »

IN BRIEF

ACCOUNTING

Layoffs at Andersen Inevitable »

Cephalon Ends Joint Marketing Venture »

BANKING

Court Declines to Revive Investor Suit »

COURTS

E-Trade Sued Over Stock Loans »

Underwriters Lose Bid to Remove Judge »

NYSE Suit Against MGM Mirage Reinstated »

J.P. Morgan to Settle Copper Case »

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Judge Overturns Stent Patent Verdicts »

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DILBERT By Scott Adams



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Entertainment / Media

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Cable provider's shares drop 12% on concerns about loans to family-owned partnerships. »

Boston, Salt Lake Getting Net-Savvier

Survey of American cities finds most communities have progressed in making the most of the Web. »

IN BRIEF

Jupiter Media Is Running Low on Money »

Liberty Media Loss Widens to \$3.71 Billion »

4Kids Profit Falls 74% as Pokemon Sales Drop »

MSNBC Seeks Return of Phil Donahue »

Qwest Says It May Face Charges Over Data »

Bam's Sales Much Lower Than Forecast »

Williams Comm. Suspends Quarterly Dividends »

DoCoMo May Write Down Part of Investment »

XM Satellite Radio Holdings Beats Customer Forecast »

The Times Film Profit Report

■ "Panic Room" and "The Rookie" should be strong performers for Sony and Disney, respectively.

■ "Clockstoppers" should at least break even for Paramount.

■ Though Warner Bros. is on the hook only for half the budget of "Death to Smoochy," the film looks to be a total loss. »



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Markets

Techs Up, Blue Chips Slip on Mideast News

Upbeat economic reports send bond yields higher. Oil-related shares extend their recent rally. »

Daily Diary »

Stock Market Barometers »

Wall Street Sees Dreary Spring for Retail Stocks

Weaker-than-expected sales for the last week of March prompts several brokerage firms to downgrade the sector. »

Latest Economic Reports Suggest Robust Recovery

Analysts say spurts in manufacturing and construction spending signal revival's staying power. »

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Daily Market Roundup

Monday, April 1, 2002

Volume Surge: Unusual Increases in Volume

AP Abbrev	Tick	Last Price	Daily Price Chg.	Daily % Price Chg.	YTD% Price Chg.	PE/PPE	Dly % Vol. Chg.
Large-caps (\$5+ billion, shares \$10+)							
Trchmrk	TMK	41.72	+0.46	+1.1	+8.5	15/12	+1061
Cooper	CBE	57.78	-0.42	-0.7	+25.8	18/17	+329
Immunex	IMNX	15.87	+1.15	+7.8	-60.9	53/50	+164
BMont gs	BMO	26.82	-0.15	-0.6	+1.8	na/na	+146
Aegon	AEG	30.48	+1.02	+3.5	-26.4	14/na	+130
Magnal g	MGA	65.80	+1.60	+2.5	+56.9	10/na	+111
Danaher	DHR	57.58	+0.50	+0.9	-15.8	25/22	+103
Hithsth	HRC	17.05	+1.26	+8.0	+4.5	33/19	+101
TelefMx s	TFONY	36.60	+0.65	+1.8	+37.2	na/na	+97
Kyocera	KYO	74.00	-1.75	-2.3	-30.3	na/na	+91
BestBuy	BBY	60.05	-1.48	-2.4	+103.1	34/25	+87
UnBnCal	UB	38.07	+0.99	+2.7	+58.2	17/12	+87
UPInter	UPC	46.04	+0.51	+1.1	+28.8	15/13	+80
Mid-caps (\$1.5 - 5 billion, shares \$10+)							
CousPrp s	CUZ	25.58	+0.44	+1.8	-8.4	18/na	+1873
SienPac	SRP	15.94	+0.82	+5.4	-0.8	dd/11	+1586
WiscEn	WEC	23.04	+0.21	+0.9	+2.1	14/10	+1296
Prologis	PLD	22.63	+0.38	+1.7	+1.7	21/17	+1296
Apria	AHG	25.68	+1.85	+7.8	-13.7	22/17	+1288
IntgCirc n	ICST	17.70	-1.18	-6.3	+6.9	22/27	+751
PhilLD	PHI	10.74	+0.04	+0.4	-39.7	na/na	+518
Mediacm	MCCC	15.10	-2.00	-11.7	-12.1	dd/na	+470
TCp PCS	TLCP	12.06	-1.10	-8.4	-46.1	dd/na	+451
AT&T Cd	ATTC	29.05	-0.05	-0.2	-0.5	na/na	+357
C-Mac g	EMS	26.09	-0.16	-0.6	-41.2	na/na	+355
GnGrth	GGP	37.35	+0.37	+1.0	+3.2	30/12	+309
QuebWrld	IQW	27.33	-0.28	-1.0	+8.5	14/na	+296
AndrxGp	ADRX	66.85	+6.65	+11.0	+15.5	69/25	+252
Small-caps (Under \$1.5 billion, shares \$5+)							
SouMoBc	SMBC	15.38	+0.13	+0.9	+12.9	14/na	+4912
NavgGp	NAVG	19.10	-0.90	-4.5	+43.5	19/19	+4305
UtdThrp	UTHR	14.00	+5.19	+58.9	-5.1	dd/na	+2326
AdvFnlBn	AFBC	14.00	...	0.0	+49.3	13/na	+2046
Kadant s	KAI	13.35	...	0.0	-22.3	12/15	+1982
Invivo	SAFE	11.70	+0.70	+6.4	+24.0	14/na	+1806
1stStBcp s	FSBC	20.53	+0.28	+1.4	+11.3	18/na	+1772
Edelbrck	EDEL	10.75	+0.04	+0.4	+4.9	10/na	+1701
CommBc n	CCBP	29.95	-0.15	-0.5	-2.6	14/na	+1654
UnSecBsh	USBI	27.11	-0.39	-1.4	+35.5	16/na	+1402
FNB FS	FNBF	14.50	+0.25	+1.8	+44.1	14/10	+1310

ABOUT VOLUME SURGE

When evaluating stocks, volume trends can be as important as price. At left are stocks that yesterday exceeded their average volume over the previous 65 trading days by the highest percentages, which may indicate strong buying or selling by major investors.

Among the reasons stocks will be on this list: company news; large trades by mutual funds or other institutions; dividend "roll" and "capture;" and splits.

Note: **PE** is based on earnings in last four announced quarters. **PPE**, "projected price-earnings" is based on IBES estimates for next four quarters.

Diaries	NYSE	Nasdaq
Volume (000s)	1,137,416	1,335,417
Advancing	663,248	462,384
Declining	429,783	856,330
Unchanged	20,826	16,703
Issues Traded	3,303	4,534
Advances	1,907	1,672
Declines	1,173	1,672
Unchanged	223	988
New highs	171	81
New lows	39	110

Money Rates

Treasury Issues (%)			
3-month	1.77	5-year	4.84
6-month	2.10	10-year	5.43
2-year	3.72	30-year	5.83
Bank prime rate	4.75		
Discount rate	1.25		
Federal funds rate	1.75		
3-month bank CD	1.51		
Money market fund avg.	1.56		
Municipal bond index	5.44		
Corporate bond index	6.90		
LIBOR 6-month	2.33		
11th Dist. cost of funds	2.744		
Fannie Mae 30-year mort.	7.03		
1-year T-bill, weekly avg.	2.66		

Daily Market Roundup

Monday, April 1, 2002

Stock Gainers (\$5/share minimum)

AP Abbrev	Tick	Last	Chg.	Div.% Chg.	YTD% Chg.	PE/ PPE
UtdThrp	UTHR	14.00	+5.19	+58.9	-5.1	dd/na
Ventiv	VTIV	11.72	+1.73	+17.3	-6.7	21/17
BradPhm	BPRX	7.38	+1.06	+16.8	+425.0	18/na
Dndreon	DNDN	12.95	+1.79	+16.0	-13.7	dd/na
CtpltCm	CATT	17.00	+2.30	+15.7	+1.5	21/19
PhmRes	PRX	34.50	+4.59	+15.3	+397.3	cc/na
Intpore	BONZ	7.48	+0.98	+15.1	+89.9	27/23
FstCnst	FCGI	8.00	+1.05	+15.1	+68.4	dd/26
LibteTch	LBRT	11.70	+1.52	+14.9	-14.1	dd/na
PrmEgy	PNRG	9.10	+1.10	+13.8	+27.7	5/na
Vestains	VTA	11.95	+1.40	+13.3	+136.0	14/12
GensisE	GEL	5.55	+0.65	+13.3	+53.1	8/43

Stock Losers (\$5/share minimum)

AP Abbrev	Tick	Last	Chg.	Div.% Chg.	YTD% Chg.	PE/ PPE
VionPh n	VION	5.00	-1.12	-18.3	-37.5	dd/na
AdmRsc	AE	10.50	-1.75	-14.3	-25.0	5/na
OnyxPh	ONXX	6.02	-0.97	-13.9	-59.5	dd/na
RentWay	RWY	7.25	-1.05	-12.7	+63.4	15/8
Interlott s	ILI	5.65	-0.75	-11.7	-13.1	11/na
Mediacm	MCCC	15.10	-2.00	-11.7	-12.1	dd/na
ICT Grp	ICTG	11.50	-1.50	-11.5	+19.5	18/13
Centillm	CTLM	11.09	-1.41	-11.3	-50.2	dd/30
Tarrant	TAGS	5.85	-0.70	-10.7	+61.4	dd/7
SmrtServ	SSOL	7.50	-0.89	-10.6	+5.7	50/na
D&K Hlctr	DKWD	37.30	-4.27	-10.3	+175.0	18/15
IntactInt	ININ	6.60	-0.76	-10.3	-72.6	dd/na

Most Active Stocks

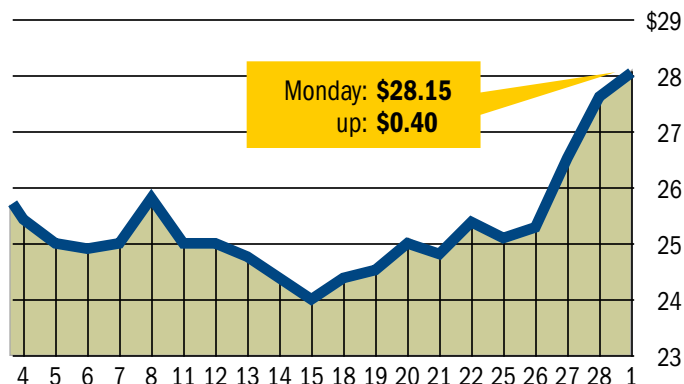
AP Abbrev	Tick	Last	Chg.	Div.% Chg.	YTD% Chg.	PE/ PPE
Nasd100Tr	QQQ	40.28	-0.39	-1.0	-31.0	q/na
Oracle s	ORCL	15.16	-0.83	-5.2	-47.8	37/29
NortelNw	NT	7.38	-0.18	-2.4	-77.0	dd/na
Cisco	CSCO	18.33	+0.04	+0.2	-52.1	dd/90
Intel	INTC	29.95	+0.30	+1.0	-0.4	38/45
SunMicro s	SUNW	16.22	-0.54	-3.2	-41.8	60/41
MicroSft	MSFT	65.52	+0.51	+0.8	+51.1	50/33
SiebelSys s	SEBL	28.29	-1.48	-5.0	-58.2	48/41
BEA Sys	BEAS	18.50	-1.72	-8.5	-72.5	cc/35

Stock Watch / Integrated Defense Technologies

Symbol: IDE

Market: NYSE

News: Stock of the Huntsville, Ala.-based defense contractor, which went public Feb. 26, hit a new high. The company, whose products include communications and surveillance systems, was one of several smaller defense contractors featured in a Barron's magazine story over the weekend.



Mar.

Source: Bloomberg News

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Merrill Lynch Investment Managers

Daily Market Roundup

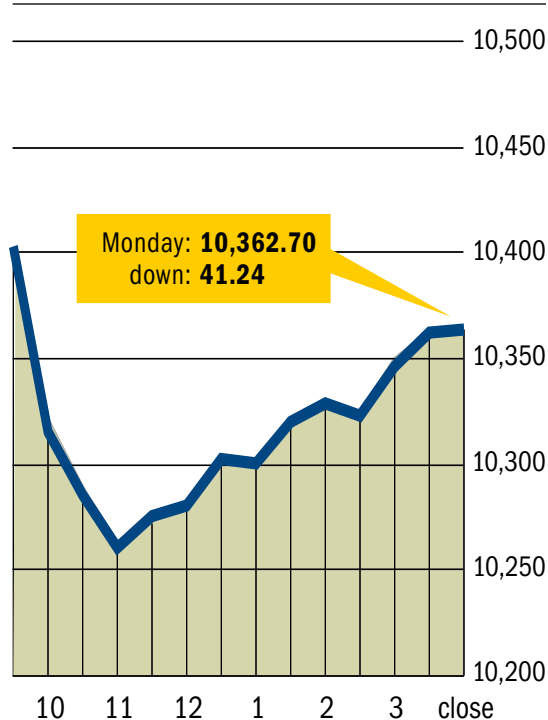
Monday, April 1, 2002

Major Indexes

52-wk high	52-wk low	Index	High	Low	Close	Chg.	%Chg.	YTD %Chg.
Dow Jones Averages								
11,350.05	9,106.54	30 Industrials	10,433.46	10,197.32	10,362.70	-41.24	-0.40	+3.40
3,157.44	2,348.70	20 Transportation	2,881.50	2,822.51	2,860.77	+26.14	+0.92	-2.91
418.25	325.05	15 Utilities	347.42	340.94	346.40	+1.64	+0.48	-15.95
Standard & Poor's Averages								
834.93	548.16	100 Index	613.23	600.24	611.41	+3.58	+0.59	-10.93
1,530.01	1,081.19	500 Index	1,193.33	1,169.55	1,190.16	+6.73	+0.57	-9.86
549.63	432.36	Mid-cap (400)	500.64	492.78	498.54	+1.52	+0.31	-3.53
238.00	191.95	Small-cap (600)	224.55	221.84	224.25	+0.79	+0.35	+2.32
Other Major Measures								
818.26	568.77	Russell 1000	628.00	616.32	626.37	+3.46	+0.56	-10.53
542.82	419.70	Russell 2000	467.19	469.57	475.52	+1.35	+0.28	-1.66
14,329.94	10,068.63	Wilshire 5000			10,994.45	+50.86	+0.46	-9.70
681.19	550.57	NYSE Composite	609.33	599.73	608.34	+4.08	+0.68	-7.39
4,259.87	1,619.68	Nasdaq Composite	1,967.03	1,915.99	1,956.47	-6.85	-0.35	-20.81
4,147.19	1,348.52	Nasdaq 100	1,634.67	1,576.07	1,617.45	-11.47	-0.70	-30.93
439.78	346.50	Value Line (geo.)			378.67	+0.70	+0.19	-3.76
233.45	200.16	CRB (commodities)			200.80	+0.06	+0.03	-11.86

Foreign Stock Markets

52-wk high	52-wk low	Index	Close	Previous close	% change
Asia					
11,724.15	11,716.77	Hong Kong	11,765.81	11,716.77	+0.42
17,181.12	11,579.27	Tokyo (Nikkei 225)	11,735.06	11,754.56	-0.17
751.14	491.21	Seoul	555.34	549.67	+1.03
2,210.51	1,566.73	Singapore	1,641.43	1,641.91	-0.03
3,425.20	3,094.30	Sydney	3,343.90	3,358.20	-0.43
8,257.88	4,040.77	Taipei	4,476.91	4,448.52	+0.64
239.73	58.24	Shanghai B	169.55	159.97	+5.99
Americas					
538.65	301.71	Buenos Aires	331.51	326.13	+1.56
6,953.31	5,231.85	Mexico Bolsa	6,628.49	6,599.61	+0.44
17,889.05	13,287.39	Sao Paulo	13,915.09	13,834.20	+0.58
11,388.82	7,415.45	Toronto	7,644.72	7,695.26	-0.66
Europe					
7,395.07	5,388.02	Frankfurt (DAX)	5,433.49	5,512.28	-1.43
6,795.00	5,275.70	London (FTSE100)	5,427.20	5,402.91	+0.45
6,856.76	4,824.82	Paris	4,846.02	4,888.30	-0.86

The Dow/Hour by Hour

Daily Market Roundup

Monday, April 1, 2002

Currencies

Nation	\$1 in fgn. cur.	Fgn. cur. in dollars
Argentina	.9997	1.0003
Australia	1.9421	.5149
Brazil	2.4775	.4036
Canada	1.5403	.6492
Chile	681.28	.001468
China	8.2773	.1208
Colombia	2286.25	.000437
Czech Republic	38.04	.0263
Denmark	8.3462	.1198
Dominican Republic	16.30	.0613
Egypt	3.9485	.2533
Euro	1.1188	.89380

Nations that trade in Euros: Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain.

Hong Kong	7.7995	.1282
Hungary	276.79	.0036
India	47.130	.0212
Indonesia	9110.00	.000110
Israel	4.2450	.2356
Japan	122.08	.0008191
Jordan	.71078	1.4069
Lebanon	1514.25	.000660
Malaysia	3.8000	.2632
Mexico	9.0900	.110011
New Zealand	2.3452	.4264
Norway	8.9673	.1115
Pakistan	63.90	.0156
Peru	3.494	.2862
Philippines	52.65	.0190
Poland	4.21	.2375
Russia	29.3400	.0341
SDR	.7876	1.26971
Saudi Arabia	3.7503	.2666
Singapore	1.7635	.5671
Slovak Republic	48.22	.0207
South Africa	8.2676	.1210
South Korea	1284.00	.000779
Sweden	10.2710	.0974
Switzerland	1.6937	.5904
Taiwan	34.65	.0289
Thailand	45.40	.02203
Turkey	1388000	.000001
U.A.E.	3.6729	.2723
Uruguay	13.3200	.0751
Venezuela	729.0100	.0014

The SoCal 80: Companies With Major Regional Presence

Stock	Price	Change	Daily %chg	Stock	Price	Change	Daily %chg
Activisn s	29.75	-0.08	-0.3	KornFer	14.80	-0.15	-1.0
Albertsn	32.98	+0.29	+0.9	Kroger	26.05	+0.83	+3.3
Allergan	72.50	+0.82	+1.1	LeapWr	19.50	-0.83	-4.1
Amgen	61.10	+0.10	+0.2	LockhdM	38.99	+0.95	+2.5
AMCC	16.16	-0.27	-1.6	MP3.cm	4.94	...	0.0
ArdenRit	26.67	+0.32	+1.2	MRV Cm	5.85	-0.12	-2.0
AveryD	49.77	+0.42	+0.9	MasseyE s	16.41	-0.29	-1.7
BP PLC	50.92	+0.35	+0.7	Mattel	17.41	-0.09	-0.5
BeckCoul s	44.57	+0.07	+0.2	MercGn	39.23	+0.26	+0.7
Brdcom	42.55	-1.20	-2.7	MGM	18.48	-0.17	-0.9
CallGolf	15.70	+0.20	+1.3	MiniMed s	47.76	+0.01	0.0
CityNC	47.45	-0.05	-0.1	NetZero	0.72	-0.03	-3.9
Comeric	62.46	+0.03	0.0	NewsCorp	36.85	-0.37	-1.0
CompSci	37.25	+0.05	+0.1	99 Cents s	33.75	+0.50	+1.5
Conexnt	9.49	+0.14	+1.5	NortrpG	79.02	+0.17	+0.2
CopMntn	2.04	-0.10	-4.8	OcciPet	27.44	+0.39	+1.4
CntwCrd	43.30	-0.52	-1.2	PacifC	15.26	+1.07	+7.5
Cymer	26.90	-0.29	-1.1	Peregme	23.65	-0.44	-1.8
ErthLink	14.32	-0.08	-0.6	Powrwav	18.14	+0.64	+3.7
EdisonInt	14.01	-0.09	-0.6	PubStrg	33.49	+1.49	+4.7
Emulex s	23.60	-0.30	-1.3	Qlogic	38.45	-0.61	-1.6
Flour n	38.12	+0.14	+0.4	Qualcom	63.77	-1.95	-3.0
Gateway	11.03	+0.06	+0.5	QuestSftw	20.15	-1.92	-8.7
Gemstar	35.95	-0.46	-1.3	Safeway	45.79	+0.50	+1.1
GM H	19.83	-0.05	-0.3	SempraEn	26.62	+0.02	+0.1
GlblCrss	5.88	-0.28	-4.5	Semtech s	34.49	-0.74	-2.1
GoTo.cm	22.61	+0.43	+1.9	Tekelec	18.34	-0.84	-4.4
HNC Sft s	25.50	-0.20	-0.8	TenetHlt	55.40	+1.08	+2.0
HlthCP	34.98	-0.02	-0.1	Tcktms B	15.04	+0.04	+0.3
HealthNet	17.46	+0.07	+0.4	TitanCp	17.96	+0.11	+0.6
Hilton	12.69	-0.03	-0.2	Toyota	65.51	+0.15	+0.2
HomeStore	21.60	-2.45	-10.2	Tribune	41.07	+0.23	+0.6
ICN Phrm	31.99	+0.29	+0.9	21Centins	19.20	+0.20	+1.1
IDEC s	48.62	+0.33	+0.7	Univision	36.58	+0.79	+2.2
Infonet	3.48	-0.18	-4.9	Unocal	35.20	+0.27	+0.8
IngmM	14.75	...	0.0	Vitesse	19.25	+0.03	+0.2
IntRect	36.52	+0.38	+1.1	WatsnPh	61.85	-0.27	-0.4
JackInBox	30.70	-0.05	-0.2	WellptHlt	100.49	+1.55	+1.6
KB Home	28.96	+0.47	+1.6	Wesco	337.00	+3.00	+0.9
Key3 Md n	7.50	-0.04	-0.5	WrissFc	9.63	-0.06	-0.6

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The World. The Nation. The West

Daily Market Roundup

Monday, April 1, 2002

Commodity Futures

Commodity	Contract	Settle	Dly. chg.
Gold	Aug 01	273.90	+0.50
Platinum	Oct 01	450.60	+14.20
Palladium	Sept 01	475.00	+21.00
Silver	Aug 01	413.50	-7.00
Copper	Aug 01	65.85	-0.55
Eurodollars	Aug 01	96.43	-0.01
Yen	Sep 01	0.8225	-.0014
Wheat	Sep 01	270.25	-0.75
Corn	Sep 01	222.00	+2.25
Soybeans	Aug 01	519.00	+5.00
Sugar-World	Oct 01	7.65	+0.02
Coffee	Sep 01	48.40	-1.70
Orange Juice	Sep 01	76.10	-0.45
Cattle	Aug 01	70.92	+0.05
Hogs	Aug 01	71.87	+0.70
Pork bellies	Aug 01	99.82	+2.32
Lumber	Sep 01	331.50	+3.00
Cotton	Oct 01	38.45	-2.00
Crude oil	Sep 01	28.05	+0.41
Unleaded gas	Sep 01	79.90	+1.97
Natural gas	Sep 01	3.040	+0.084
S&P index	Sep 01	1191.20	+3.40

The near-term futures contract price, usually the contract for delivery in the next month or two, is the best approximation of a current generic market price for a commodity.

Spot Prices

NEW YORK (AP) - Spot nonferrous metal prices.

Aluminum - 62.2 cents per lb., London Metal Exch.

Copper - \$70.0 Cathode full plate, U.S. destinations

Lead - 29-31 cents per lb.

Zinc - 42.69-43.19 cents per lb., delivered

Gold - \$275.80 troy oz., Handy & Harman (daily quote).

Gold - \$273.90 troy oz., N.Y. Merc spot

Silver - \$4.210 Handy & Harman (daily quote).

Silver - \$4.135 troy oz., N.Y. Merc spot

Mercury - \$150.00 per 76 lb. flask, N.Y.

Platinum - \$432.00-\$485.00 troy oz., N.Y. (contract)

Platinum - \$450.60 troy oz., N.Y. Merc spot

n.q. - not quoted, n.a. - not available

Southern California Gainers (\$1+)

Stock	Tick	Last	Chg.	Daily% Chg.	YTD% Chg.	PE/PPE
First Consulting	FCGI	8.00	+1.05	+15.1	+68.4	dd/26
Interpore Intl	BONZ	7.48	+0.98	+15.1	+89.9	27/23
Netguru Inc	NGRU	2.40	+0.30	+14.3	-39.1	dd/na
Natrol Inc	NTOL	3.20	+0.39	+13.8	+113.3	dd/12
GenStar Therapeut	GNT	2.65	+0.32	+13.7	-72.8	dd/na
Med-Design Cp	MEDC	33.48	+3.73	+12.5	+110.9	dd/60
Gish Biomed	GISH	1.08	+0.12	+12.4	+28.0	dd/na
La Jolla Pharm	LIPC	6.80	+0.70	+11.5	+44.1	dd/na
Interlink Elec	LINK	5.63	+0.53	+10.4	-55.6	63/11
Creative Host Serv	CHST	1.40	+0.12	+9.5	-56.9	cc/na
Smith Micro Soft	SMSI	1.15	+0.10	+9.4	+26.9	dd/4
DeckersOut	DECK	4.90	+0.40	+8.9	-6.7	13/8

Southern California Losers (\$1+)

Stock	Tick	Last	Chg.	Daily% Chg.	YTD% Chg.	PE/PPE
Jmar Tech	JMAR	3.73	-0.66	-15.1	+14.8	dd/30
Liberty Digital Inc	LDIG	3.77	-0.67	-15.1	-25.5	dd/na
ImagEnt	DISK	2.51	-0.33	-11.6	-22.8	6/na
Big Dog Holdings Inc	BDOG	3.35	-0.40	-10.7	-10.7	dd/na
Tarrant Apparel	TAGS	5.85	-0.70	-10.7	+61.4	dd/7
HomeStore.com Inc	HOMS	21.60	-2.45	-10.2	+7.3	dd/26
Nexell Therapeutics	NEXL	2.03	-0.20	-9.0	-33.1	dd/na
Quest Software Inc.	QSFT	20.15	-1.92	-8.7	-28.2	dd/47
Cons Portfolio	CPSS	1.41	-0.13	-8.4	-1.9	dd/na
Luminent Inc	LMNE	2.65	-0.24	-8.3	-56.0	dd/33
Careside Inc	CSA	3.40	-0.30	-8.1	+87.5	dd/na
Keith Companies Inc.	TKCI	14.25	-1.23	-7.9	+78.1	14/13
Somera Commun	SMRA	5.40	-0.45	-7.7	-37.8	13/9

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What do you have to say?SM

Crude Oil Hits 6-Month High

Energy: Mideast violence pushes futures prices up 8% in a week. Analysts see little relief at the pump.

By NANCY RIVERA BROOKS
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Oil futures prices hit a six-month high Monday and retail gasoline prices continued to rise, amid fears that escalating Middle East violence would squelch petroleum supplies.

The May contract for West Texas intermediate crude, the U.S. benchmark, bumped briefly above \$27 before closing at \$26.88 a barrel, up 57 cents, on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The last time oil was this expensive was the week after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Oil prices have jumped nearly 8% in the last week as a series of suicide bombings brought the biggest military response by Israel in decades.

Even before the escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, oil prices had been rising because of fears of a possible U.S. attack on Iraq.

"Crude oil supplies are not directly at risk due to the Israel-Palestinian conflict; however, there could be a spillover effect if more countries become involved," said George Clemen, an analyst with Oil-gasoline.com.

Motorists continued to pay ever-higher pump prices, and analysts see little relief ahead as the reviving economy keeps demand high and the summer driving season approaches.

The U.S. average price for self-serve regular gasoline reached \$1.371 a gallon Monday, up 2.9cents from

last week but down 7.1 cents from a year ago, according to the Energy Information Administration's weekly survey of 800 service stations.

Californians paid \$1.592 a gallon on average, a 3.1-cent increase from last week. A year ago, the California average was 12.4 cents higher.

Los Angeles drivers saw prices rise 2.4 cents to \$1.567 a gallon, and San Francisco drivers got a 5.8-cent increase to \$1.632 a gallon, reported the EIA, the statistical arm of the Energy Department.

"California has plenty of gasoline physically, so the prices shouldn't be going up, but the futures prices are going out of control," said Mark Mahoney, an analyst with **Oil Price Information Service**, a Lakewood, N.J., company that tracks gasoline prices nationwide. "No one wants to be caught short in this market."

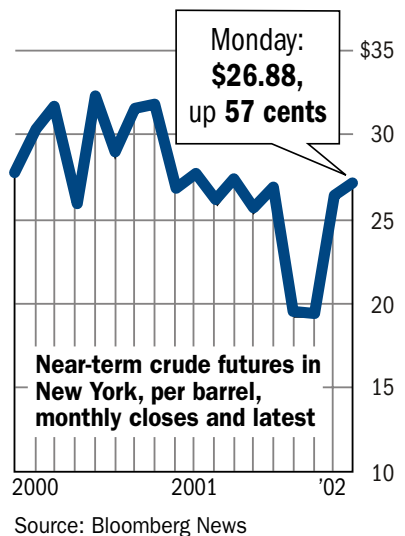
California refineries do not use much oil from the Middle East, instead processing primarily Alaska and California crudes. Even so, the state's gasoline market is being affected by movements in world oil prices, said Carol Thorp, spokeswoman for the Automobile Club of Southern California.

Pump prices in California generally are higher than those of other states because of the relative lack of competition in gasoline refining and marketing and because the state's cleaner-burning gasoline, mandated by air-quality regulations, is produced by few refineries outside of California, Thorp noted.

Refinery problems and a switch to more expensive summer gasoline also boosted prices in the state, analysts said. But the unexpected

Crude Costs

Crude oil futures prices have reached their highest level since September amid rising Mideast tensions and a strengthening U.S. economy.



Los Angeles Times

problems have been fixed and most refineries are wrapping up routine winter maintenance.

"Gasoline prices are still below where they were a year ago, but they're going up faster," Thorp said. Prices in the Los Angeles-Long Beach area have leaped 60% since the beginning of the year, Auto Club surveys have found. In addition, national AAA surveys find more motorists planning road trips this summer, which could boost demand, further increasing the pressure on prices, she said.

The Auto Club is monitoring refinery production to determine whether refiners will keep up with demand or will produce at lower levels to keep prices high, she said. ■

Xerox Agrees to Record SEC Fine

Accounting: Copier giant will pay \$10 million and restate results in latest agency crackdown.

By THOMAS S. MULLIGAN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

NEW YORK—In the latest salvo in the Securities and Exchange Commission's campaign against misleading corporate accounting, **Xerox** Corp. said Monday that it agreed to pay a record \$10-million fine and to restate five years of financial results.

The agreement in principle, subject to final approval by SEC commissioners, would settle an investigation launched in 2000 into Xerox's alleged premature booking of more than \$2 billion in revenue from equipment leases from 1997 through 2001.

Under the agreement, the Stamford, Conn.-based copier giant would neither admit nor deny wrongdoing, the company said.

But the fine would be the highest ever for a financial reporting violation by a public company, eclipsing the \$3.5-million penalty levied against **America Online** Inc. in May 2000 for allegedly improperly inflating earnings, said SEC spokesman John Nester.

"It strikes me as a surprising amount, probably a function of the post-Enron atmosphere," said Lorraine A. Horton, an accounting professor at the University of Rhode Island.

She added, however, that the SEC's crackdown on accounting abuses is "long overdue," and that a steady stream of fines and public exposure "may make the industry pay more attention."

The SEC has been focusing on corporate bookkeeping for several years, but it has stepped up its activity since the collapse of **Enron** last fall. By late February, the agency had launched 45 investigations of financial statement fraud this year, nearly triple the number of cases in the same period in 2001, Nester said.

Xerox said in January that the SEC was accusing the company of abusing accounting rules to inflate its financial results.

Xerox gets much of its copier revenue under leases in which equipment, service, supplies and financing are bundled together in a single monthly payment. The dispute with the SEC involves Xerox's allegedly booking revenue upfront rather than over time, in violation of accounting rules.

The company has since changed its accounting methods, it said. Last year it restated results for the previous three years because of accounting issues in its Mexican unit.

Some experts say many companies felt pressure in the late 1990s to find ways to artificially drive up their results as Wall Street focused intently on quarterly earnings.

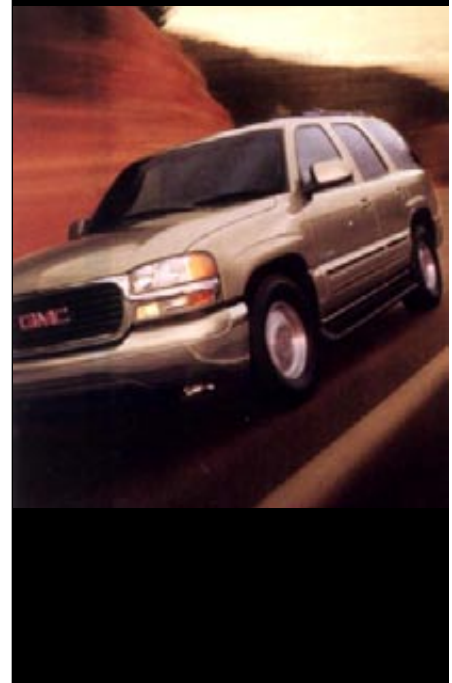
"Everybody was trying to boost

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XEROX

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earnings to beat” analysts’ earnings estimates, said D. Larry Crumbley, accounting professor at Louisiana State University. “If you missed by a penny, you got killed in the stock market.”

Xerox shares soared from \$20 in 1996 to more than \$60 by 1999, then collapsed as the company faced rising competition and surging borrowing costs. The company has been struggling to get itself back on track.

Xerox Chairman and Chief Executive Anne M. Mulcahy said in the statement Monday that the company “is best served by putting these issues with the SEC behind us and focusing on restoring the company to good health, sustained profitability and future growth.”

The stock, which fell to less than \$4 in 2000, rose 33 cents to \$11.08 on the New York Stock Exchange on Monday.

“We believe [Monday’s] agreement alleviates some of the overhang on Xerox’s share price,” said analyst Shannon S. Cross of Merrill Lynch, maintaining a “buy” rating on the stock.

Xerox said it couldn’t yet estimate how it would reapportion revenue, but it said there would be “no impact on the cash that has been received or is contractually due to be received” from its leases.

The company also said the restatement would involve adjustments that could total more than \$300 million “due to the establishment and release of certain reserves prior to 2001” and other items.

The company said it has asked for a 15-day extension on the deadline for filing its 10K annual financial

statement to the SEC in order to complete the restatement of results. It also said it later may request a 75-day extension.

The Xerox case is another in a series of high-profile accounting cases the SEC has brought in recent years. Among them:

In March 2001, **Cendant Corp.’s** former Chairman Walter A. Forbes and former Vice Chairman E. Kirk Shelton were indicted on charges of inflating company earnings in what prosecutors called one of the biggest securities frauds ever. The criminal and SEC civil fraud charges contend Forbes and Shelton contributed to a decade-long fraud scheme mostly at CUC International Inc., a predecessor to Cendant.

Cendant subsequently restated three years of results, saying that former CUC executives inflated earnings before charges by \$500 million.

Forbes and Shelton have pleaded not guilty and are awaiting trial in Connecticut.

In May 2001, the SEC filed a suit in federal court in Miami against Al Dunlap and other former Sunbeam Corp. executives, along with accounting firm Andersen, accusing them of engaging in a massive financial fraud.

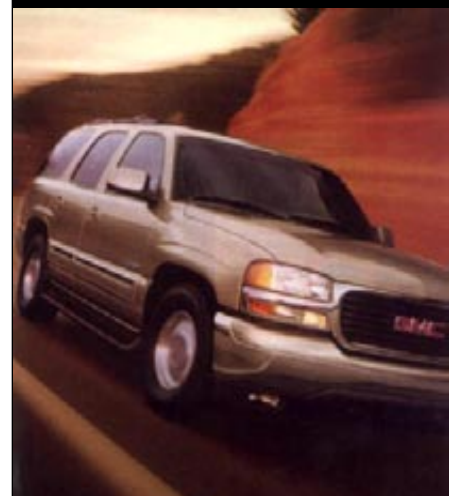
Sunbeam ultimately was forced to restate its financial results for the six quarters before Dunlap was ousted as chairman.

Earlier this year, Dunlap agreed to pay \$15 million to settle a shareholder lawsuit that accused him and other former executives of mismanagement and fraud at the small-appliance maker, which now is in bankruptcy.

The SEC charges against the executives still are pending. ■

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HP Won't Reappoint Hewlett to Its Board

By ALEX PHAM
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Hewlett-Packard Co. on Monday withdrew its nomination of Walter Hewlett from its slate of directors, effectively ousting the dissident board member who crusaded against the company's pending \$19-billion merger with **Compaq Computer Corp.**

It's the latest volley in an extraordinary battle between HP and the son of co-founder William Hewlett. Walter Hewlett, 57, amassed broad support among shareholders in opposing the merger. Although an official tally of the March 19 shareholder vote will not be available for several weeks, HP Chief Executive Carly Fiorina has declared a "slim but sufficient" margin in favor of the merger.

Hewlett last week filed a lawsuit alleging that company executives coerced a large shareholder to endorse the merger and understated the difficulties in creating what would be the largest computer company in the world. Hewlett has argued that HP's profitable printer business would be diluted by Compaq's commitment to the struggling PC market.

But as late as Thursday, fellow directors were poised to unanimously renominate Hewlett to its nine-member board. HP director Sam Ginn said in a statement that the HP board met with Hewlett on Wednesday. Hours after the meeting, Hewlett filed his complaint in Delaware Chancery Court.

"My fellow board members and I



Associated Press

Ousted director Walter Hewlett controls about 5% of HP shares.

were ... shocked when just hours later, Walter Hewlett filed a spurious lawsuit against the company," Ginn said.

Hewlett, who controls about 5% of HP shares, said at a rare news conference two weeks ago that he wished to stay on as an HP director. He issued a statement Monday expressing disappointment in the board's nominations.

"It is unfortunate that the HP board has seemingly missed what the company's stockholders have clearly recognized: that dissent is not disloyalty," Hewlett said. He also reiterated his intent to support the merger should the final vote come out in favor of the union.

Anticipating voter approval, HP and Compaq on Monday issued its joint slate of candidates for a combined 12-member board, with seven members from HP and five from

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Compaq. HP said it would hold a meeting of shareholders to vote on the list of candidates April 26 in Cupertino, Calif.

Although Hewlett missed a November deadline to become a write-in candidate in this year's vote, he can petition to be on next year's slate, said corporate governance experts.

"The family can certainly come back and nominate Walter in 2003," said Patrick McGurn, vice president of Institutional Shareholder Services, an influential advisory firm. "Our position is that we like dissent in boardrooms. It would have been more interesting if they had appointed him."

Hewlett has become something of a folk hero to many small investors who saw his fight as evidence of shareholder activism. Because of this popularity, HP's decision to oust Hewlett may have negative consequences, experts and investors said.

"In the post-Enron era, investors are demanding independent directors," said David Katz, chief investment officer of Matrix Asset Advisors, which owns 613,000 HP shares and 745,000 Compaq shares. "Clearly, this is a step back."

Nell Minow, editor of watchdog Web site Corporate Library, said HP would need to work hard to regain the confidence of shareholders who backed Hewlett against the merger.

"They have a huge burden of proof to demonstrate to the investor community that they will put someone on who will do a better job than Walter Hewlett," she said. "It better be somebody really great, someone who has instant credibility with the community." ■

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Film Toys Getting Thumb's Down

Retail: The Market for movie-based items has cooled. Merchants are left holding the bag.

By ABIGAIL GOLDMAN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Movies for children and families are among Hollywood's hottest properties. But to the dismay of many studios, toys based on these movies are getting the cold shoulder from consumers.

Kids, bombarded with toy pitches for just about every movie and TV show they know, haven't been buying enough of them. That has left retailers with loads of leftover Star Wars light sabers and unwanted Pocahontases.

The 1990s were littered with movie toy disappointments—some failing with the films that spawned them, others sinking on their own. Losers included toys associated with "Hook," "The Last Action Hero," "The Flintstones," "Casper," "Congo," "Dragonheart" and most notably the "Star Wars" prequel, "Episode I The Phantom Menace."

With those and other toy fiascos fresh in their minds, retailers now are more careful in choosing movie toys. Toy makers, in turn, are making fewer film-based characters, games and mementos.

Mattel Inc., the nation's biggest toy maker, cut its licensed toy lines by 25% in the last two years, opting to make more original toys instead of weaker film-based games and products.

"We're not replicating scenes from a movie anymore," said Matt Bous-



CLARANCE WILLIAMS / Los Angeles Times

quette, president of Mattel's boys/entertainment division. "When we make movie toys, we're making great toys inspired by a movie."

quette, president of Mattel's boys/entertainment division. "When we make movie toys, we're making great toys inspired by a movie."

The cutback in movie-related toys comes just when Hollywood studios need the promotional value of toys more than ever.

A trend toward more family-oriented entertainment, which has been growing in the last few years, only intensified after Sept. 11 as Americans began spending more time at home and with family. And as more consumers turned to what they saw as wholesome amusements, including craft making and playing board games, the film industry saw gentle, nonviolent children's fare surge as well.

In response to consumer and political pressure, many studios also have worked hard to pare down their R-rated releases.

During 2001, only 27% of ticket sales came from R-rated films, down from 35% the year before.

By the end of the year, five of the six highest-grossing films were family fare: "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone"—the year's leader with more than \$300million in domestic ticket sales—"Shrek," "Monsters, Inc.," "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" and "The Mummy Returns," each of which brought in more than \$200 million in North American ticket sales through December.

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TOYS

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Toys and tie-ins involving fast food or other products help offset rising marketing and production costs of such movies. Manufacturers and retailers help promote films by advertising their own movie-related products. These products also generate additional income for studios through royalties.

Toy industry people say wildly popular movies with strong supporting toys always will sell. Toys based on "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," for example, were among last year's hottest sellers. Those included Lego's Hogwarts Castle and Mattel's Professor Snape's Potions Class, a cast-your-own-spells toy.

The estimated earnings for the

Warner Bros. release offer a good reason for Hollywood's interest in toys. Salomon Smith Barney projected \$400 million to \$500 million in sales of "Harry Potter"-related merchandise, resulting in a profit of \$80 million to \$100 million for **AOL Time Warner Inc.**, the studio's parent company. The "Potter" merchandise largely includes toys, novelties, games, paper goods and other children's play items, as is typical for merchandising based on family films.

The "Harry Potter" numbers, however, are hardly typical.

Al Ovadia, executive vice president of **Sony Pictures Consumer Products**, fondly recalled days when he could routinely promise studio executives \$15 million or \$20 million in profit from consumer product licenses. Now, he said, those opportunities are few and far

between.

The harder line from toy makers and manufacturers is also changing what toys appear on shelves.

Rather than making toys inspired by the newest and most inventive children's films, movie toys are more likely to be based on sequels, TV shows and remakes. In a recent review of 2002 movie-related toy lines, trade publication the Licensing Letter found that 73% were based on familiar properties, such as this summer's films "Spider-Man," "Stuart Little 2," "Scooby Doo" and "Birth of the Pink Panther."

The Hollywood studios' power with the toy industry mostly started—and ended—with "Star Wars."

Between the original 1977 "Star Wars" movie and the 1999 release of "Episode I The Phantom Men-

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TOYS

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ace,” fans bought about \$4.5 billion worth of “Star Wars” merchandise, a large portion of which were toys. In between, consumers continued to surprise the studios and toy makers with their appetite for movie-related products.

Walt Disney Co.’s “Lion King,” however, went beyond any product tie-in in history. Within just more than a year of its release, “Lion King” generated more than \$300 million in toy sales alone—and more than \$1 billion in sales of all licensed products.

It was then that the studios saw a new pot of gold at the end of the movie rainbow.

More resources flowed into consumer products departments and more money was expected to come back out.

“The good news was that the consumer products people were treated as professionals and taken seriously and were given input,” said Marty Brochstein, executive editor of the Licensing Letter. “The bad news was that it became ‘planned income’ in a business that is not always prone to being plannable. This isn’t packaged goods. You can’t always have tight forecasts; you’re dealing with consumer culture.”

Still, the toy companies were continuing to sign on. In the rough world of toy making, with thin margins and countless players vying for the year’s big hit toy, a company can fold after just one holiday season of poor sales.

So, eager to latch onto a solid seller—and to deny those sales to a competitor—toy companies in

the 1990s began bidding up the toy licenses on even minor movie titles.

“We all got ourselves on a licensing spiral where we all signed everything there was for fear of missing something,” said Warren Kornblum, chief marketing officer for **Toys R Us Inc.** “Everybody [was] chasing a dream, and no one [was] making any money doing it. The manufacturers weren’t. The retailers certainly weren’t.”

In part, that was because studios raised royalty rates on their biggest potential blockbusters, increasing the percentage they would get from the sale of each item. They also began raising “guarantees,” upfront payments toy makers had to make even if the movie bombed and the toys didn’t sell.

In part as a result of earlier failures, toys associated with more recent children’s films—including “Monsters, Inc.,” from Disney and **Pixar Animation Studios**, and **DreamWorks/PDI’s** “Shrek”—got a far softer sell and much less time on toy sellers’ shelves. The more cautious approach meant more limited sales, retailers and toy makers said, even though “Monsters” toys in particular sold reasonably well.

Still, toy makers from around the globe bet the new “Star Wars” prequel of 1999 would be the surest of sure things.

Hasbro Inc. landed the deal with an eye-popping bid, reportedly giving director George Lucas an upfront royalty guarantee of \$600 million and a 7.4% stake in the toy company. Royalty rates on the products were believed to be in the 18%-to-20% range, much higher than the typical 12% to 13%.

And though the movie generated

about \$300 million in toy sales, it wasn’t enough.

Desperate to make back its investment, Hasbro made and shipped more product to stores, people in the industry said. That left retailers to hold “Star Wars” fire sales, taking a big hit to profit.

From there, what Brochstein calls “post-‘Star Wars’ stress disorder” began setting in. Suddenly, movie properties weren’t as hot as they used to be. At Mattel, Bousquette and Mattel Chief Executive Robert Eckert demonstrated their desire for a new relationship with Hollywood in late 2000, when they dumped their rights to the newer movie properties from Disney, the onetime licensing king.

Analysts said the studio’s high fees meant annual sales of \$100 million to \$150 million a year were not enough to make the deal profitable for Mattel, which kept rights to the better-performing classic Disney characters, such as Mickey Mouse.

In response to toy companies’ withdrawal, studios cut their guarantees and promised to share the risk in order to get toys made. Many studios added their own marketing dollars to push their films’ toys. ■



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State Signals Intent to Regulate DSL

By ELIZABETH DOUGLASS
TIMES STAFF WRITER

California regulators have taken a key step toward regulating high-speed Internet access over phone lines, a service that has grown fast but left a rash of complaints in its wake from Internet service providers and frustrated consumers.

A California Public Utilities Commission judge ruled late last week that the agency has the authority to weigh in on a range of issues involving the Internet access technology known as digital subscriber line service, or DSL, including the quality of service provided, how it is marketed and a provider's DSL business practices.

"Finally, consumers have a place to go when they are having problems with their DSL service," said Michael Shames, executive director of the Utility Consumers' Action Network, a consumer group based in San Diego.

"The decision is a big deal in the sense that it has a precedential impact nationally ... so I think we'll see a trend of states taking a bigger role in DSL issues."

PUC officials were not available to discuss the implications of the DSL ruling because government offices were closed Monday for a state holiday.

The commission has been gearing up to address DSL matters for almost two years, ever since it was flooded with complaints from customers of SBC Pacific Bell's DSL service. In the spring of 2000, installation and order mix-ups were rampant, with customers exasperated over lost

orders, no-show technicians and lengthy service delays. PUC officials complained at the time that they didn't have enforcement measures in place to act aggressively to protect consumers.

Since then, the PUC and sister agencies in other states have steadily increased their oversight of DSL, a service that allows users to access the Internet at high speeds over regular phone lines without disrupting phone calls. It has become an important service for residential and small-business users, and a critical and lucrative market for phone companies, which want to book the extra revenue and beat cable companies selling a rival Internet service.

In the last year, a spate of bankruptcies involving DSL providers has added to the state's concern because some customers have been left stranded with no service and without enough notice to find a replacement carrier.

PUC Commissioner Carl Wood is considering including consumer protections for DSL customers in his proposed telecommunications consumer bill of rights. And earlier this year, the PUC launched an investigation into DSL billing problems and other service quality issues at SBC PacBell, the state's dominant DSL provider and local phone company.

SBC PacBell does not disclose how many DSL customer it has, but experts put the figure at more than 700,000 in California, or more than half of its 1.3 million nationwide subscriber base.

The installation troubles at SBC PacBell eventually subsided, and although complaints continue about billing and other matters, they are generally at a lower rate than in 2000.

The PUC judge's ruling last week came as part of a complaint case brought by the California ISP Assn. against SBC PacBell and its affiliates.

That complaint, filed last July, outlined policies and contract terms that the group says gives an unfair advantage to SBC PacBell and the company's own Internet service provider over unaffiliated ISPs.

SBC PacBell sought to have the complaint dismissed, arguing that the state did not have jurisdiction over the DSL matters in the complaint.

The PUC judge ultimately agreed that it could not regulate pricing or the terms and conditions of the company's DSL offering, but found that the state has clear jurisdiction over the related quality of service, marketing and business practice matters.

John Britton, a spokesman for SBC PacBell, said the company does not discriminate against unaffiliated ISPs. ■

MONEY MAKE-OVER

Young Couple Need to Take Baby Steps Financially

With a small income, parents-to-be are advised to pay debt, buy insurance before saving for long term.

By GRAHAM WITHERALL
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Brendan and Catherine Hodge went from carefree college kids to adults with big responsibilities in a hurry.

After graduating from a small Ohio liberal arts college last spring and moving across the country to Canoga Park, the couple married in June. They are expecting their first child in two months.

Some new concerns have arrived with the dramatic changes. They want to stretch an already tight budget to allow the mother-to-be to quit her job and stay home with their child. The couple wonder whether they should begin saving for their child's college education and building their own retirement accounts. In addition, they want to start setting aside money to move from a small apartment into a home of their own.

"It's going to take some very careful decisions to stay afloat and get ready for our first baby," said Brendan Hodge, who grew up in the San Fernando Valley. He noted that this child is likely to be the first of several.



RICHARD HARTOG / Los Angeles Times

Just out of college, Canoga Park residents Brendan and Catherine Hodge hope to be able to support a large family and own a home.

"We both want to have a large family. We're hoping for four to six children."

The Hodges, both 23, are in the kind of financial condition that's not uncommon for young people starting careers. They owe \$45,800 in college, car and credit card debt. With just a few hundred dollars in the bank and \$2,600 in stocks and mutual funds, the Hodges have a negative net worth of nearly \$43,000.

That deficit doesn't figure to shrink in a hurry. Brendan Hodge's salary at a small cosmetics company recently jumped to \$40,000 from \$28,000 after he was promoted

to business manager. But the raise amounts only to what his wife now makes working part time in a bookstore and as a stage manager for local theater companies—and she intends to leave those positions next month.

"Our mothers were both home for most of our childhoods, and we'd like the same for our children," said Catherine Hodge, who grew up in Cincinnati. "And we were both home-schooled, and we'd like to do that for our children too."

Given the couple's circumstances, they need a financial reality check,

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MAKE-OVER

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said Manhattan Beach-based financial planner Preston Caves.

“You have a typical problem for young people,” he said. “You have a lot of goals, but you don’t have the resources to meet them.”

Currently, their income is fully stretched. Rent, utilities, groceries, car insurance and car and college loan payments usually consume their paychecks. Thinking about retirement, college funds and a house nest egg is laudable, but those goals must be put on hold while they tackle more immediate needs, Caves said.

“You have to build a financial foundation,” he told the couple. “You need to cover your risks and get into a positive cash flow before you can start thinking about the other things.”

In particular, the Hodges should concentrate on paying down some of their debt, beginning with the high-interest-rate items first. These include a \$1,500 credit card bill at 15% and a \$7,800 car loan at 11.25%.

Trying to tuck away retirement or other savings that might grow at 5% or 7% while carrying balances on debts with more than double that interest rate is folly, Caves pointed out.

Caves suggested that the Hodges cash out of a few stocks worth \$800 that Brendan Hodge accumulated in college to make an immediate dent in the credit card bill.

And as the family soon will be relying solely on one income, Caves is concerned that the father-to-be doesn’t have life or disability insurance. Neither is offered through his 15-employee company, and the couple haven’t investigated those

This Week’s Make-Over

- **Subjects:** Brendan and Catherine Hodge, both 23
- **Occupations:** Brendan Hodge, business manager for a cosmetics firm; Catherine Hodge, part-time bookstore employee and theater stage manager
- **Income:** \$40,000
- **Goals:** Get out of debt; begin saving for a house, retirement and child’s college tuition

Current Portfolio

- **Retirement accounts:** \$1,800 in a Roth IRA, invested in an S & P 500 index fund
- **Other investments:** \$800 in stocks—Apple Computer Inc., Cisco Systems Inc. and SpaceDev Inc.
- **Other savings:** \$400 in a passbook account
- **Debts:** \$30,000 in student loans; \$1,500 in credit card debt; \$14,300 in car loans

Recommendations

- Reconsider plan to have Catherine Hodge stop working.
- Pay down high-interest debts.
- Get disability insurance and at least \$250,000 in term life insurance.
- Prepare a will to specify wishes for child’s care.

Meet the Planner

Preston Caves is a fee-only certified financial planner and chartered financial analyst. His firm, Caves & Associates in Manhattan Beach, specializes in investment management for retirement plans and large private portfolios.

policies on their own.

The problem, of course, is where to find the money to pay down debt or buy insurance. Their budget already is pretty lean—meals out are extremely rare, they don’t take vacations, and they have no expensive hobbies.

But after reviewing their expenses, Caves identified a couple of areas that could free up some cash. An \$80 monthly cell phone contract could easily be cut in half. And their \$250 monthly car insurance could be reduced by raising their \$250

deductible or shopping for more economical coverage.

“The way it is now, your cars are better insured than you two are,” he told them. “With a child coming, you need to insure Brendan’s life and his earning power.”

Given Brendan Hodge’s youth and good health, the savings from those items might be enough to cover bare-bones term life insurance and disability insurance policies.

But trimming car insurance and cell phone costs only nibbles at their

CONTINUED »

MAKE-OVER

« CONTINUED

financial problem. The Hodges need to think about bigger moves, Caves said.

“You’re very conscientious about not spending too much money, but Los Angeles is an expensive place to live,” he said. The couple, however, plan to stay in the L.A. area. Brendan Hodge is close to his family, and proximity is all the more important now with his father going through some medical problems.

Another possibility is that Catherine Hodge reconsider her plan to quit work when their baby arrives. Caves wondered whether she could continue at the bookstore evenings or weekends while her husband is at home with the baby.

“You may not get to see each other quite as much, but at least you could

pay down some debt and get some savings in place,” Caves said. Her income could provide a small financial cushion that would help cover the additional expenses a child brings.

As another option, the couple might consider selling one of their cars to eliminate a \$200 monthly car payment and the expenses associated with operating a vehicle.

The bottom line is that the Hodges really have only two choices: earn more or spend less.

“If you can’t get over the hump and get into a positive cash flow situation, you end up living month to month and you can’t even start thinking about longer-term financial goals,” Caves said. “Saving for a home isn’t feasible right now. You just need to work through this and get some momentum.”

Catherine Hodge acknowledged

that quitting work might not be the best move. She has earned money as a proofreader before and said she might explore whether returning to that line of work from home is possible. And she’s not too worried about delaying the couple’s longer-term goals, such as chipping into retirement savings.

“We’re young and we’ve got time on our side for that kind of thing,” she said.

Her husband acknowledged that the next couple of years could be lean, but he remains optimistic about their financial future. He expects his earning power to grow, providing the cash to pay off debts and begin saving money.

“I think my career prospects are pretty darn good for someone my age,” he said. “I’m on a management track. We’ve just got to figure our path for the next couple of years.” ■

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Sierra Pacific Shares Fall on Nevada's PUC Claim Ruling

By GENE LAVERTY
BLOOMBERG NEWS

Shares of **Sierra Pacific Resources**, the owner of Nevada's two biggest utilities, plummeted 40% on Monday after the state denied the company's claim to recover \$437 million in costs triggered by California's energy crisis.

Sierra Pacific fell \$5.98 to \$9.11 in New York Stock Exchange trading of 20.3 million shares, 34 times the daily average over the last three months. The stock, which has fallen 38% in the last year, touched a record low of \$7.50.

Moody's Investors Services cut the company's credit rating to junk, after Standard & Poor's similar move Friday.

The company had sought to recoup \$922 million it had spent buying power last year when California's 1996 deregulation law prevented it from passing on sky-high wholesale prices to customers. The Nevada Public Utilities Commission agreed to allow the company to collect just \$485 million, over three years.

Electricity prices in the West rose more than ninefold in the 2001 first quarter from the same time a year earlier, driven by shortages in California. Douglas Fischer, an analyst at A.G. Edwards & Sons Inc., said the company might have to file for bankruptcy protection and its quarterly dividend may be cut. "They have contracted to buy power for this summer at prices that are well above the level they're recovering in rates," he said.

Sierra Pacific said it is evaluating its options and declined to say whether it is considering a bankruptcy filing.

"Obviously we would like to stay away from things that are most extreme but we have to look at everything, and that's part of what we're doing here in the next few days," said spokesman Paul Heagan.

Fischer, who owns some shares of Reno-based Sierra Pacific shares, reduced his rating on the stock to "sell" from "hold."

The company paid a 20-cent dividend in the first quarter. It canceled its May 2001 dividend after needing cash to buy power.

Sierra Pacific's 8.75% coupon notes maturing in 2005 fell about 10 cents to 90 cents on the dollar, traders said. That pushed up the yield on the debt to 12.7% from 8.74%.

Moody's lowered Sierra Pacific's corporate credit ratings two notches to Ba2, its second-highest junk rating, from Baa3, its lowest investment-grade rating. Moody's changes affect about \$3.9 billion in debt owed by Sierra Pacific and its utilities.

The ruling "comes up well short of what Nevada Power needed to help stabilize its debt protection measurements, and sets the stage for a significant write-down which would weaken its balance sheet," Moody's said.

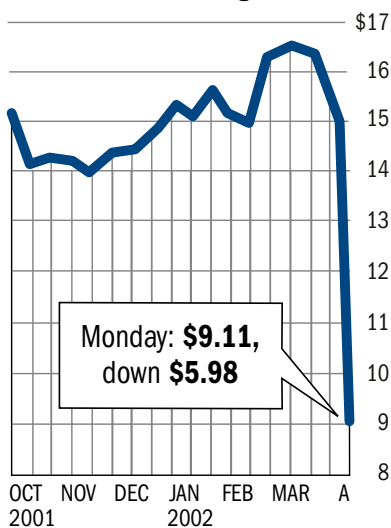
Moody's called the ruling by the Public Utilities Commission a "stark contrast" to previous actions.

"Previous regulatory support was a significant factor in the prior rat-

Power Outage

Sierra Pacific Resources stock lost more than a third of its value in heavy Big Board trading.

Weekly closes and latest on the New York Stock Exchange



Source: Bloomberg News

Los Angeles Times

ings of Sierra Pacific Resources and its subsidiaries," Moody's said.

Williams Cos. said Monday it will continue to negotiate a long-term power contract with Sierra Pacific. That's positive news, said Ronald Tanner, a Legg Mason Wood Walker analyst, who lowered his rating on the stock to "market perform" from "buy" and doesn't own the stock.

Sierra Pacific agreed March 22 to buy long-term power from Tulsa, Okla.-based Williams and **Reliant Energy Inc.** The transaction might mean an 8.8% rate increase for customers, below the 20% originally requested. ■

'From our standpoint, it is business as usual for everyone at the Arrowhead Pond.'

Tim Ryan, Arrowhead Pond general manager

Covanta Energy Files for Chap. 11

Reorganization: Plan includes an agreement to sell itself to investment firm KKR for \$225 million.

From Times Staff and Wire Reports

Power provider **Covanta Energy Corp.**, weighed down by disparate holdings such as the management contract for Anaheim's Arrowhead Pond, filed for bankruptcy protection Monday and agreed to be acquired after its reorganization for \$225 million by investment firm Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co.

Covanta, which changed its name a year ago from Ogden Corp., also said it will have a difficult time seeking Wall Street financing both for its entertainment and aviation businesses and its primary energy and water operations, including municipal waste-to-energy facilities.

The Fairfield, N.J., company listed \$3.28 billion in assets and \$3.03 billion in debts in its Chapter 11 bankruptcy papers filed in Man-



AL SCHABEN / Los Angeles Times

Covanta's holdings include a contract to manage Arrowhead Pond hockey arena, home to the Anaheim Mighty Ducks. Company representatives say the bankruptcy won't affect Pond events.

hattan. The company couldn't meet loan obligations after it failed to sell unprofitable businesses, including the contracts to manage hockey arenas in Anaheim and Ottawa, Canada.

Representatives for both Anaheim and the company said the bankruptcy will have no effect on the city or on events at the Pond, home to the Anaheim Mighty Ducks professional hockey team.

"From our standpoint, it is business as usual for everyone at the Arrowhead Pond," said Tim Ryan, the arena's general manager. "The important thing is that we continue

to book events for the near and the long-term. We're solidifying some contracts for the year 2006."

The company, through its Ogden Facility Management Inc. unit, guaranteed payments on debt securities the city issued a decade ago to build the arena. So far, ticket sales and other revenue have helped Ogden remain current on monthly interest bills averaging \$500,000 and on the annual principal payment, which was \$1.9 million in December, said John Nicoletti, an Anaheim spokesman.

In Canada, however, sharehold-

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COVANTA

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ers in the Ottawa Senators hockey team and the Corel Centre recently demanded that Covanta fulfill a promise to buy \$105.5 million in securities, a condition of its 1999 contract to manage that building. Soon after entering that contract, Covanta directors decided to focus resources on the core energy and water operations and to sell the entertainment and aviation holdings.

"They made some bad investments that sucked up cash when they needed it," said Peter Rigby, credit analyst for Standard & Poor's.

Both Rigby and the company said the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks delayed the sale of an aviation-fueling business and that the collapse of **Enron Corp.** made it harder for all power producers to raise money.

The fiscal crisis in Argentina also foiled Covanta's effort to sell a casino and an exhibition center it owns in that country, the company said. But the biggest problem has been the obligations in Anaheim and Ottawa, said S & P's Scott Taylor. "Their banks just got tired of the whole thing."

A consortium of more than 20 banks, however, agreed to provide

Covanta with \$463 million in post-bankruptcy financing to help the company reorganize and sell itself.

The nonbinding agreement with a unit of Kohlberg Kravis provides that Covanta and its bank lenders will work exclusively with the investment firm for as long as 90 days, Covanta said. KKR would acquire Covanta after completing research and negotiating a definitive agreement. The acquisition would follow court approval of a reorganization plan.

Covanta said on Dec. 24 that it had limited cash available and was negotiating with bank lenders, causing its stock price to plummet 60%. The company blamed the cash crunch on delays in payment for power sold in California, as well as on its inability to sell its aviation and entertainment businesses.

A month ago, Covanta missed a \$4.6-million payment on \$248.7 million of bonds and said it was negotiating with creditors to restructure the debts.

Trading in Covanta shares was halted Monday on news of the bankruptcy filing. The stock last traded at 72 cents a share on the New York Stock Exchange. ■

Times staff writer James S. Granelli contributed to this report, and Bloomberg News was used in compiling it.

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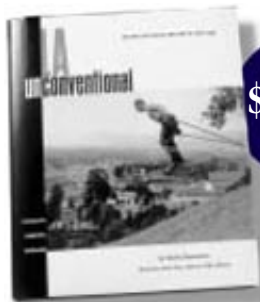
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Golf Property Firms' Merger a Step Closer to Tee

Real estate: National Golf's board approves agreement with ailing sister American Golf, but hurdles remain.

By JESUS SANCHEZ
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Moving ahead with a controversial business plan, the board of **National Golf Properties** Inc. on Monday announced its approval of a definitive merger agreement with ailing sister company American Golf Corp. despite the objections of a major National Golf stockholder and concern among Wall Street analysts.

Combining the two Santa Monica-based companies controlled by Los Angeles businessman David G. Price would create the country's largest owner and operator of golf courses and help the companies overcome immediate financial troubles and long-term competitive pressures, said supporters of the combination.

American Golf is a privately owned company that leases and operates most of the courses owned by National Golf, a publicly traded real estate investment trust.

"We want to make sure that we come out of this with a strong company," said Charles S. Paul, chairman of National Golf's independent directors committee and interim chief executive of the company.

Under the agreement, each share of National Golf would be converted

into a share in a newly created company composed of National Golf and American Golf. Unlike National Golf, which as a REIT must distribute most of its earnings in the form of dividends, the new entity would be organized as a traditional public company.

Shareholders of American Golf, which is owned primarily by Price and his family, would receive 156,005 shares in the new company; as many as 100,000 shares of preferred stock that could be converted into common stock; and \$10,000 in cash. In addition, American Golf no longer would have to repay a \$6-million debt owed to Price.

The companies announced the merger proposal in February.

National Golf said it anticipated completing the merger by the end of the third quarter, though it faces significant hurdles. National Golf executives must win the approval of shareholders and lenders while they seek to postpone and restructure some maturing loans and seek an infusion of new equity.

Steve Sakwa, real estate industry analyst with Merrill Lynch, said there was not enough information available to determine how National Golf shareholders would be affected if new investors were brought on board.

"If you are an existing shareholder ... you have the potential risk of dilution down the road," said Sakwa, who maintained his "sell" rating on the company stock. "There

are still a lot of questions that didn't get answered."

Sakwa said National Golf, which owns more than 130 properties nationwide, has yet to provide an adequate picture of American Golf's financial performance. Some investors repeated their concerns that National Golf would assume the problems of American Golf to the benefit of Price and his family.

"This is still solving the significant problems of American Golf on the backs of the equity holders of National Golf," said Carl Tash, chief executive of Cliffwood Partners, a Brentwood investment firm that owns about 9% of National Golf stock. "American Golf should clean up its balance sheet first. We still oppose the transaction."

The companies' problems began last year after eroding revenue at American Golf put it and National Golf technically in default on many of their loans. American Golf later notified National Golf that it would miss rent payments, the major source of income for National Golf. American Golf missed payments for February of this year and part of January but paid rent due in March, said Paul, the interim chief executive.

Paul said he anticipated no major changes at American Golf, which manages more than 300 private and public courses. Shares of National Golf fell 23 cents to \$7.17 on the New York Stock Exchange. ■

IN BRIEF**ACCOUNTING****Layoffs at Andersen Inevitable**

The **Andersen** accounting firm has lost roughly 10% of its U.S. business since December, and sources say layoffs expected to be announced soon are likely to run into the thousands.

Company spokesman Patrick Dorton said no final decision has been made on the timing or number of layoffs at Andersen, which employs 28,000 people in the U.S. But he noted that layoffs became inevitable after the Justice Department's decision to prosecute the company for obstruction of justice after employees shredded documents sought last year in the federal probe of Houston energy trader Enron Corp.

"We will work to accommodate those who remain with Andersen as well as those who will have to look for new opportunities," Dorton said.

The firm continued to lose clients Monday, including several large businesses.

Times Staff Reports

Cephalon Ends Joint Marketing Venture

Cephalon Inc. ended a joint venture for marketing two of its drugs after analysts raised questions about accounting practices involving the partnership in the wake of **Enron** Corp.'s collapse.

Cephalon shares rose \$1.63 to \$64.63 in Nasdaq trading.

Cephalon, which makes neurological drugs, formed the joint ven-

ture with two outside investors in December 2001 to invest up to \$50 million to market its Provigil narcolepsy drug and Gabitril treatment for epileptic seizures, the company said.

On Feb. 4, a **Sterling Financial Investment Group** analyst predicted more regulatory scrutiny of Cephalon "due to the Enron fiasco," citing a newsletter published by accounting expert Howard Schilit that questioned Cephalon's accounting for joint ventures. Cephalon's shares fell 13% that day.

Investors didn't like the arrangement because it kept some of Cephalon's expenses off its balance sheet, said Steven Kirsch, senior managing director at Sterling Financial.

To end the joint venture, Cephalon acquired the investors' interests by issuing \$55 million in convertible debt. The notes are convertible into Cephalon's stock, at the option of the holder, at a price of \$70.36.

Bloomberg News

BANKING**Court Declines to Revive Investor Suit**

The U.S. Supreme Court refused to revive a class-action investor lawsuit that accused **Bank of America** Corp. of hiding losses that led to a \$372-million write-off.

Bank of America agreed in February to a \$490-million settlement. That accord is awaiting approval from a federal judge. The Supreme Court appeal came from a law firm that sought to open a new front by pressing a separate shareholders'

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IN BRIEF

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suit in California state court.

The fight centers on a \$1.4-billion payment that BankAmerica Corp., a corporate predecessor of the current company, described as a loan to New York hedge fund D.E. Shaw & Co.

The issue for the Supreme Court was whether a federal trial judge in St. Louis was right to order a halt to the California proceeding.

Bloomberg News

COURTS

E-Trade Sued Over Stock Loans to GenesisIntermedia

E-Trade Group Inc. revealed that three brokerages are coming after it for money lost in the collapse of Van Nuys-based **GenesisIntermedia** Inc.

E-Trade said it has been sued by three brokerages seeking \$60 million in connection with shares it loaned of GenesisIntermedia, a telemarketer controlled by Saudi arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi.

Nomura Securities Inc., Wedbush Morgan Securities and Fiserv Securities Inc. allege that E-Trade never returned cash they gave the online brokerage last year in exchange for shares of GenesisIntermedia, E-Trade said in its annual 10K report filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

E-Trade shares fell 24 cents to \$9.18 on the New York Stock Exchange.

Bloomberg News

Underwriters Lose Bid to Remove IPO Judge

Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and

other underwriters lost a bid to oust the judge presiding over suits accusing them of rigging initial public offerings, after an appeals court ruled that the judge's investments were a minor issue that didn't justify removal.

Thirty-nine investment banks, including **Deutsche Banc Alex. Brown** Inc. and **Credit Suisse First Boston** Corp., sought to force U.S. District Judge Shira Scheindlin to step down from the case, which accuses the defendants of manipulating hundreds of IPOs. The banks said she invested in 14 IPOs and lost money in several of them.

"Congress did not consider judges with minor interests in a class action to be parties to a proceeding once they have divested themselves of said financial interest," the U.S. 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals said.

Bloomberg News

NYSE Suit Against MGM Mirage Reinstated

The New York Stock Exchange won reinstatement of a lawsuit accusing **MGM Mirage** Inc. of violating copyright laws when it used variations on the NYSE name in its New York-New York Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

The world's biggest stock market sued to stop MGM Mirage, the world's second-largest gaming firm, from using references to the Big Board at the New York-themed hotel and casino, asserting they tarnished its name and trademarks.

The case, filed in 1997, was dismissed by a lower court judge in

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IN BRIEF**« CONTINUED**

1999. But an appeals court on Monday reinstated it.

MGM Mirage shares fell 73 cents to \$35.50 on the NYSE.

Bloomberg News, Reuters

J.P. Morgan to Settle Copper Case

J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., the second-largest U.S. bank, agreed to pay **Sumitomo Corp.** \$125 million to settle more than \$2 billion in claims related to copper trades the Tokyo company said were unauthorized.

The settlement was the last stemming from lawsuits that Japan's fourth-largest trading company filed in the U.S. after losing \$2.6 billion in 1996 from transactions by its chief copper trader, Yasuo Hamanaka, Sumitomo attorney Alan Levine said.

Sumitomo accused J.P. Morgan of providing capital to Hamanaka even though it was aware he was trading without Sumitomo's consent. In May 2000, **Merrill Lynch & Co.** agreed to pay Sumitomo \$275 million in a similar case.

Sumitomo's shares fell 2.7% in Tokyo. J.P. Morgan shares dropped 4 cents to \$35.61 on the NYSE.

Bloomberg News

HEALTH CARE**Stent Patent Verdicts Overturned by Judge**

Johnson & Johnson Inc. suffered a court setback in its bid to get almost \$600 million awarded for its stent patents after a federal judge

threw out verdicts against **Medtronic Inc.** and **Boston Scientific Corp.**

U.S. District Judge Sue Robinson ruled that Minneapolis-based Medtronic didn't infringe patents owned by Johnson & Johnson's Cordis unit, setting aside a \$271.1-million jury verdict. She also overturned a \$324.4-million damage award against Natick, Mass.-based Boston Scientific, although she upheld an infringement verdict.

New Brunswick, N.J.-based Johnson & Johnson pledged to appeal the judge's rulings.

In New York Stock Exchange trading, shares in Johnson & Johnson fell 34 cents to \$64.61, Medtronic shares fell 61 cents to \$44.60 and Boston Scientific shares fell 30 cents to \$24.79.

Bloomberg News

OIL**Baker Hughes Faces Federal Investigation**

Baker Hughes Inc., the world's No.3 oilfield-services company, is facing a second investigation by federal authorities of its business practices just months after settling a case with similar charges.

The Department of Justice and Securities and Exchange Commission are investigating the company's operations in Nigeria, the company said. A former Baker Hughes employee filed suit against the company last week, claiming he was fired because he wouldn't participate in a plan to bribe a **Royal Dutch/Shell Group** unit and win Baker Hughes a contract in Nigeria. Baker Hughes

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IN BRIEF**« CONTINUED**

said it is conducting its own investigation of the employee's claims.

Houston-based Baker Hughes settled federal charges in September that managers illegally authorized \$100,000 in payments to government officials or company agents in India, Indonesia and Brazil. The company paid no fine and agreed to be subject to tougher sanctions.

Gary Flaharty, a Baker Hughes spokesman, declined to comment further. John Heine, an SEC spokesman, and Justice Department spokeswoman Dana Perino declined to comment.

Baker Hughes shares fell \$1.03 to \$37.22 on the NYSE.

Bloomberg News

THE ECONOMY**Interest Rates Mixed in T-Bill Auction**

Interest rates on short-term Treasury securities were mixed in the latest auction.

The Treasury Department sold \$11 billion in three-month bills at a discount rate of 1.79%, down from 1.82% last week. An additional \$11 billion was sold in six-month bills at a rate of 2.11%, unchanged from the week before.

The three-month rate was the lowest since March 4, when the bills sold for 1.76%.

The new discount rates understate the actual return to investors—1.821% for three-month bills with a \$10,000 bill selling for \$9,954.30 and 2.163% for a six-month bill selling for \$9,893.30.

In a separate report, the Federal Reserve said the average yield for one-year constant maturity Treasury bills, the most popular index for making changes in adjustable-rate mortgages, rose to 2.70% last week from 2.66% the previous week.

Associated Press

Also

• The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration closed its investigation of 2.7 million General Ameri.550 tires manufactured by **Continental Tire** because it could not find a safety defect. Ford Motor Co. had used the tires as replacements for Firestone tires.

• **FedEx** Corp. pilots voted to abandon their independent union and rejoin the larger Air Line Pilots Assn. to improve their bargaining position with the largest overnight-delivery company.

• **Bristol-Myers Squibb** Co., the world's fifth-biggest drug maker, said inventories of its drugs at U.S. wholesalers "significantly exceed" what the company considers desirable and will hurt profit.

• **Interpublic Group** of Cos., the world's largest advertising agency, will eliminate 1,600 jobs, or 3% of its work force, by mid-year to reduce costs, the company said in a regulatory filing. The job cuts are part of a restructuring that led to 5,200 firings in 2001. ■

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Adelphia to Delay Annual Report

From Bloomberg News

Adelphia Communications Corp.'s annual report will be delayed while the sixth-largest U.S. cable television provider reviews accounting related to \$2.3 billion in debt disclosed last week.

Adelphia shares fell 12% Monday on concern the company has yet to provide details on private partnerships that hold the debt or specify what assets back up the borrowings.

"They need to come out with more disclosure as quickly as possible," said Jonathan Hatcher, an analyst at Strong Capital Management Inc., owner of Adelphia stock and bonds.

Adelphia, controlled by the Rigas family, has lost more than \$1.3 billion in market value since Wednes-

day, when the company revealed it was the guarantor of loans to family-owned partnerships including Highland Holdings. Highland, which analysts say owns cable assets and Adelphia shares, used some of the borrowed money to buy more stock.

Chairman and Chief Executive John Rigas said in a statement that Adelphia recognizes the "desire for greater clarity and transparency" and is "committed to providing it in a timely manner."

Adelphia asked the Securities and Exchange Commission for a 10-K filing extension, saying it's conducting an accounting review with outside auditor Deloitte & Touche. Highland Holdings acquired \$567.4 million in convertible shares from

Adelphia, the company revealed in an SEC filing in February.

Adelphia shares fell \$1.78 to \$13.12 on Nasdaq. The stock has declined 36% since Wednesday to its lowest price in more than four years.

The Rigas family's use of company-backed debt to finance the purchase of Adelphia shares may represent a conflict of interest, Morgan Stanley analyst Richard Bilotti wrote in a research report.

Excluding the \$2.3 billion in borrowings held by partnerships, Adelphia had debt of \$14.7 billion at the end of 2001. The company has disclosed it also may be liable for \$500 million in bank loans to a former telephone unit that filed for bankruptcy last week. ■



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Boston, Salt Lake Getting Net-Savvier

From Associated Press

Silicon Valley still rules, but an annual survey of America's most Internet-savvy cities found that Boston and Salt Lake City made huge strides over the last year.

Boston jumped 12 places to No. 4 in this year's survey, published in the May edition of Yahoo Internet Life magazine. Salt Lake City jumped 23 places to sixth, but the magazine said it could be a one-time spike caused by the recent Winter Olympics.

San Francisco, San Jose, and Austin, Texas, stayed in the top three spots, which they've held in all but one of the five surveys.

Don Willmott, the magazine's

technology editor, said the biggest news may be that numbers were up almost everywhere, despite the recession. It took a score of 36 out of 40 to win this year, up from 33.3.

"Everyone's getting better," Willmott said.

The magazine uses a formula that measures more than just Internet use and high-tech jobs to get a sense of which communities make the most of the Web. Willmott said that analysis includes basic stats, the extent to which businesses are online and how sophisticated the users are.

The formula also includes an evaluation of content available in the area, including a ranking of how well local government uses the Net.

That helped give Boston a boost.

"It really is one of the best city Web sites," Willmott said of www.cityofboston.gov.

Top-ranked San Francisco has the highest percentage of households using the Net (78.8%), is No. 2 in online spending per user (\$356) and in domains per 1,000 firms (4,163), and sixth in broadband use and interest (54.9%). The data is compiled from Forrester Research and Matthew Zook of the Internet Geography Project.

The magazine ranks 86 metropolitan areas. Seven of the top 21 areas are in California.

The bottom three this year were Tulsa, Okla., Scranton, Pa. and Gary, Ind. ■

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The Times Film Profit Report

This report is based on projections of total U.S. box-office gross from a consensus of industry sources and studio financial models. The U.S. and Canadian returns (about 55% of gross) represent only 20% of a film's final revenue, which includes overseas theatrical, video and TV income. The industry marketing average of \$30 million per film is factored into these profit equations, as is the revenue strength of specific film genres in foreign markets. Results for the weekend of March 29-31:

Highlights:

- "Panic Room" and "The Rookie" should be strong performers for Sony and Disney, respectively.
- "Clockstoppers" should at least break even for Paramount.
- Though Warner Bros. is on the hook only for half the budget of "Death of Smoochy," the film looks like a complete forfeit on its investment.

Movie title	Studio	Box-office rank	Estimated cost, in millions	Projected U.S. box-office receipts, in millions
Mega-Moneymakers (\$50 million or more in profit)				
The Lord of the Rings	New Line	12	\$100	\$305
Ice Age	Fox	2	60	175
A Beautiful Mind	Universal/DreamWorks	8	60	170
Moneymakers (\$10 million or more in profit)				
Panic Room	Sony	1	\$50	\$90
Blade II	New Line	4	50	75
The Rookie	Disney	3	22	55
E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial	Universal	6	5	36
Tossups (\$5 million or more in profit or loss)				
We Were Soldiers	Paramount/Icon	9	\$75	\$75
Resident Evil	Sony/Constantin	11	33	38
Clockstoppers	Paramount	5	26	30
Losers (less than \$5 million)				
Showtime	WB/Village Roadshow	10	\$85	\$40
Death of Smoochy	WB/Film4/Senator	7	55	12

—RICHARD NATALE

Notes: Cost estimates are for production only. Only half of box-office receipts come back to the studio. If you have information or comments about the chart, call (213) 237-2001 or send e-mail to company.town@latimes.com. Send faxes to (213) 237-7837.

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IN BRIEF Entertainment/Media**Jupiter Media Is Running Low on Money**

Jupiter Media Metrix, the technology analysis and Internet audience measurement firm, said Monday that it only has enough money to cover its operating expenses for the next few months. The firm also said that its auditor has questioned its viability.

In its annual report to the Securities and Exchange Commission, the New York-based company said it holds just \$7.5 million in cash and equivalents, along with \$1.4 million of marketable securities—enough to hold it until the middle of the second quarter.

Jupiter spokeswoman Susan Hickey said Jupiter has retained financial advisor **Robertson Stephens** Inc. to help it weigh survival options. Those options include seeking a strategic investor in the company and selling one or more of the company's four business units.

In trading Monday, Jupiter's stock slumped 5 cents, or 25%, to 15 cents per share.

Associated Press

Liberty Media Loss Widens to \$3.71 Billion

Liberty Media Corp., the cable-television company controlled by John Malone, said its fourth-quarter loss widened to \$3.71 billion after it wrote down the value of investments.

The loss was \$1.43 a share, compared with a loss of \$1.48 billion, or 57 cents, a year earlier, Liberty said

in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Liberty's sales rose 10% to \$521 million from \$473 million.

Englewood, Colo.-based Liberty took charges against earnings last year of \$4.1 billion to write down the value of its investments in other media companies, including AOL Time Warner Inc. and News Corp., the filing said. Advertising sales at those companies and their rivals declined last year as the U.S. economy slipped into recession.

Shares of Liberty Media rose 1 cent to \$12.65 on the New York Stock Exchange.

Bloomberg News

4Kids Profit Falls 74% as Pokemon Sales Drop

4Kids Entertainment Inc., which licenses children's products and television shows, said fourth-quarter profit fell 74% as revenue from Pokemon declined.

Net income fell to \$2.2 million, or 16 cents, from \$8.54 million, or 65 cents, in the year-earlier quarter. Sales fell 47% to \$10.2 million from \$19.2 million, the New York-based company said.

As popularity wanes for Pokemon products, 4Kids has been working with broadcasting companies to increase sales through the television show, which is the top-rated U.S. children's program, the company said. The company has agreements to supply Kids WBand Fox Broadcasting with Saturday morning programming.

CONTINUED »

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IN BRIEF Entertainment/Media

« CONTINUED

4Kids licenses Pokemon cartoon and video game products outside Asia and also is exclusive licensing agent of **Nintendo** Co.'s video games and characters outside Japan through 2005. The company also licenses the Cabbage Patch Kids products.

Shares of 4Kids fell \$1.87, or 9.4%, to \$18.05 on the NYSE.

Bloomberg News

MSNBC Seeks Return of Phil Donahue

MSNBC is courting Phil Donahue to return to television as the host of a topical prime-time hour.

Although the network would not comment on its search for new programming, a source close to the negotiations who spoke on condition of anonymity said Donahue wants to do it but a deal has not been reached.

MSNBC has been struggling in the ratings against its two cable news rivals, CNN and Fox News Channel. Donahue's daytime show was a pioneer in the field, and he won nine Daytime Emmy awards for best talk show host, the last in 1988. Oprah Winfrey's show overtook "Donahue" in the ratings in the early '90s, and production was stopped in 1996.

Associated Press

Qwest Says It May Face Charges Over Data

Qwest Communications International Inc. said it may be charged by federal securities regulators for allegedly failing to provide earnings

data in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Securities and Exchange Commission staff reviewed Qwest's fourth-quarter and full-year 2000 earnings news release, the seller of local and long-distance telephone services said in an SEC filing.

The release provided "pro forma normalized earnings information" that excluded certain costs related to Qwest's acquisition of US West Inc., the filing said. The release was issued Jan. 24, 2001. Qwest, which will have an opportunity to rebut the charge, said in the filing that it "believes that an action by the SEC would be without merit."

Qwest shares fell 22 cents to \$8 on the New York Stock Exchange.

Bloomberg News

Bam's Sales Much Lower Than Forecast

Bam Entertainment Inc., a San Jose video-game software developer that went public in November, said that third-quarter sales were dramatically lower than forecast, and that it has hired an advisor to help explore "strategic alternatives" including a sale. Sales in the quarter ended Sunday were about \$6.5 million to \$8.5 million, down from the company's forecast of \$18 million to \$20 million.

Bam blamed weak sales on delays in new products and lower-than-expected sales from new titles in the U.S. and Europe. Profit for the fiscal year ending June 30 is expected to be lower by an unspecified amount.

CONTINUED »

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IN BRIEF Entertainment/Media**« CONTINUED**

In January, the company said it expected to be profitable in the fourth quarter and to have sales of \$20 million to \$22million.

Bam, which makes games for the Nintendo 64 and Sony PlayStation consoles, expects to have a loss for the quarter when it reports final results in early May. The company said it hired the **Jefferies & Co.** investment banking firm, and that it is in preliminary discussions with several parties, without being specific. Bam shares fell \$1.61, or 34%, to \$3.09 on Nasdaq.

Bloomberg News

Williams Suspends Quarterly Dividends

Williams Communications Inc. said it was suspending quarterly stock dividend payments to cut expenses and was delaying some interest payments for 30 days.

Ernst & Young, the company's auditor, warned that if Williams is unable to restructure its balance sheet, lenders may take steps that could disrupt the telecommunications company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Ernst based its opinion statement on a notice filed by Williams' lenders that the company may be in default under the terms of its credit facility. Williams, which has been exploring the possibility of seeking Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, plans to take advantage of a 30-day grace period for interest payments of about \$91 million that were due Monday.

Associated Press

DoCoMo May Write Down Part of Investment

NTT DoCoMo Inc. may write down as much as half its \$10-billion investment in **AT & T Wireless Services** Inc. after the third-largest U.S. wireless company's shares fell by almost two-thirds, analysts said. AT & T Wireless shares ended last week at \$8.95, about 62% less than what DoCoMo paid for a 16% stake in 2000 and 2001.

DoCoMo President Keiji Tachikawa has said the world's largest mobile-phone operator would reassess its AT & T Wireless investment at the end of the company's fiscal year, which concluded Sunday.

AT & T Wireless may account for the bulk of DoCoMo's investment losses after the company spent almost \$15 billion on stakes in rival phone operators.

Bloomberg News

XM Satellite Beats Customer Forecast

XM Satellite Radio Holdings Inc. more than doubled its customers to 76,000 in the first quarter, exceeding its forecast by 6,000 subscribers. The company said it added more than 48,000 customers in the period ended Sunday.

XM, whose \$10 monthly service has 100 channels with fewer commercials than standard radio, said it is on target to have 350,000 customers by year's end.

XM shares fell 67 cents, to \$13.10 on Nasdaq. ■

Bloomberg News

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Techs Up, Blue Chips Slip on Mideast News

Wall St.: Upbeat economic reports send bond yields higher. Oil-related shares extend their recent rally.

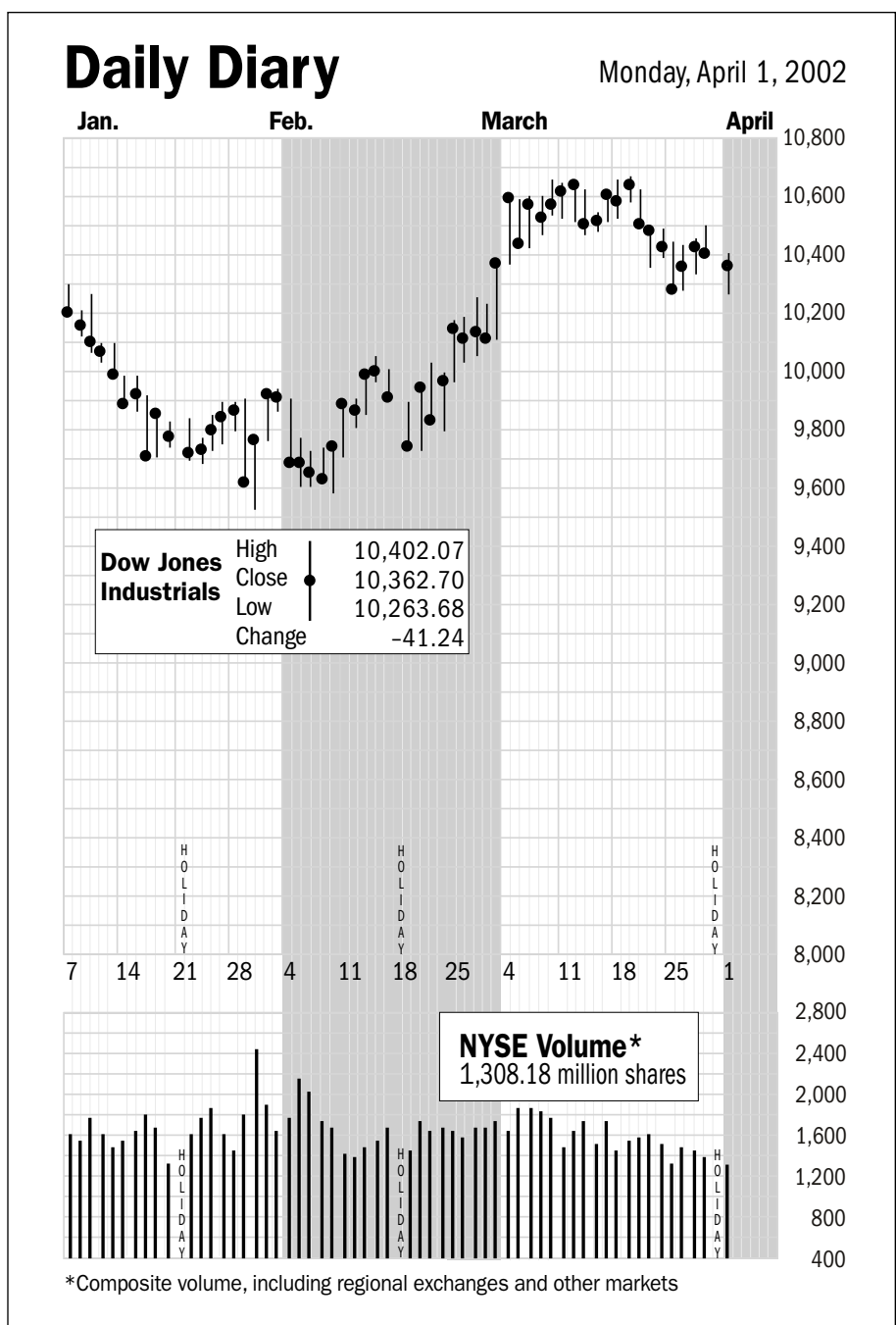
From Times Wire Reports

Continuing violence in the Middle East sent stock prices reeling early Monday, but a rebound in tech shares erased much of the losses. More positive economic signals also lifted the market off its lows.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 41.24 points, or 0.4%, at 10,362.70, recovering from an earlier drop of nearly 140 points.

Broader stock indicators were mixed. The Standard & Poor's 500 index was down 0.85 of a point, or 0.1%, at 1,146.54. The Nasdaq composite index rose 17.27 points, or 0.9%, to 1,862.62 as tech shares rose in late trading.

Losers led winners by about 7 to 6 on the New York Stock Exchange and by 5 to 4 on Nasdaq. Trading was light in the wake of the Easter and Passover holidays. Most European markets were closed for Easter Monday.



Los Angeles Times

Stocks started off sharply lower on concerns about rising tension between Israel and the Palestinians. But several major tech companies rebounded in the afternoon on growing sentiment that the sector was close to bottoming out.

"I think it was very impressive," Larry Rice, chief investment officer

at Fahnestock & Co., said of the afternoon comeback. "I don't want to play down the events of the Middle East, but our market turned in a very strong closing. I think there's some indication that the tech stocks are bottoming out."

Leading semiconductor maker

CONTINUED »

A: MAIN NEWS B: CALIFORNIA C: SPORTS D: BUSINESS E: STYLE

MARKETS

◀ CONTINUED

Intel rose 76 cents at \$31.17, **Cisco Systems** rose 59 cents to \$17.52, and **Sun Microsystems** gained 70 cents to \$9.52.

Investors originally brushed off reports released Monday morning that gave more positive signs about where the economy was heading. But by afternoon, the economic news appeared to be taking hold. The Institute for Supply Management said its index of business activity rose more than expected in March to 55.6. An index above 50 signifies growth in manufacturing.

And the Commerce Department said construction spending rose by a larger-than-expected 1.1% in February, its biggest jump in a year.

The upbeat economic news sent

bond yields higher. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note climbed from 5.39% last week to 5.43% Monday—its highest level since last May.

Two downgrades of widely held companies helped depress stock prices. Prudential Securities cut **Ford** to “sell” from “hold,” and Merrill Lynch cut **Wal-Mart** to “buy” from “strong buy.” Ford fell 76 cents to \$15.73. Wal-Mart was down \$1.74 at \$59.56.

In other highlights Monday:

Other retailers fell along with Wal-Mart. **Federated Department Stores**, which said recent sales were “not as strong as ... hoped,” was off \$1.54 at \$39.31, and **Sears Roebuck** fell \$1.02 to \$50.25. The S & P retail index lost 1.6%.

Oil-related shares extended their recent rally as traders bet Mideast

unrest could lead to a crimp in oil supplies. **Noble Drilling** rose 88 cents to \$42.27. France's **Total Fina Elf** gained \$1.13 to \$77.73 in U.S. trading. Oil futures rose 57 cents to \$26.88 a barrel in New York.

Among the biggest movers, **Digital River** tumbled \$7.71 to \$7.10—a loss of 52%—after the maker of e-commerce software said on Friday, when markets were closed, that quarterly earnings would be lower than forecast.

Gold held above \$300 an ounce, rising 60 cents to \$303.20 and boosting mining stocks such as **Newmont Mining**, up \$1.08 to \$28.77.

U.S.-listed shares of Israeli companies slumped, including **Koor Industries**, down 45 cents at \$4.40; **Check Point Software**, down 90 cents at \$29.50, and **Gilat Satellite**, down 20 cents at \$3.27. ■

BUSINESS TRENDS
NOVEMBER

THE IDEAL BLEND: COMPAQ & STARBUCKS

Partnership Will Create Breakthrough Wireless Customer Experience

Compaq and Starbucks have announced a five-year strategic relationship in which Compaq will provide the Starbucks coffee company's patented information technology infrastructure for its retail stores and corporate headquarters. Starbucks Coffee Company is the leading specialty coffee brand of specialty coffee in the world, with more than 4,800 stores worldwide and 50,000 employees. The two companies will work together to blend technology and lifestyle, thereby enhancing the Starbucks coffee experience.

Starbucks locations across North America, Compaq, a worldwide leader in mobile computing devices, has been named the internet access device provider for the wireless broadband network. In the future, Starbucks customers will be able to enjoy their favorite coffee beverages while accessing broadband content and services or downloading music through innovative Compaq wireless devices such as internet-enabled PDQ Pocket PC or their own wireless mobile devices.

Starbucks Executive Officer, Michael Capella, Compaq's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, said: "This alliance with Starbucks is strong evidence of our focus on deploying innovative products and solutions for our partners' success."

"This agreement allows us to take advantage of Compaq's incredible breadth and depth of technology and service offerings to continue to improve many aspects of our business," said Starbucks Executive Officer, Michael Capella.

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Wall St. Sees Dreary Spring for Retail Stocks

From Times Staff and Wire Reports

A major brokerage on Monday issued a downbeat view of retail stocks as two major retailers reported disappointing sales.

Retail stocks fell after Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc. predicted the end of the sector's 19-month-long bull market.

Adding to the industry's woes, key retailers **Wal-Mart Stores Inc.** and **Federated Department Stores Inc.** reported weaker-than-expected sales for the last week of March, prompting downgrades by several brokerages.

Several analysts predicted poor same-store sales for both March and April, a result of poor weather in much of the country in March and a calendar shift for April, which compares April sales this year with the period that a year ago included Easter buying.

Wal-Mart fell \$1.74 to \$59.56, and Federated lost \$1.54 to \$39.31, both on the New York Stock Exchange. The Standard & Poor's retail index lost 1.98%, its biggest one-day drop in about a month.

Merrill Lynch's advice to investors to reduce holdings of retail stocks came even as the brokerage has gotten more bullish on an economic recovery propelled by retailing.

But except for a few stellar sellers, such as **Kohl's Corp.**, and turnaround stories, such as **J.C. Penney Co.**, analysts at Merrill and other brokerages say an economic turn-

around probably means that profits in the industrial sector, which have lagged in the last two years, soon will outpace those of retailers.

Rather than leading the market as they have been, Merrill analysts said, retail stocks could match the slight gains predicted for the rest of the market.

"The party's over, go home," said Angela Kohler, portfolio manager at Federated Investment Management, which has about \$180 billion in assets. "There are probably better places to park your money than retail."

The S & P retail index, which through last week had soared 43% from its Sept. 21 low, now trades for about 27 times estimated earnings, compared with 22 times for the S & P 500. That made it just a matter of time before the shine began to wear off retail stocks, analysts said.

To that extent, Merrill's downgrade wasn't a surprise for many analysts. "It was time for someone to say it out loud, and they did it," said Kohler, who's been trimming her fund's retail holdings in the last three months.

Merrill's chief economist, Bruce Steinberg, said the U.S. economy is exceeding "even our optimistic expectations." He expects gross domestic product to rise 3.2% this year, about half a percentage point higher than his prior forecast. Merrill cut its rating on the retail industry to "average weight" from "overweight." ■

Bloomberg News was used in compiling this report.

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Stock Market Barometers

Fundamental and technical indicators of the market's health

Key indexes versus their 50-day and 200-day moving averages: A stock index's moving averages indicate the basic trend, up or down. It is generally bullish if the index stays above the averages.

Price-to-earnings ratio of S&P 500: 25.4*
Based on estimated operating earnings per share for 2001; average since 1923: 13.5

Dividend yield of S&P 500: 1.37%
Average dividend yield of blue-chip stocks; average since 1923: 4.5%

Weekly new highs versus new lows on the NYSE: 328/145
Data for the week ended Friday. More highs indicate a bullish trend.

Investment newsletter sentiment:
Stocks' near-term trend as predicted by 135 independent investment newsletters, weekly survey by Investors Intelligence.

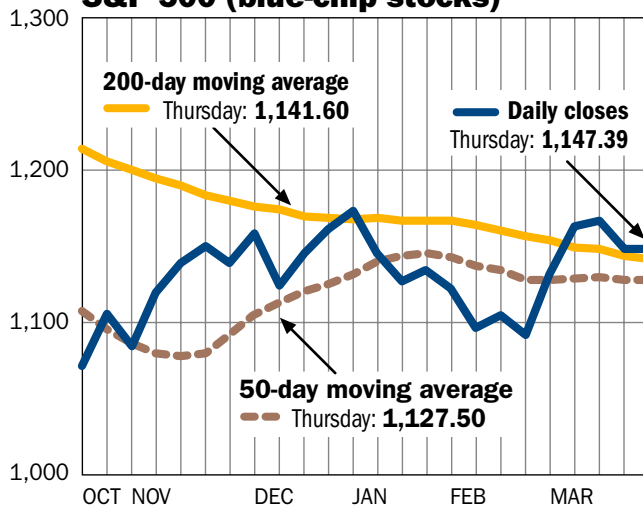
	Mar 22	Thurs
Bullish	52.1%	51.6%
Bearish	28.7	29.7
Correction	19.2	18.7

The data are often viewed as a contrarian indicator: A rising percentage of bulls can signal a topping market. Newsletters in the "correction" camp expect a near-term market pullback of 10% or less.

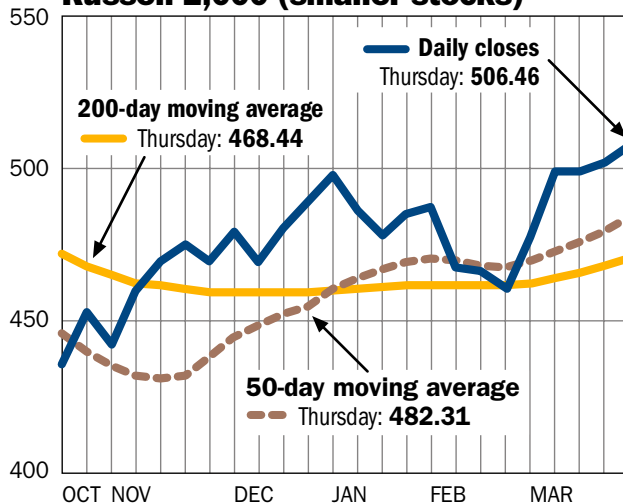
*The P/E is calculated based on estimated operating earnings for 2001. The 2001 earnings estimate used is from brokerage A.G. Edwards & Sons.

Sources: Bloomberg News, A.G. Edwards & Sons. More information can be found at www.agedwards.com.

S&P 500 (blue-chip stocks)



Russell 2,000 (smaller stocks)



Los Angeles Times

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A: MAIN NEWS
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Latest Economic Reports Suggest Robust Recovery

Growth: Analysts say spurts in manufacturing and construction spending signal revival's staying power.

From Reuters

U.S. manufacturing rose in March as firms boosted production to meet the strongest demand in nearly 15 years while construction spending jumped in February, two separate reports said Monday, bolstering forecasts for robust first-quarter economic growth.

The Institute for Supply Management's monthly purchasing managers' index rose in March to 55.6, the highest level since February 2000 and its second straight month of growth.

That was up from 54.7 in February and beat forecasts for the index to remain unchanged.

Through January this year the manufacturing sector, which makes up one-sixth of U.S. economic activity, suffered an 18-month contraction, its worst since the 1990-91 recession.

"The manufacturing sector is coming back very nicely," said Alan Ruskin, research director at 4Cast Ltd., an economic consultancy.

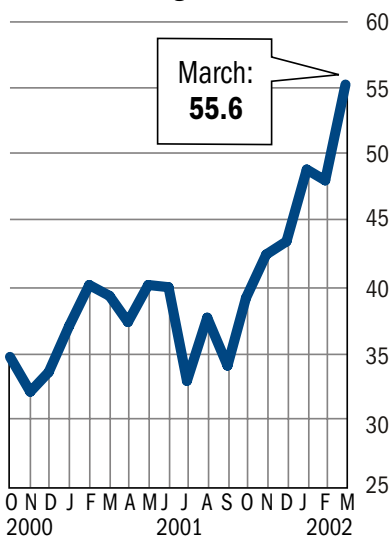
Any figure above 50 in the index suggests growth; a reading below 50 indicates declining activity.

Despite the rise in activity, the

Business Improving

Purchasing managers index of business activities.

An index above 50 signifies growth in manufacturing.

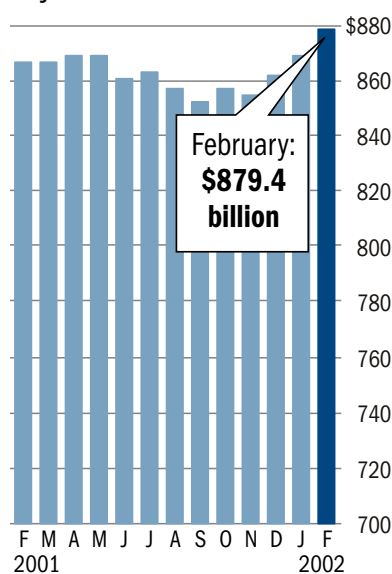


Source: Bloomberg News

Los Angeles Times

Construction Spending

In billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted.



Source: Bloomberg News

Los Angeles Times

ISM report also indicated that factories were continuing to shed employees as they have since mid-2000, while prices spiked higher after the recent run-up in commodity prices to eight-month peaks.

Firms slashing inventories at a record pace helped to shove the economy into recession starting in March last year.

But with shelves now nearly bare and demand solid, factories have had to boost production to restock goods this year, giving economic growth a hefty kick.

A separate report from the Com-

merce Department said construction spending jumped 1.1% in February—the strongest pace since February 2001—in a report that showed the building and housing sectors remain solid because of low interest rates and lean supply of new homes.

The value of new construction in the United States rose to \$879.4 billion in February from a downwardly revised \$869.7 billion in January, the Commerce Department said. Construction spending climbed 1.2% over February 2001. ■



Style

ART, MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT

A: MAIN NEWS

B: CALIFORNIA

C: SPORTS

D: BUSINESS

E: STYLE



LUIS SINCO / Los Angeles Times

The Music Is the Message

By BRONWYN GARRITY

Leila Steinberg, an unlikely ambassador of hip-hop, informs and inspires at high schools, detention centers and foster homes. »

Museum Considers 5 Design Firms

Architecture

By NICOLAI OUROUSSOFF

Leaders of the natural history institution in Exposition Park plan a renovation of up to \$300 million. »

Patrick Goldstein THE BIG PICTURE

Earning the Right to Shout, 'Action!'

Many things have changed since John Ford's heyday, but this much remains the same: First-time directors are still learning lessons you can't pick up in film school. »

A Stage Seduction, Their Own Way

Theater

By BLAKE GREEN

'Graduate' cast hopes a Broadway rendition stands apart from the 1967 film. Kathleen Turner is every bit the sultry-voiced siren of legend. »



ARI MINTZ / Newsday

INSIDE

City of Angles
Crossword Puzzle

E2
E6



City of Angles

BY GINA PICCALO AND LOUIS ROUG



GINA FERAZZI / Los Angeles Times

Smashing Images

Eddie Izzard's real passion is dramatic acting, but making the transition from stand-up comedy isn't easy. »

Connick as Inventor »

Lamponing Hef »



Photos by LAWRENCE K. HO / Los Angeles Times

Where Does It All Go?

First Person

By SUSAN CARPENTER

Following a recycling truck's route turns up truths about L.A.'s trash. »



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'Bull Durham': Once and Always Original

Movies

By SUSAN KING

Director Ron Shelton lets his baseball comedy starring Kevin Costner stand as is for its re-release on a special-edition DVD. Still, he has a few stories to tell. »



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RON HOWARD

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BEST SCREENPLAY
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RUSSELL CROWE

A RON HOWARD FILM

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KEN HIVELY / Los Angeles Times

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By LESLEE KOMAIKO

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LUIS SINCO / Los Angeles Times

“One artist can have more impact on an entire school than all the academic classes put together,” says Leila Steinberg, who mentors musicians.

The Music Is the Message

By **BRONWYN GARRITY**
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

At Crenshaw High School, the students boo before Leila Steinberg gets a chance to greet them. When she goes downtown to a group home for troubled teens, they kick aside their chairs and yell, in not so many words, that they aren't up for any empty talk. At Beverly Hills High, they just yawn.

Steinberg, 40, is used to ruthless adolescent judgment—she faces it weekly as the founder of Assemblies in Motion, a nonprofit organization of hip-hop artists who perform at socially minded assemblies for

Leila Steinberg, an unlikely ambassador of hip-hop, informs and inspires at high schools, detention centers and foster homes.

high schools, detention centers and foster homes. Steinberg confesses that being a white Jewish mother can undermine her image as a force in rap. But she also points out that her fair complexion and last name made helping launch the careers of early hip-hop stars, including Mac Mall and the late Tupac Shakur, possible. “Doors were opened to me [in the record industry] that were

still closed to them because they were black.” The kids in the audience sit up a little straighter.

Steinberg grew up in Watts and is herself an artist who once performed with world music greats OJ Ekemode and the Nigerian Allstars. She ultimately decided to focus not on performing, but on raising art out of the inner cities and, then, taking it back in—as education. “We have really failed children in the school system [by undervaluing the arts],” she says, preferring to emulate a time in human history when art was used to educate, to connect, to reform, to

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STEINBERG

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vent and to document. "One artist can have more impact on an entire school system than all the academic classes put together, but there are no educators for artists and artists don't understand that they're educators." She believes it is high time to call on today's performers to be teachers, voices and tools of social change.

To this end, Steinberg, who relocated her family and work to Los Angeles from the Bay Area less than a year ago, runs an ecosystem of projects, including Moses Soul (a record label and film production company), the Microphone Sessions (a raucous Monday night performance workshop) and Assemblies in Motion (the education-oriented top of Steinberg's food chain).

Benefiting from any cash flowing out of Moses Soul, Assemblies in Motion also pulls the best talent from the open-to-the-public Microphone Sessions, held at legendary Studio 56 in Hollywood, where Elvis Presley, Billie Holiday, Charlie Parker, Ella Fitzgerald and John Coltrane all recorded soundtracks.

As it happens, the current members of Assemblies in Motion—or AIM, as it is most often called—still attend the workshops, perfecting new pieces in front of the mostly black inner-city adults who are themselves present to work on their own poetry and music. This week, Steinberg, in collaboration with Quincy Jones and his son, Quincy D. Jones III, will see the DVD release of "Thug Angel: The Life of an Outlaw," a documentary about Shakur, with whom Steinberg worked in the Bay Area's Microphone Sessions and AIM projects of the

'80s. Steinberg also was executive producer with Tracy Robinson and Jones III on the film's soundtrack, to be released in May.

It was as one of the only white kids in '70s Watts that Steinberg recalls discerning her privilege. "I always understood that I could very easily get away with anything; the other kids asked me to do things for them, to get people's attention because they couldn't." In the early '80s, she and her then-husband Bruce Crawford, a prominent black DJ from Los Angeles, moved to Sonoma, where she found work as the artistic director of the Petaluma Cultural Center. On the side, Steinberg organized her husband's musical events and concerts.

With her love of world music and his of rap, the duo became well-known in the Bay Area for hosting some of the most rousing concerts of the time, with thousands of revelers trudging in from all over to check out the unusual combination of African, reggae, rap, rock and world music. "We had thousands of kids at the events, so I knew what I could do in terms of bridging cultures and communities and aligning artists." Pretty soon, she also had the biggest names in hip-hop headlining, including New Kids on the Block, Tone Loc, Digital Underground and Egyptian Lover. But Steinberg always made room on the stage for talented unknowns.

In producing the shows, Steinberg saw the tremendous power and political potential of rap. She set out to create a multicultural performance company that would combine poetry, rap, hip-hop and dance that were also relevant social statements, "so that people would walk away transformed," she says.

Whether it was her agenda or their own, artists turned out by the hundreds to her weekly tryouts. Word on the street at the time was that if you wanted a record deal, you had to meet this "white girl of hip-hop." Not only did she produce huge events with big stars, she was rumored to know everyone in the industry, and to be able to get in the doors of record companies. The influx of people desiring a chance on the tryout stage never ebbed, however, and Steinberg realized that it was in itself a movement. Thus began the Microphone Sessions.

A Chance Meeting Leads to a Partnership

Somewhere in the same city, a young artist named Tupac Shakur heard the rumors about Steinberg and set out to find her. But, the afternoon in 1986 that he met her, he was not thinking about music. She was a white woman sitting on the grass outside Bayside Elementary School in Marin County, quietly reading a book about Winnie Mandela, and, Shakur, on a school-time ramble about town, stopped in his tracks to scold her.

"Give me a break," he said. "What do you know about Winnie Mandela?" Steinberg, who taught an art class at Bayside, said she would be able to tell him something, but not until she'd finished the book. But Shakur, who was a prolific reader, proceeded to grill her—until he was impressed enough by her grasp of black culture to ask for her name. When he learned it, he laughed at destiny. He'd found his mentor.

So, it turns out, had Steinberg. At only 16, Shakur was already cele-

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STEINBERG

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brated on the street for his explosive and articulate talent. Friends who had seen him perform reported that the boy's gift for writing and captivating audiences was just what her group needed. Indeed, the evening of their first meeting, Shakur accompanied Steinberg to the Microphone Sessions. Soon after, the two launched AIM, performing at one crammed Bay Area high school assembly after another. As their work with high school audiences progressed, Steinberg distanced herself more and more from the concerts on which she'd worked so hard. Her priority now was AIM—and helping Shakur find his place in the world.

“What made Tupac special was the fact that he put his soul on the

record. There are very few artists who give it up like that anymore,” says Jones III. “I think [Steinberg] taught him how to do that, how to not be afraid to say who he was.”

Steinberg's role in the young artist's life was pivotal, says Shakur's mother: “We are all indebted to Leila, Tupac's first manager and adult friend, for her integrity in looking after the safety of [his] work,” says Afeni Shakur.

When Steinberg recounts the story of how she and Tupac Shakur met, her teen audience at an AIM assembly at Beverly High settle, finally, into their seats. Steinberg laughs, knowing that while the ice is breaking, the kids still aren't convinced that she can entertain them. “But once I bring my artists out, every one of these kids transforms,” she says. “Whether they're white,

black, in jail or in Malibu, young people respond to music.”

Out slides Kumasi, the handsome black schoolteacher and Islamic fundamentalist who raps in a smooth voice about life in the streets. “I'm a soldier,” he intones, “in the war of life.... Where are the captains? We're losing men....”

Then, Javā, an actor in the recent film “Baby Boy” and the one expected to make it big for his brilliant writing and acting talents. There's Hope, whose voice stirs goose bumps, and Fatsō, who wrote a song about his mother's crack addiction and his life without a role model. When the kids see Mō, they giggle and point—he plays a character on the television show “Boston Public.” GaKnew, for whom the kids stand up and cheer, closes with a story

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about forgiving white people for the historical treatment of blacks, and about being an American.

Steinberg was right: The audience is rapt.

At Beverly, students rush the stage to slap hands, hug and get autographs.

At Crenshaw, hecklers are moved to tears.

At a group home for troubled teens, boys stay an extra two hours to talk politics and social issues.

But Steinberg's theme of music and transformation has been important for the young artists as well as for the teen spectators. As AIM members, GaKnew and the others were culled from the large, regular crowd that attends the Microphone Sessions.

The Microphone Sessions, as the classes became known in the Bay Area because of Steinberg's mandate to "get up to the stage" and perform, are composed mostly of young African Americans from the inner city. While many are now successful actors, producers and publicists, many more have histories as drug addicts and dealers, gang members and felons. Many tell stories about addicted mothers. Steinberg, who has been a foster parent—officially or informally—to more than 15 kids in the last 10 years, has heard it all, and encourages her artists to write about those experiences. There is no censorship in her sessions, and no rules except honesty.

Discussion About Current Events

On a Monday night at the Microphone Sessions, Steinberg perches on a large speaker near the stage

inside Studio 56. She opens the evening with a discussion about current events, and then asks for volunteers to perform. No one moves.

"What's up, Fatsō?" Steinberg calls out. "Come up here, please."

The young man, who is confident on stage at AIM assemblies, seems suddenly self-conscious. "I don't got anything tonight, Leila." He waits with his head down.

"Yes, you do. You're up. Get up there." Steinberg points to the stage. The class, reclining in chairs and couches scattered about the room, watches intently.

"Send it!" cries a woman moving into his abandoned hiding place. There is laughter at the familiar blessing.

"I'm Fatsō. Fatsō Fasano," he declares, all coolness now. "This is to you, little brother," he says, nodding to a 16-year-old near Steinberg. The boy has just told the class he's going to be the father of twins.

Fatsō explains that he wrote the song for his friend Hope to sing, but she's not here tonight. Fatsō goes for it himself, but Steinberg stops him and sends another artist, Molly, to the stage. Although she has never seen the lyrics, she leans in, her voice wavering at first and then rising, booming out into the room.

Fatsō and other AIM members often attend both the Microphone Sessions and once- or twice-weekly assemblies, work Steinberg considers crucial to the artists'—and society's—growth.

"They want to be stars, of course," she says of her artists. They know she can help them with record deals when the time comes, but her plan is to make sure they are giving back to the community before then.

Fatsō, a former hustler, says that "working with Leila inspired me to make a difference and help change the world, to be a part of the solution instead of the problem."

Being socially responsible isn't always financially easy. It costs money to put on AIM assemblies, even though the artists perform free. To keep AIM going, Steinberg pours money earned from Moses Soul into her workshops and the early careers of her artists. Additionally, Paul Schwartz donates the use of Studio 56 because, he says, he believes in the art that springs from the sessions.

At the end of her high school assemblies, Steinberg usually opens a forum for free discussion—about race, political issues and society. For a person to be truly powerful, she says, as an artist or otherwise, she must be articulate, well-read and understand the strength and meaning of what she is saying. "The more you look at [history] through the music of the times, the more you understand what was going on. Textbooks tell us what the government thought. Music tells us about the people."

Steinberg talks of a final and important lesson—ironically, one Shakur never learned before his death in Las Vegas in 1996: the need for artists to believe in the power of their words.

"Pac talked a lot about death in his songs," she recalls. "A lot of people believed that he was foreseeing his death rather than creating it." His words had power that he didn't respect, she says. "Pac wrote himself out of his script. He didn't understand the real power of what he was saying." ■

Museum Considers 5 Design Firms

Architecture • Leaders of the natural history institution in Exposition Park plan a renovation of up to \$300 million.

By **NICOLAI OUROUSSOFF**
TIMES STAFF WRITER

The board of trustees of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County has selected five candidates to design a \$200-million to \$300-million renovation of the museum's Exposition Park complex.

The firms are David Chipperfield Architects, and Foster and Partners, both of London; the Swiss-based Herzog & de Meuron; New York's Steven Holl Architects; and Boston's Machada and Silveti Associates.

Jane Pisano, president and director of the Natural History Museum, told The Times that museum officials will meet with the architects in May, with a final selection due this summer. A capital campaign to pay for the renovation will begin in June 2003, and construction is scheduled for 2006.

The 89-year-old museum, devoted to cultural and natural history, had been considering relocating from its 14-acre site overlooking the Rose Garden in Exposition Park, one of the oldest civic centers in the city. Instead, the trustees decided in 2001 to remain in the park and to preserve the museum's original 1913 structure, as well as a neoclassical foyer, dating from the 1920s, with flanking diorama halls.

The rest of the 410,000-square-foot complex will be demolished or significantly redesigned, including the 1960



ANACLETO RAPPING / Los Angeles Times

“We want a more iconic architecture—something that will be a magnet to the Exposition Park area,” says museum leader Jane Pisano.

Delacour Auditorium; a three-story, 46,000-square-foot addition built in the 1970s; and the entire south facade, which was part of a 1924-1930 addition that was never completed.

“We want a more iconic architecture—something that will be a magnet to the Exposition Park area,” Pisano said. “All of these architects are capable of that. The existing additions weren't done in a way that was sensitive to the original structure, and we have an opportunity to have an architecture that relates better to its context, to make a more inside-outside experience with the parks.”

Another part of the redesign's aim, Pisano said, will be to open up more of the museum's curatorial and research functions to public view. It will also allow for updat-

ing of exhibitions and the creation of an on-site storage area for the museum's collection.

The museum project is part of a broader redevelopment effort in Exposition Park, which is located just south of downtown in a mostly low-income neighborhood adjacent to USC. Across the Rose Garden, plans are underway to transform the 1926 Armory Building into a Science Education Resources Center with an adjoining elementary school designed by the Santa Monica-based architectural firm Morphosis.

The California Science Center, designed by Zimmer Gunsul Frasca, opened in 1998; Frank Gehry's 1984 aerospace museum, which has just undergone an extensive renovation, reopened last month. And the Cali-

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MUSEUM

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California African American Museum is scheduled to reopen this fall after a \$3-million refurbishing.

As recently as last year, museum officials considered a move to a county-owned site on Grand Avenue opposite the Walt Disney Concert Hall, now under construction. But the museum decided not to abandon its historic roots, said Pisano. "Exposition Park is common ground," she said. "We felt strongly that the institution has an important role to play in bridging economic and cultural divides in the city."

The architects now under consideration were selected from a field of 70. Each has an international reputation and has played a role in the boom in museum design in recent

years. Steven Holl was one of five architects who participated in last year's competition to redesign the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. He is the architect of the Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, which opened in Helsinki, Finland, in 1999. Herzog & de Meuron's Tate Modern in London opened in 2000. Norman Foster, the lead architect of Foster and Partners, renovated the British Museum's Great Court, which also opened in 2000. He is designing a major addition for Boston's Museum of Fine Arts. David Chipperfield is working on the design for the renovation of Berlin's Neues Museum and an arts center in Verona, Italy. Machado and Silvetti's design for the renovation and expansion of the Getty Villa in Malibu was completed in 1998, although its construction has been

stalled by lawsuits brought by the surrounding community.

As part of the final selection process for the Natural History Museum, the architects will present relevant past projects and discuss general strategies for a redesign. They are not being asked to present specific designs for the project, as they would in an architectural competition. Nor do museum officials have plans to visit any of the architects' existing buildings—such tours have also become a common feature of the selection process at major cultural institutions.

"We want to pick an architect, someone who'll be our partner," Pisano said of the interview process. "Not a design." ■



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Earning the Right to Shout, 'Action!'

Years ago, when film editor Robert Parrish wanted a tutorial in how to direct movies, he paid a visit to the legendary John Ford on the set of "The Grapes of Wrath." Parrish found Ford looking through a hefty device called a finder, trying to decide where to set up the camera for his next shot. Ford eventually waved Parrish over. It was time for a lesson in the art of directorial command.

To hear Ford tell it, if 9:30 a.m. arrived and you hadn't gotten your first shot of the day, the studio would send out a producer-spy to check up on things. "He won't come right up to you and tell you to get off your [rear]," Ford explained. "He'll slink up to you like a sidewinder and say, 'How's it going?' As soon as the son of a [gun] speaks, and you're sure he's in the right spot, you swing the finder around hard, like this."

Without hesitation, the director swiveled and cracked Parrish on the noggin with the finder. Blood flowed, but Ford offered no apology. "After you've been at it a few years," he said without looking up, "you'll discover that your aim will improve and you can knock off two or three producers a week with your eyes closed."

Many things about Hollywood have changed since Ford's heyday, but this much remains the same:

First-time directors are still learning lessons you can't pick up in film school. Just ask John Lee Hancock, who made his directorial debut over the weekend with "The Rookie," a Disney film that stars Dennis Quaid as a Texas high school baseball coach who gets a second chance at living out his dream of making it to the major leagues. The film has won a raft of critical plaudits for its lyricism and quiet authenticity, and it took in \$16 million at the box office.

As the screenwriter of two films directed by Clint Eastwood, "A Perfect World" and "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," Hancock got to study at the feet of an old master too. A man of few words, Eastwood didn't offer Hancock any long-winded lectures about filmmaking.


"With Clint, you learn by watching," says Hancock, a native Texan-turned-Angelino who still drives a 1995 Ford pickup truck. "John Cusack [who co-starred in "Good and Evil"] calls him the Zen Daddy. He has this great calming influence on everybody, because he knows what he wants. I sometimes wondered to myself why he would shoot something one way and not another, but then you'd see the shot in dailies and you'd go, 'Oh, I get it.'"

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GOLDSTEIN

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Everybody, it seems, dreams of being a Hollywood director these days. And the fantasy cuts both ways—studio executives are on the prowl for the next Steven Soderbergh or Paul Thomas Anderson. “There’s no greater bond than being the first person to believe in someone,” says Disney production chief Nina Jacobson, who helped Hancock get his directing job. “It’s a relationship you hope will last over an entire career.”

A lucky few phenoms make an instant impact. Actor Todd Field earned a best director Oscar nomination this year for his first effort, “In the Bedroom.” Music video director McG made a splashy debut in 2000 with “Charlie’s Angels,” as did British theater director Stephen Daldry, who earned raves for his first film, “Billy Elliot.” British theater director Sam Mendes (“American Beauty” [1999]) and video director Spike Jonze (“Being John Malkovich” [1999]) landed best director nominations for their rookie efforts, with Mendes winning the Oscar.

Studios are tantalized for other reasons: First-timers work cheap, can be put under “option” contracts for a second or third film and are full of youthful energy. “They have a hunger that can make up for a lack of experience,” says DreamWorks production chief Michael De Luca, who discovered such directors as Brett Ratner and the Hughes brothers. “With established directors, you’re always having to tell them why they should do the movie. With first-timers, they’re usually saying,

‘I’ll die if you don’t let me direct the movie.’”

Of course, just as many rookies crash ‘n’ burn as go on to stardom. The whole appeal of “Project Greenlight” was watching first-time director Pete Jones being fed to the sharks. Tony Kaye was a hot commercial director when De Luca hired him to make “American History X.” But Kaye ended up in a messy brawl with New Line Cinema and disowned the movie after the studio allowed actor Edward Norton to reedit the picture. Hollywood loves hiring flashy commercial directors, but they are as likely to fail as a writer or actor making the transition to directing features. Good movies rely on more than just striking images. They require a director with storytelling skill, rapport with actors and the ability to establish a consistent tone.

“In videos, you get accustomed to focusing all on style,” says Peter Care, a respected video and commercial director whose debut film, “The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys,” is due out in June. “But doing a movie, it’s more about how do I get the feeling and emotion right?”

Coping with intense pressure is another challenge. Hancock tried to relax by organizing lunchtime baseball games on the set. Care began meditating and chanting before going to work. Actor Billy Morrissette, who made his debut this year directing “Scotland PA.,” a comic version of “Macbeth” set in a 1970s burger joint, found himself lying down on the set’s restaurant counter between takes, trying to collect himself.


“I felt like George W. Bush on his

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first day on the new job, with everyone staring at me, saying, 'What's next, sir?'" he recalls. "I was sweaty, I didn't sleep, my stomach was in knots. I even said, 'Action!' at the wrong time. It took about a week before I was breathing normally."

Hancock says his adjustment wasn't quite so difficult, but at 45, he's had nearly 20 years of experience, having worked as a production assistant, a script reader, TV producer and actor—he once did a Kirin beer commercial with the unlikely duo of Gene Hackman and Shannon Tweed. Hancock says his stint as a producer of two short-lived CBS dramas, "L.A. Doctors" and "Falcone," proved invaluable. "As a producer, I was in the editing room, trying to fix any problems we had, so I really noticed who'd come in with a well-conceived battle plan and avoided painting themselves in a corner."

"L.A. Doctors" star Ken Olin, a veteran director himself, offered especially useful advice. When writers create a scene, Olin told Hancock, they often have a key image that resonates in their mind. "You need to find that same image as a director, and even if you can't explain to everybody why you need it, make sure you get it on film, because that's the image that will always be in the final cut of the movie."

In "The Rookie," when Quaid begins his comeback attempt, we see him on the mound, pitching to a catcher crouched behind home plate. "I put the camera way back behind first base, so the pitcher's on one

side and the catcher's on the other, with this big puffy Texas sky behind them," Hancock recalls. "That was my key image. When I auditioned for the job, I told the Disney executives I wanted 'The Rookie' to look like a baseball movie shot by John Ford. It wasn't just a pretty shot. It was emblematic of this little man in a great big world."

Before filming began, Hancock screened Peter Bogdanovich's "The Last Picture Show" so all of the non-Texans on his crew could see what Texas really looked like.

"It's the first film I saw being made, and it's so great that I wanted people to at least know that I was setting my sights high."

Hancock wasn't nervous about pitching himself to Disney because the film's producer, Mark Johnson, who'd worked with Hancock on many previous projects, had told him the studio wanted a more experienced director. "So I felt free to speak my mind," Hancock says.

Driving home from his meeting, he was surprised to get a call from Johnson, who told him, "I hope you're serious about directing because you just got the job." Hancock was elated.


Then he remembered that he'd been so overwhelmed by the frantic pace of events that he'd neglected to tell his wife, Holly, who'd just given birth to twins, about the audition. "When I got home, I said kind of sheepishly, 'I think I'm directing a movie.' And my wife said, 'Really? How did that happen?'" ■

"The Big Picture" runs each Tuesday. If you have questions, ideas or criticism, e-mail them to patrick.goldstein@latimes.com.



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A Stage Seduction, Their Own Way

Theater • ‘Graduate’ cast hopes a Broadway rendition stands apart from the 1967 film.

By **BLAKE GREEN**
NEWSDAY

NEW YORK—The clock’s hands are making their straight-up, high-noon salute as Kathleen Turner, every bit the sultry-voiced siren of legend, saunters into the Cafe des Artistes, air-announcing, “I’m always on time. The others are not.”

One of those others, Jason Biggs, dark-haired and still very much the charming and slightly naive goof of his film image (“American Pie”) comes along shortly. His watch is losing time; he needs a recommendation for a jeweler in the vicinity of the Upper West Side subplot he’s taken for the duration of “The Graduate” on Broadway.

Turner—“an uptown girl,” she calls herself—is full of advice. And not the kind that her character, the older woman, Mrs. Robinson, notoriously dispenses in the iconic tale of her seduction of a younger man: Benjamin, played by Biggs.

Alicia Silverstone, as daughter Elaine Robinson, destined to muck up that relationship, is the final member of this trio of movie stars-come-to-the-theater in yet another stage adaptation of a film.

At the moment, Silverstone’s reportedly stuck in traffic, but eventually she appears, blond hair tousled, wondering if—perhaps a throwback to “Clueless,” her 1995



ARI MINTZ / Newsday

Jason Biggs, Alicia Silverstone and Katherine Turner will star in “The Graduate,” opening Thursday at the Plymouth Theatre.

hit movie—“I should get an alarm clock?” Turner has a thing she does with her eyebrows. Just saying “arching” doesn’t do it justice.

Turner was up before dawn appearing on “Today” to promote the play, which, after a three-city, out-of-town tryout and a couple of weeks of previews here, opens Thursday at the Plymouth Theatre.

Ask her how much she identifies with Mrs. Robinson, and Turner insists that, personally, younger men aren’t that much of a turn-on. “Unless you count my husband [real estate developer Jay Weiss], who’s a year younger than I am.

“You’ve got to love the bods, but no, there’s not a lot of conversation,” she

observes, a line that could be straight out of the “Graduate” script—“Conversation? Why?” is Mrs. Robinson’s bored reply to Benjamin’s attempts to chat.

It’s also the inspiration for banter between the two stars: Biggs, who takes delight in pointing out Turner’s archaic exclamations—“My stars!,” “Heavens to Betsy!”—immediately wants to know, “Are you going to ask me about how I feel about older women? Well, among other things, you’ve got to love their conversation!” Turner’s response is a head-back, toothy, mouth-wide howl of delight.

As lunch progresses, Turner massages her arms beneath the blue

CONTINUED >>

GRADUATE

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wool sweater that matches her eyes.

"I work out a lot," she explains. And of course she does, not just for her arthritic condition (which, because of new medications she touts, is in remission) but because there's that now-famous nude scene in the play's first act: In the process of seducing Benjamin, Mrs. Robinson drops her towel and is completely starkers. The audience always gasps.

Turner admits it's a vanity thing keeping that discreetly lit, fleeting image one that titillates, rather than causes pity.

Turner says she required convincing by director Terry Johnson that the nudity "was right for the play and the character. I mean, who the hell wants to do this? And it's a small theater."

Turner and Biggs, who spends a lot of time on stage in his briefs, say they pass each other en route to the gym. "I was about 20 pounds heavier for 'American Pie,'" he says, "lost it, then put it back on two years later for 'American Pie 2,' then decided I was going to get in the best shape of my life."

"Alicia," says Turner, "is the lazy one," and the younger actress sheepishly nods her head as she says, "I just don't have any time. I made out a list of priorities, and sleep is No. 1."

Silverstone has her own production company and last year began producing "Braceface," an animated series for cable television's ABC Family channel.

As the only holdover from the original London cast, Turner is the one who's been dealing longest with the inevitable comparisons

to the 1967 movie of "The Graduate," a generational touchstone that starred Anne Bancroft (who's on record as not being enthusiastic about this venture), Dustin Hoffman and Katharine Ross.

"Oh, sure, we benefit from the reputation of the film," she says. "And there are similar moments. You can tell from the audience's reaction that we've hit upon a memory," she continues—such as knowing laughter at the one-word career advice—"plastics"—passed along to the recent college grad Benjamin. "But I like to think they're able to separate us and our interpretation from the film.

"Frankly, I want to do it my way. I haven't seen the film in 20 years, so there's nothing lingering, no place where I feel I'm trespassing or borrowing from. Mine is the only Mrs. Robinson I know."

Re-creating Mrs. Robinson on this side of the Atlantic "did give me pause," says Turner, a native of Missouri who grew up wherever on the globe her diplomat father's career took him. "Been there, done that kind of thing."

She did the show in London for just under six months, then began touring in the States in the title role of "Tallulah," as in Bankhead. But she hadn't been on Broadway since 1995's "Indiscretions," and in her most recent film she played an uncharacteristically dowdy character in "The Virgin Suicides" (2000).

She decided it would be nice to play her glamorous, vampish self as well as be home with her family. Biggs and Silverstone weren't born when the movie "The Graduate" came out. Biggs, a New Jersey native who began working at age 5 as a model, says he'd long been searching for another stage vehicle

(his previous stage turn was on Broadway in 1991's "Conversations With My Father").

When the project was announced, he pursued the part and was excited at 23 "to step into a role [Hoffman] had made so famous. It's an amazing character, certainly my biggest challenge."

When "The Graduate" first appeared on the cusp of the sexual revolution, its frankness in dealing with an unorthodox relationship was one of the reasons for its enormous popularity. Now, 35 years later, how does it hold up?

"It does seem almost historical," says Turner of the '60s mind-set. "All sexual relationships are more liberal now than they were 30 years ago. We have to reteach them the old mores." But, she admits, "I don't think it's a normal thing.

Biggs, who says he's comfortable in the bedroom scenes with Turner, says he finds Benjamin's situation "definitely not normal; at least not where I come from."

"Maybe it's not so shocking for the audience now," Silverstone says, "but from my point of view, I'm her daughter, he's my boyfriend, I find it disgusting. Just plain weird."

"I keep getting letters from women who write, 'Thank you for keeping us as a serious threat,'" Turner says of her reception as Mrs. Robinson. "In Toronto, someone sent me a book called 'The Cougars'—that's what these women are called in Canada."

Did she pick up any tips from the book? "Naw, Mrs. Robinson is way ahead of them." ■

"The Graduate" opens Thursday, Plymouth Theatre, 236 W. 45th St., New York, N.Y. (212) 239-6200. Blake Green is a reporter for News-

City of Angles

BY GINA PICCALO AND LOUIS ROUG

Smashing Images

When Eddie Izzard went to the movie theater recently, he was approached by a teenage girl, much excited to meet him. "Oh my God," she said, "you're George Carlin!"

"No, no, I'm not," protested Izzard.

"Yes you are," the girl continued, with conviction. "Can I have your autograph?"

"Look," Izzard said. "I can't be George Carlin. I'm English, he's American."

Finally, the actor-comedian escaped into the theater. After the movie, the girl was waiting for him outside.

"You're Eddie Izzard," she said. "I'm sorry I got the names mixed up. Can I have your autograph?"

Wearing jeans, a black T-shirt and black leather jacket, Izzard is amused as he sits outside Chateau Marmont on a recent afternoon, recounting his anecdote about fame by proxy.

He is in town to promote "The Cat's Meow," a Peter Bogdanovich movie about the death of director Thomas Ince aboard William Randolph Hearst's yacht, the Oneida, in 1924. Izzard plays Charlie Chaplin, who was aboard the yacht at the time.



GINA FERAZZI / Los Angeles Times

ACTING OUT: Eddie Izzard is pursuing a passion for drama.

When Izzard saw his first Chaplin film on TV, he was not amused. "I thought it was turgid and unfunny," he says. But after seeing Chaplin on the big screen, he says, he understood his comedy.

It was only that TV was the wrong medium.

Izzard is thoughtful on every medium, having tried several in the course of his life.

Born in Yemen to British parents, he studied accounting at a university in Britain before going into street performance, in his estimation the toughest scene. "You have to shout over the noises ... but it became the center of my confidence," he says.

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The streets led to the stage—stand-up comedy, with which he made his name and earned two Emmys in 2000 for his HBO show, “Dress to Kill.”

But Izzard’s real passion is dramatic acting. After his roles in “Shadow of the Vampire” and “The Cat’s Meow,” Izzard says he is “just getting up to speed. I’m fascinated by structure,” he says. “It’s not part of stand-up. There’s no character development in stand-up—only a flow of consciousness.”

In stand-up, “you play to the laughs,” he says. In dramatic acting, “You play to the silence.”

Making the transition between stand-up and acting is not always easy. Izzard cites Robin Williams, Steve Martin and Jim Carrey as examples of people who have to overcome the audience expectation that they would do “the crazy stuff.”

“You have to smash those previous images,” Izzard says. And, he adds, with a grin, “persuade people to give you the parts.”

Connick as Inventor

Singer and composer Harry Connick Jr. can add inventor to his business card, having recently patented a “system and method for coordinating music display among players in an orchestra.”

In essence, Connick replaced note sheets with computer displays.

No more page

turning, just mouse clicks.

“It makes it a little bit easier for musicians,” said Connick, by crackling cell phone from San Francisco. Connick, whose current tour will bring him to the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood on Thursday, said he began using computers for his compositions a couple of years ago.

Bringing the computers on stage has so far gone without a hitch. (Extra computers are kept backstage in case of a technical snafu.)

When Connick makes changes to a given piece, by editing or cutting parts, the revisions are automatically transmitted to band members’ computers.

“The guys in my band seem to like it,” he said. “It’s not a cure for cancer,” he added. But “it’s pretty cool.”

Lamponing Hef

The Harvard Lampoon made Hugh Hefner an honorary member last week, in a party thrown at the Playboy Mansion. As part of the ceremony, Hefner received an award from the magazine naming him “The Best Life-Form in the History of the Universe,” a conclusion supported by Jay Phelan, a UCLA



Getty Images

professor of evolutionary biology, in a tongue-in-cheek speech. During the celebration, Hef was also presented with a Lampoon bathrobe, a paper crown and a large silver trophy. ■

City of Angles runs Tuesday through Friday. E-mail angles@latimes.com.

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Where Does It All Go?

Following a recycling truck's route turns up truths about L.A.'s trash.

First Person

By **SUSAN CARPENTER**
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Recycling is practically a genetic impulse in my family. My older sister regularly flies across the country with empty but oozing soda cans in her purse so she can recycle them at home instead of throwing them in the trash. My little sister has a worm box to turn her coffee grounds into compost. Me? No piece of plastic, glass or paper is too small to salvage. Juice bottle caps, coffee lids, receipts—nothing induces liberal guilt more quickly for me than throwing them away.

But standing at the sink one day, engaged in a futile attempt to scrub the almond butter off the insides of a jar, I started to wonder what was happening to all the newspapers, beer bottles, junk mail and yogurt containers I threw in my L.A. city-issued big blue recycling bin each week. I decided to trail my recycling truck to find out.

Ordinarily, the emerald green truck is my alarm clock on Tuesdays as it slowly snorts its way through the neighborhood around 7 a.m. But today I am up and waiting, ready to roll. It's 7:25 when the driver of truck No. 174 wheels up, clasps a robotic arm around my 90-gallon bin and gives it the old heave-ho. He will do this about 900 times today.



Photos by LAWRENCE K. HO / Los Angeles Times

In L.A.'s recycling program, about a quarter of what's thrown in the bins is either not recyclable or not recycled in the city.

I pull out of my driveway to follow him. From the tail end of the truck, a cartoon with big eyes and waving arms smiles at me, warning me of three recycling no-no's: No plastic bags. No electronics, appliances or metals. And no construction debris or wood.

I've already violated one of the rules: plastic grocery store bags. I have so many of them, I'm convinced they divide and multiply under my kitchen sink. Like many other plastic items, bags may have the recycling symbol on them, but they aren't recycled by the city (you can take them back to the grocery store, however) because they are not cost-efficient to sort and resell.

Trailing my driver, I notice I'm not the only one breaking the rules. A broom handle sticks out from one neighbor's bin; dirty Styrofoam plates

flutter out of another. Even though the city does not recycle these items, the truck swallows them up. Later, they will be sorted out and added to the pile headed for a landfill.

It turns out that about a quarter of what's thrown in the recycling bins is either not recyclable or not recycled by the city. Among the items that have come through the system: engine blocks, clothes, dead animals and garden hoses.

"Pretty much anything and everything that fits in those bins, people throw it in," said David Lee, manager of L.A. Recycling Center on North Main Street downtown.

L.A. Recycling, which handles recyclables from my neighborhood and others, is one of six privately run recycling centers under contract with the city of Los Angeles.

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TRASH

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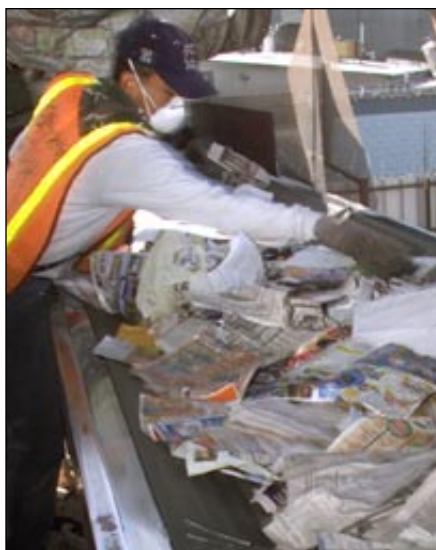
According to Richard Wozniak, head of the city's recycling division, L.A. has almost 100% participation in the program.

As I follow my truck as it weaves through the neighborhood, I notice that only about one in three houses has put out a recycling bin for pickup. I expect that, like me, those households are recycling, but don't bother to drag their bin out each week. The containers can get heavy—they hold up to 250 pounds of stuff.

At about 12:30 p.m., my truck pulls into L.A. Recycling and drives onto a scale to be weighed before it dumps its load. In a little more than five hours, it has collected 7,230 pounds and will, by the end of the day, collect double that amount. (I've never weighed my trash, but the average L.A. household generates 2,275 pounds of it each year—and about a quarter of that is recyclable, Wozniak says.)

The city's recycling system is "single stream," which means that paper, cans and glass are all tossed together into the same recycling bin. When the city began its curbside program in 1989, residents were asked to sort their recyclables into two containers—one for paper, another for plastics, cans and glass. To make the system more user-friendly and cost-effective, the city switched to single stream in 1997.

As I look over the contents of my truck's morning run, I try to see if I recognize any of my trash amid the Cheetos bags, lawn furniture, house plants, Pepsi bottles, egg cartons, salad dressing bottles and Slim-Fast cans. Could that label-less tin



Workers sort newsprint and other papers at the L.A. Recycling Center on North Main Street. Items are crushed into bales, trucked to San Pedro and shipped overseas.

can rolling my way be the one I recycled? I have no idea. The only sure indication the trash is even from my neighborhood is the box from Casa Bianca, a local pizza parlor.

For the most part, recyclables are pretty much the same across the city, the director of the center tells me. "There isn't too much difference between a load that might come from Beverly Hills or a load that came from Watts," says Lee. "In Beverly Hills, they might have a Dom Perignon bottle in there, but in Watts if you have a bottle of Ripple, who cares? It has the same scrap value."

Truck No. 174's contents are dumped into a big mound that will later be bulldozed into an even larger pile that will then be fed onto a conveyor belt.

There, all the stuff that's been commingled will be sorted and separated in a process that is part hands-on and part mechanized.

The human sorting team—outfitted in particle masks, goggles and long sleeves—picks out obvious non-recyclable trash such as wire hangers, wooden planks and plastic bags, all of which can and do jam the machine for about an hour each workday.

There are about 15 people on the line, each one processing about a ton of material every hour. It is loud and dusty on the conveyor belt, but at least it does not smell. Most of what comes down the line is paper.

I ask Samuel Fuentes, 26, who had been working the line for two months if he had spied any treasures in the trash. "So far, no," he says. "But I'm hoping."

Whatever survives this first round of sorting continues on to a second conveyor belt that separates paper from heavier items. Underneath it is a chute, through which broken glass tinkles onto the ground. Cans are jettisoned off into a big metal bin, paper into another.

Once separated into their respective categories, the goods are crushed into bales, trucked to San Pedro and, for the most part, shipped to Asia. There's a market for these recyclables in the U.S., but companies here do not pay as much as companies overseas, where resources are scarcer.

So what will ultimately become of my empty laundry detergent bottles?

Most likely they will be melted down and transformed into dolls. My soda bottles will make carpet. Cardboard boxes will turn into egg cartons and other packing materials.

Newspapers will breed other newspapers, cans will make more cans, glass other glass. And, the ones that come my way again? I'll toss them in my big blue bin. ■

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'Bull Durham': Once and Always Original

Movies • Director Ron Shelton lets his baseball comedy starring Kevin Costner stand as is for its release on a special-edition DVD.

By **SUSAN KING**
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Writer-director Ron Shelton hasn't seen the new special-edition DVD of his 1988 baseball comedy "Bull Durham" (MGM, \$25), although he did participate in the new documentary featured on the disc that arrives in stores today. He's also featured on a commentary track—but that was recorded four years ago for the movie's laserdisc release.

"I just said what came into my mind," Shelton recalls. "I've never even heard it. I get more letters about that commentary and I don't even know what I said."

It's not that Shelton has anything against the laser or digital formats. He just doesn't have much use for all the frills. Unlike most special-edition discs, there are no deleted or alternate scenes included on the "Bull Durham" DVD.

"I don't have a different cut or edit from the original," Shelton says. "I figure that's how I saw it at the time and that's how I'll live or die with it. That is not to say you wouldn't re-cut the movie differently any time in your life. It's just how I did it then and that's how I'll let it stand. I like DVDs to watch the movies, but I don't really want to know what someone is telling [on

the commentary] because their job is telling me in the story."

Named by Sports Illustrated as the No. 1 sports movie of all time, the racy, romantic and funny baseball tale stars Kevin Costner as an aging minor league catcher, "Crash" Davis, who is transferred to the Durham Bulls in North Carolina to train and discipline the Bulls' cocky young pitcher, "Nuke" LaLoosh (Tim Robbins). Susan Sarandon plays the sexy baseball groupie, Annie Savoy, who each season picks one player to "train" and "nurture." And this year, she's decided that both Nuke and Crash are her "draft picks."

"Bull Durham," which was shot on location in Durham and several other minor league cities in the Carolinas, offered Costner one of his best roles and made Robbins a star. (The two actors are featured on a separate commentary track on the DVD.) Sarandon and Robbins became a couple during the production, and Shelton is godfather to their first child, Jack Henry.

Shelton, who made his directorial debut with the comedy, won the Writers Guild of America Award for his script and received an Oscar nomination for best original screenplay.

The film's baseball scenes are some of the most authentic ever put

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THEY THAWED,
THEY
CONQUERED...
THE WORLD!**

**"BLUE SKY STUDIO LOOMS AS
A SKILLFUL RIVAL TO PIXAR."**

Gary Arnold, THE WASHINGTON TIMES

"A WINNER!"

David Anson, NEWSWEEK

**"THE FUNNIEST MOVIE
THIS YEAR."**

Paul Clinton, CNN

"WAY COOL!"

Leah Rosen, PEOPLE



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« CONTINUED

on screen—and for good reason: Shelton played minor league ball for the Baltimore Orioles for six years. “I played A ball through Triple A,” he says. “I played mostly second base.”

Though minor leaguers get paid next to nothing and spend most of their professional lives traveling from game to game on a bus, Shelton says it was the best time of his life. “It is also a nervous time,” he adds. “You are terrified of being cut loose. Everybody is getting the pink slip, and you have to perform every day or you are going to be cut loose. Everything you do is being translated into statistics for all time. Everything I ever did you can look up the record on. It certainly prepares you for anything else in the world, including making movies.”

Besides “Bull Durham,” Shelton has looked at the world of basketball in “White Men Can’t Jump,” golf in “Tin Cup” and boxing in “Play It to the Bone.” But he’s never been fond of sports movies.

“I hated ‘The Pride of the Yankees,’” he says, referring to the 1942 classic about Yankee great Lou Gehrig, played by Gary Cooper. “It was my mother’s favorite movie, and I could never tell her how awful it was. As an adult, it is even worse. I think most of the sports movies are told from the fan’s point of view. I try to tell them from the player’s point of view.”

When Shelton wrote the script of “Bull Durham,” sports movies were box-office poison. Though only budgeted at \$7 million, everybody turned it down, he says. “People liked the script but they were afraid

of me as a first-time director,” Shelton says. “They were certainly afraid of the subject of baseball.”

After the script was declined by every studio on the first pass, Costner accompanied Shelton to meetings with studio executives. “He would sit there and say ‘this guy can direct. Believe me.’”

Ultimately, Shelton had 30 days to get the movie off the ground with Costner. “Then he was going to have to commit to something else,” Shelton says.

On the 29th day, the script was sent to Orion Pictures’ East Coast office. “Orion on the West Coast had already turned it down twice,” Shelton says. But Orion executive Bill Bernstein read it that Thursday night and by 3 the next afternoon—the 30th day—Shelton had a deal. “Five weeks later we shot the movie.”

Because Shelton got the green light so late in the year, “Bull Durham” was filmed in October and November. “It was freezing,” says the director. The grass was changing color, so the production staff continually had to paint the baseball field green. Many of the baseball scenes were shot at night to camouflage the fact that the leaves were also turning brown.

By all reports, the cast and crew had a wonderful time making the movie. Making the movie was fun, but Shelton says he wasn’t sure he’d ever work again. “You never know if a movie is going to be successful,” he explains. “It didn’t test particularly well. When it opened and got all of those reviews and people were going crazy for it, I was the most shocked guy in the world. I am delighted that the movie seems to have found such a life of its own.” ■

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**“THE FUNNIEST MOVIE
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Television • Eugene Levy plays an ex-hotshot producer on 'Greg the Bunny.' Meanwhile, he's preparing for another mock documentary.

By **PAUL BROWNFIELD**
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Eugene Levy was surprised when it seemed he had to audition for the part of Gil Bender, the children's television show producer he plays on the new Fox comedy "Greg the Bunny."

On "SCTV," the legendary Canadian sketch comedy series that ran in syndication and on NBC from 1977 to 1983, Levy had played characters ranging from Bobby Bittman, the bombastic stand-up comic, to Earl Camembert, the slightly befuddled local news anchor in the town of Melonville. With writer-performer Christopher Guest, he had collaborated on two quintessential mock documentaries, "Waiting for Guffman" and "Best in Show."

"I thought, well, listen, if I have to read for this, I may as well pack it in," Levy said recently, over breakfast in Brentwood.

It didn't help that he'd gone to the "Greg the Bunny" meeting in pain, having just been released from the hospital for treatment of a herniated disc. Levy ultimately didn't have to read for the part, but he did improvise bits of Bender, whom he sees as a former big-shot producer from the '70s, "when comedy was loud,"



RON TOM

The former "SCTV" star, who has played characters ranging from bombastic to befuddled, plays Gil Bender on the Fox series "Greg the Bunny."

now relegated to working on a kids show.

"The ideal thing would be to have the show hit reasonably well, so that Fox kind of says they like the show, and everybody takes a deep breath and relaxes, and allows the show to keep creeping into an area that's more daring," he said.

Levy's daring happens in fits and starts—movie and TV roles that don't necessarily exploit his gifts, interspersed with the kind of work the 55-year-old writer-performer was doing back in the Toronto and Edmonton days on "SCTV."

His family home is in Toronto, but Levy also has a place in L.A., where he is currently entrenched in guitar lessons—preparation for his next movie project with Guest, called "A Mighty Wind."

The film, which is scheduled to begin shooting in May, will root around in the earnest subculture of aging folk musicians, in the same way "Guffman" spoofed local theater and "Best in Show" lampooned the Westminster Dog Show.

In this one, a talent manager's death prompts his acts to hold a reunion/tribute concert (the title is based on a folk anthem written for the movie). Already, it is clear, Levy and Guest are having fun coming up with their own kind of folk oral history.

"You look at the groups and you say, 'OK, now how did this group form?'" Levy said of the back stories he and Guest are inventing. "These guys played with this other group, they picked up these two guys who

CONTINUED >>

LEVY

« CONTINUED

used to be known as the Troubadours, and then they picked up another guy out there—you know, Ramblin' Sandy Pitnick—and they hooked up and formed this group, and then they joined this group, and together they formed the Main Street Singers.”

The sincerity with which folk musicians approach their craft became a memorable joke in the movie “Animal House,” where John Belushi happens upon a folk singer.

As with the two previous films, character-building is much more essential to what the movie becomes than scripted dialogue.

Though this is Levy's third film with Guest, the two have not been working together all that long. According to Levy, Guest called him in Toronto, out of the blue, in 1995, saying he wanted to collaborate on a film idea—what was to become “Guffman.” The two weren't friends; in fact, Levy said, they'd only worked together previously on a 1980s Billy Crystal special, “Don't Get Me Started.”

What has changed, Levy said, is the eagerness with which Castle Rock Entertainment, the studio behind their films, has approached their work. For “Guffman”—released in 1996 and made on a budget of \$4 million—he and Guest had to pitch the idea first, write a treatment, rewrite a treatment and then produce a script. The film was a cult success and opened the market a bit for “Best in Show,” which received a wider release.

On their latest project, Levy said, producers didn't much hesitate. “They heard the idea and said, ‘When do you want to shoot it?’” ■

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MARK SHELLEY / Sea Studios Foundation

Jellyfish and other early life forms are examined on "The Shape of Life."

Looking to the Sea for Answers

Television Review

By SCOTT SANDELL

TIMES STAFF WRITER

If you had a family album stretching back to the dawn of animal life on Earth, you'd find the first picture to be of a sponge. Not the square sponge carcass found in bathrooms, but something more like the sponges living in today's oceans. At least, that is what the evolution of evolutionary theory has determined.

A new PBS series, "The Shape of Life," presents this finding and other revelations about evolution in an intelligent and highly watchable format. Though the science itself is remarkable on its own, the documentary keeps the action focused through spectacular underwater photography, nicely used computer animation and a generally tight script.

In the first of the two hourlong installments being shown tonight, "The

Shape of Life" begins with a longish introduction full of a lot of unanswered questions; don't let that turn you off. Soon enough, the scene shifts to Sulawesi Island in Indonesia, where UC Santa Cruz biologist Christina Diaz is researching the surprisingly complex structure of sponges.

"I think they are beautiful, they are original, they are mysterious," Diaz says. "They have lots of secrets that we have to unveil."

Interestingly, it was the sponge's apparent physical simplicity that initially led scientists to suspect it to be the first animal. But it wasn't until recent advances in the reading of genetic blueprints that Mitch Sogin, director of the program in molecular evolution at Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory in Massachusetts, found the most definitive evidence yet of the sponge as the foundation of the animal kingdom.

Though creationists may have a difficult time with this series, it is well worth seeing, no matter what one's beliefs. ■

"The Shape of Life" premieres tonight at 9 on KCET, followed by Part 2 at 10 p.m. Subsequent episodes will air April 9 and 16, and May 19 and 26.

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Plus-Size Club Figures on Fun

At a Culver City bar, it's girls' night out for BBWs (big beautiful women) and the place to be for guys who love them.



Photos by KEN HIVELY / Los Angeles Times

Patrons mingle at Club Curves, which opened last summer as a Saturday-night club. It recently added a second night, Friday.

Into the Night

By LESLEE KOMAIKO
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Club Curves in Culver City is more or less a standard nightclub. There's a big, beefy guy checking IDs at the door, dim lighting inside, a DJ spinning R & B and hip-hop jams, and a roomful of men and women doing what men and women do in places like this: checking each other out, dropping their best pick-up lines, sipping cocktails and getting their groove on. But there is one distinction. The women here are big. You could call them BBWs, for big beautiful women, the popular acronym many use to describe themselves and one another.

Shadoe Gray, 37, an entrepreneur

and freelance computer consultant, and her business partner, Michelle Wilson, 32, an administrator for the city of Los Angeles, BBWs themselves, opened the club late last summer after two years of market research.

While other groups such as Big Difference, Ample Images and Mor2Luv host social gatherings locally, they don't happen on a regular basis or at a fixed location, Gray said, making events hard to follow.

"We have just opened the doors to big girls to go out and not wait every three months for an event," she said. "They don't need to wait for a big event to party. It's not fair."

Club Curves, which operates in the former Bar Azure on Sepulveda Boulevard, was a little slow to take off.

"Initially, a lot of people did a 'Let's wait and see,'" Gray said. But word has obviously gotten out, primarily via the Internet (the club has a Web site, at www.clubcurves.cc), where there is a vibrant BBW community. About 200 people pack the house each Saturday night and a second night was recently added—Friday evenings is now karaoke—and they hope to open Club Curves every night.

Gray has even been fielding calls from BBWs and club owners around the country asking her to open in their town. "There's definitely a need," she said.

Terri Harris and her friend Lynn Solo, both 34, drive in nearly every weekend from Rancho Cucamonga.

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PLUS-SIZE

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“This is a place where you can be free and do what you want and not worry about stigmas other clubs put on you,” said Harris, at the recent monthly pajama jam, a.k.a. lingerie night, especially popular with men. “For myself, coming to this club has made me more open about who I am and expressing myself to anyone. Before, I would not go to clubs. Now I don’t have a problem going to other clubs and being the only fat girl.”

Gray hears this sort of thing all the time. “There are women who have never had the nightclub experience,” she said. “A lot of full-figured women are married. Men will marry us but not go out in public with us. [The women] have never had that type of social interaction where a guy would ask them to dance. But it’s not all that way. A lot of the women who come here have no self-esteem problems.”

Take Kelli Payne, 28, of Long Beach, who was at the club recently for the second time. (On her first visit, shortly after the club opened, she met someone whom she dated for several months.) “I’ve been big all my life and I’ve never let it stop me from doing anything. Just because you’re big doesn’t mean you can’t flaunt it like the little girls. We just have more of it.”

A common misconception about BBW gatherings is that the men too are big. While there were perhaps more big men on average at Club Curves on a recent Saturday night as compared to most other clubs, there were plenty of thin ones too. There were tall men, short men, men in flannel work shirts and others in



Michelle Wilson, left, and Shadoe Gray run Club Curves in the former Bar Azure on Sepulveda Boulevard in Culver City.

stylish sport jackets. And, like the women, they were a racially diverse group.

It would, in fact, be impossible to generalize about the men here, except to say they like and, in many cases, prefer big women.

“I have a definite attraction to girls who are a little larger,” said a slim, handsome 38-year-old Costco employee from Los Angeles, who, like nearly all of the men here, did not want his name used. “In truth,” he added, “I think a lot of guys do. But they’re not willing to admit it for fear of being harassed by their buddies.”

Among some BBWs, there is a concern that a place such as Club Curves further marginalizes a group that is already marginalized.

“In a way we are doing that,” Gray admitted. “Unfortunately, the way society is, that is sometimes how you have to make a change.”

“Some people might fall into the trap that that’s the only place they could meet someone,” said Linda Ramos, president of the Los Angeles chapter of the National Assn. to Advance Fat Acceptance. “And that would be a problem. But, overall, it’s a positive reinforcement.”

“I think it’s a really positive step in the right direction for large women and those who like them,” said a rugged 37-year-old construction worker from the South Bay. And while thinner women are certainly welcome, “the funny thing is,” Gray said, “they don’t get any attention.” ■

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Morning Report

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT REPORTS FROM THE TIMES,
NEWS SERVICES AND THE NATION'S PRESS.

THE ARTS

Sills Sets Departure Date From Lincoln Center

Beverly Sills, the former opera great who has led Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts for eight years, announced Monday that she is resigning at the end of the month.

"I feel privileged to have served this great performing arts center, and very happy to have, hopefully, made a difference in the city where I was born and love so much," Sills said in a statement.

Sills, who turns 73 next month, has for some time expressed a desire to retire from the volunteer post as chair of the world's largest performing arts center. During her tenure, she helped nurture a redevelopment project estimated to cost about \$1 billion. The project has been a source of some turmoil for Lincoln

Center, with competing arts groups arguing over its size and scope.

Sills had indicated that she would leave after the board found a successor to Gordon Davis, who abruptly resigned as Lincoln Center's president last fall after less than a year in office. Last month, the board of directors approved his successor, Reynold Levy, a senior lecturer at Harvard Business School who has led several high-profile nonprofit organizations.

TELEVISION

'Nightline' Again Delays Its Series on Gay Life

ABC's "Nightline" had hoped to air next week its once-postponed weeklong series on gay life in America, but breaking news has again gotten in the way.

Last fall the series was postponed

for coverage of the aftermath of the terrorist attacks; next week, producers are worried that the unstable situation in the Middle East will make it impossible to air all five installments. The network said it will try to find another air date as soon as possible.

Separately, ABC has scheduled a news special, anchored by Peter Jennings, on the growing sexual abuse scandal in the Catholic Church, for Wednesday at 10 p.m.

CBS Military Series Struggles in Ratings

CBS' "AFP: American Fighter Pilot," the first of several series profiling real members of the armed services, got off to a poor start in its premiere Friday. The program averaged less than 5 million viewers, based on Nielsen Media Research

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REPORT

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estimates, finishing last among the four major broadcast networks in its time period.

"The Ten Commandments," meanwhile, demonstrated its durability, as ABC's four-hour-plus Easter Sunday telecast of the 1956 film easily won the night, averaging 12.5 million viewers.

POP/ROCK

Hitmaker for Boy Bands Cleared of Labor Charge

Lou Pearlman, the hitmaker behind the Backstreet Boys and 'N Sync, has been cleared of allegations that he broke child labor laws.

The Florida Department of Labor said there was no evidence that Pearlman and his Orlando-based company, Trans Continental Entertainment, violated such rules as making minors work past 11:30 p.m., as alleged by the mother of two of his former entertainers.

"I'm happy to say that we are vindicated, as expected, from all allegations," Pearlman said.

James Taylor to Receive Songwriting Award

James Taylor was named Monday to receive the Founders Award from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. The award is "given to pioneering songwriters who have made exceptional contributions to music," the organization said.

Taylor will receive the award May 20 at ASCAP's 19th annual pop music awards ceremony at the Beverly Hilton. ASCAP President Marilyn Bergman praised him as "a truly defining American musical voice."

Previous recipients of the ASCAP Founders Award include Joni Mitchell, Stevie Wonder, Stephen Sondheim, Billy Joel, Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, Burt Bacharach and Hal David, Andr Previn, Steely Dan and Tom Waits.

QUICK TAKES

American Ballet Theatre has re-

ceived a \$1.2-million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support the creation and presentation of new work over the next three years.... **Phil Donahue** is in discussions about hosting a prime-time show on cable outlet MSNBC.... The **Moscow Stanislavsky Ballet** will make its first Southland visit June 4-9, performing "Swan Lake" and "Don Quixote" at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood.... **Marcel Marceau** has been booked for a three-week engagement at the Geffen Playhouse in Westwood, beginning July 30.... Today marks the 46th anniversary and the 11,725th episode of the CBS daytime drama "**As the World Turns.**" ... For the first time, CBS plans to offer a Spanish-language audio feed with its broadcast of the **Daytime Emmy Awards** on May 17.... The comedy team of **Dick Martin** and (the late) **Dan Rowan**, hosts of "Laugh-In," will be honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at 11:30 a.m. today, at 7080 Hollywood Blvd. ■

Lee Margulies

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Liz Smith

Bullock Keeping Very Busy

NEW YORK—We're going to be inundated with Sandra Bullock because of her various irons in the fire. Recently she threw a "Superheroes Party" in L.A., for which guests had to dress as their favorite hero. Bullock appeared as Wonder Woman, which isn't surprising, because she is close to signing to play the character in the movies.

Bullock attended the Academy Awards with her friend Hugh Grant, although much of the time she seemed exasperated with him, as if she were baby-sitting.

They are filming a feature in New York titled "Two Weeks Notice." Sandra is also the executive producer of TV's "George Lopez" show, which premiered last week.

On April 19, we'll see her in "Murder by Numbers," and she also has "The Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood" on tap.

Today in Marie Claire, you can read the 12 things that Bullock would want with her on a desert island. Naming a few: her sister, La Perla thongs, her diamond ring (which she bought herself), cheap men's cologne reminiscent of her dad, and fast food....

Gwyneth Paltrow doesn't care if the world didn't like the way she looked on Oscar night. She has bigger fish to fry. The "Shakespeare in Love" Oscar winner is telling friends that she is seriously considering adopting a baby. Paltrow often takes the kids of her pals to movies or to the zoo and even baby-sits. She



ANACLETO RAPPING / Los Angeles Times

Sandra Bullock at the Oscars.

feels now that she needs something permanent in her life....

Director Les Firestein is courting Brad Pitt to play himself in a new movie, "Brad Pitt Wants My Girlfriend." Why do I think this is such a longshot? ...

Matt Damon and Ben Affleck, at a table in L.A.'s the Continental restaurant, which they own: They're working on their next movie, "Lay Down Easy." It's about two blue-collar brothers in Massachusetts. (Hey! Remember, they won a writing Oscar the last time they got together as writers, on "Good Will Hunting.") ■

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ASTROLOGICAL FORECAST

By SYDNEY OMARR

Aries (March 21-April 19): Family discussion revolves around vacation, travel and possible occupation. A new arrival could be on the way. Be positive concerning direction, motivation.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Poke fun at those who pose as mystics. Be open-minded, not naive. Find out more about money. You could learn more than you care to know.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Those who said you could not hold on to steady job will be proven wrong. Handle details with aplomb. Correct erroneous measurements.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): You find innovative ways of getting job done. Focus on reading, writing and teaching. A good day to start a diary. Flirtation could lead to partnership, marriage.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You exude aura of confidence, sex appeal. Domestic adjustment could include change of residence. You receive gift

of flowers or luxury item.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Attention revolves around real estate, where you reside and domestic changes. Avoid self-deception; perceive relationships as they actually exist.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Focus on important business-career transaction. Keep plans flexible; short trip could be necessary.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will be rid of losing proposition. You gain valuable insight into future potential. You could be flirting with fame and fortune. Love relationship is serious and hot.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Forge ahead, stress original thinking. Cycle high. Trust judgment, intuition. Love relationship will please you. Change of scenery necessary.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Decide on direction. Be positive regarding your motivation. Separation from loved one is temporary; avoid brooding. You locate bargain

living quarters.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Accent diversity, humor, versatility and intellectual curiosity. You will be on the move, socially active. Keep diet resolutions. Express affection to one you care about.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Solid ladder will be provided for your ascent to top. Check details, including proper measurements. Events favor efforts.

If April 2 is your birthday: You make people feel comfortable; you give freely of yourself. You are always willing to give another chance to romance. You are destined to be happily married. You will meet exciting person this month and could fall madly in love. July most memorable. ■

Forecast by phone: For your expanded daily horoscope from Sydney Omarr, call (900) 288-3313. Calls cost \$1 a minute. The astrological forecast should be read for entertainment.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

By Harvey Estess

4/2/02

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40 Sassy kids

41 Courageous

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49 Woods' wood, for one

50 Spelling of television

53 R-V hookup?

55 Med. group

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A: MAIN NEWS B: CALIFORNIA C: SPORTS D: BUSINESS E: STYLE