

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

6 24 25 36 43
Meganumber: 17
Jackpot: \$65 Million

FANTASY 5

1 5 18 33 38

DAILY 3

Daytime: 5 4 1
Evening: 9 5 3

DAILY DERBY

1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 06 Whirl Win
3rd: 03 Hot Shot

RACE TIME: 1:45.46

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In New Braunfels, Texas, in November, Robert Villarreal, 34, was sentenced to 50 years in prison after he sold drugs to the same undercover officer for the third time in a 14-year period. He had actually argued "entrapment," claiming that for the first sale, in 1988, he was so young that he shouldn't be expected to remember later what the officer looked like.

■ In September, Washington, D.C., police charged George Haynes with three robberies and suspect he is the man who committed two dozen more in the area since being paroled in 2004. Haynes was fingered for the latest robberies after he violated parole in July and was fitted with a global positioning satellite tracking device, linked to his ankle monitor. He apparently was not aware that police then knew his whereabouts 24 hours a day, to within a few feet, and found that Haynes was in the exact area of the three robberies at the exact, odd hours in which they occurred.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 12th day of 2006.
There are 353 days left in the year.

On Jan. 12, 1945, during World War II, Soviet forces began a huge offensive against the Germans in Eastern Europe.

In 1861, Alabama seceded from the Union.

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Death on the installment plan

Unpaid graves and positive reviews stir Woodlawn hearing

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

Santa Monica's former funeral director, who was fired for incompetence and possible ethical transgressions, continued to receive excellent performance reviews all the way up until being shown the door.

That's according to testimony heard on Tuesday amid a multi-day personnel board hearing in which Michael Steen is appealing his termination. Steen was fired this past fall after three audits revealed the management of Woodlawn Cemetery's finances was not in line with general accounting practices. In addition, City officials believe Steen was acting unethically by promoting and benefiting from his domestic

See WOODLAWN, page 6

Canvassing the area



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Art student Oren Copper, 85, paints in Palisades Park on Wednesday during a Santa Monica College Emeritus water painting class. The outdoor, "plein air" session placed emphasis on bold, direct and spontaneous painting.



Rendering courtesy of Frederick Fisher & Partners, Architects

STRAIGHT CHILLIN': The pool area as it may look once work is completed on the \$24 million beach club project at 415 PCH.

Grounds for appeal along PCH

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

PCH — A \$24 million public beach club has been designed to incorporate both the old and new — reflecting the historical aspects of what was once a grandiose mansion built by newspaper mogul William Randolph Hearst, while at the same time factoring in

the community's needs of today.

Perhaps one of the more popular amenities at 415 PCH — also known as the old Marion Davies estate — will be the public pool and pool house. The pool will have colorful tiles reminiscent of the designs at Hearst Castle and the surrounding marble will be rehabilitated, according to city staff.

The City Council on Tuesday

approved the schematic plans for the project, which were prepared by Frederick Fisher and Partners, the project's design architect. Frederick Fisher and Partners is an internationally-recognized architecture firm based in West Los Angeles, and specializes in art-related design, historic building

See 415 PCH, page 9

LOCAL



Photo courtesy of the FBI

David Robinson, aka 'The Dreadlock Bandit,' is seen here robbing California National Bank in Glendale on Sept. 15, 2004.

Judge 'Dread' gives bandit 1,200 years

By Daily Press staff

TORRANCE — The man known to authorities as "The Dreadlocks Bandit" and convicted of robbing dozens of banks — including two in Santa Monica — was sentenced to 1,210 years in prison on Wednesday.

David Lee Robinson robbed

See BANDIT, page 8



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HOUSE CALLS AND SAME DAY APPOINTMENTS

The logo for 'The Tinder Box' features a stylized illustration of a leprechaun's head on the left, wearing a top hat and having a mustache. A thick, black, wavy line representing a pipe extends from the leprechaun's mouth towards the right. Below the pipe, the words 'The Tinder Box' are written in a decorative, gothic-style font. To the right of the illustration, the text 'EXPERT PIPE & LIGHTER REPAIR' is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Below this, 'Gifts Imported from 22 countries' is written in a smaller, italicized sans-serif font. Further right, the business hours are listed: 'MON-FRI. 9:30-7PM', 'SAT: 9:30-6PM', and 'SUN: 11-4PM'. At the bottom left, 'EST. 1928' is written. At the bottom center, 'THE ORIGINAL' is written. At the bottom right, 'WE FEATURE THE WORLD'S FINEST IMPORTED PIPES' is written. The entire advertisement is set against a background with a starburst pattern on the right side.

 HOROSCOPE

Happy at home, Aries

Santa Monica Daily Press



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll Have:
 ★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult

 **ARIES (March 21-April 19)**
★★★ Center yourself, if you can. Don't take on any more work or projects. In fact, you might need a day off by yourself. Feel free to do just that. You cannot always be a workhorse. You might get a sudden insight that could change a domestic situation or impact an investment. Tonight: Happy at home.

 **TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
★★★★★ Speak your mind and talk about what you want. You could be surprised by a friend. A result that you thought was predictable might not happen. Open your eyes to different styles and ways. You could be delighted if you do. Tonight: Visit with a pal.

 **GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
★★★★ Your possessive side could impact you more than you think. Investigate new ways of handling your finances. You might want to spend money on your public and/or professional image. Be willing to follow another's lead. Tonight: Gather your bills.

 **CANCER (June 21-July 22)**
★★★★★ Your dynamic personality emerges. You have been unusually resourceful. News from a distance could invigorate your energy and cause much excitement. New possibilities knock on your door. Detach before making a decision. Tonight: You are personality plus.

 **LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
★★★ Know when you need to lie back. Taking an assertive stand could be the wrong action right now. A key person in your life could be surprisingly unpredictable. Listen more carefully to someone's suggestion. You will learn where he or she is coming from. Tonight: Lie back.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Instigate a surprise, and you could be delighted by a special person's reaction. You seem to be tuned in to what works and when to act. A meeting might be key to your success. Do whatever is necessary here. Tonight: Where your pals are.

 **LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
★★★★ Be flexible and willing to try someone's idea. A responsive attitude draws positive feedback and a sense of camaraderie. You might want to accept greater responsibility if you can still remain flexible. Excitement surrounds a decision. If you're feeling nervous, take a walk. Tonight: In the limelight.

 **SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
★★★★★ Through using your intellect and ability to detach, you might come up with a surprising idea. Your emotional response tells you where you need to stand back. Your ingenuity soars. A relationship could be exciting, especially if making unusual plans. Tonight: Think “vacation.”

 **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
★★★ Deal with others more directly. You find that a one-on-one discussion is much more successful than you'd anticipated. Have confidence and be willing to adjust and flex. You will add a spring to your step. Tonight: Be a duo.

 **CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
 ★★★★★ Others want to be close to you. You might have difficulty dealing with your popularity. Many calls and requests come in. Listen to others, but feel free to define your boundaries. You might even surprise yourself. Tonight: Go along with another's idea.

 **AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
★★★★ Focus on each task at hand, and you'll get way ahead. Expenses are a bit higher than you thought. Listen to an associate; you'll get powerful feedback. You accomplish a lot more than you expected to. Tonight: Get some exercise.

 **PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
★★★★★ Your imagination and creativity allow you to walk a different path. You come up with ideas and are more ingenious and creative than you ever imagined. A new acquaintance or child requires a lot of your time. Tonight: Be more childlike.



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Got ‘game?’ Art Institute center is drawing interest

By Daily Press staff

A local art school is celebrating the opening of a new center focused on game development and animation.

The Game Center at The Art Institute of California in Los Angeles welcomes professionals in the fields of game development and animation, members of the media and students of game art to examine the latest state-of-the-art game development tools and software. The Game Center showcases new video games and game stations, a motion-capture system and related educational and informational material including books, board games, magazines and DVDs.

The opening celebration will be held on Jan. 26 from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. An invitation-only reception will follow.

The Art Institute of California in Los Angeles is located at 2900 31st St.

Speaking out for those in need

By Daily Press staff

Local groups are working toward improving community self-help and recovery resources.

Ruth Hollman, executive director of the self-help and recovery exchange (SHARE), the support group clearinghouse for Los Angeles County, was the keynote speaker at the LA County Sober Living Coalition’s (LACSLC’s) monthly meeting at the Westside Pavilion on Jan. 5.

Hollman was invited to talk on the county’s need to develop and operate a wide variety of community self-help and recovery resources, including more self-help support group centers, community drop-in centers and sober living homes.

“Sober living homes are extremely important,” said Hollman, who also is president of the national network of mutual help centers. “Because they provide a safe and healthy place for recovering people to associate and to live with other sober people.”

Three representatives from the LA County Department of Mental Health, which funds SHARE, were on hand to answer questions and to provide information and support for community self-help and recovery resource development.

“The department of mental health and the sober living network (SLN) will identify and quality-assure the safe, healthy, and ethically managed sober living homes,” said Ken Schonlau, volunteer project director of SLN, which is located in Santa Monica and provides information, training, technical support, and advocacy for more than 300 sober living homes in the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino.

In March 2005, Los Angeles County contracted with SHARE to expand its program because of the success the Mar Vista center has had in turning people’s lives

See BRIEFS, page 9



Photo courtesy

(Left to right): Michael Saliba, president of the Los Angeles County Sober Living Coalition; Ruth Hollman, executive director of SHARE, the self-help and recovery exchange; and Ken Schonlau, volunteer project director of the sober living network.

SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12"-12"	LIFT HOURS 8:30am - 4:00pm	RUNS OPEN 10	LIFTS OPEN 9/12
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Loose Granular				

JUNE MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 60" - 84"	LIFT HOURS 8:30am - 4:00pm	RUNS OPEN 35	LIFTS OPEN 6/16
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 120" - 144"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 150	LIFTS OPEN 25/28
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

MOUNTAIN HIGH

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12"-12"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 10:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 12	LIFTS OPEN 9/16
CONDITIONS: Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed, Thin Cover				

MT. BALDY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 6"-12"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:30 pm	RUNS OPEN 4	LIFTS OPEN 2/4
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made				

SNOW SUMMIT

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12"-12"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 4:30 pm	RUNS OPEN 10	LIFTS OPEN 9/13
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Loose Granular				

SNOW VALLEY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12"-12"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 2	LIFTS OPEN 4/11
CONDITIONS: Machine Groomed				

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 58°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (3-4 FT)

Thursday the 12th this swell will fade with only waist to possibly chest high sets.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

NW swell peaks tomorrow...

NW swell fills in during the weekend but...

Tracking NW for middle of next week...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

SATURDAY	Low Tide: 10:41AM High Tide: 3:29AM	1.1FT 5.2FT	9:25PM 4:29PM	1.7FT 3.0FT
SUNDAY	Low Tide: 11:55AM High Tide: 4:22AM	0.4FT 5.4FT	10:27PM 6:16PM	2.2FT 3.0FT
MONDAY	Low Tide: 12:52PM High Tide: 5:13AM	-0.2FT 5.7FT	11:28PM 7:32PM	2.4FT 3.2FT
TUESDAY	Low Tide: 1:38PM High Tide: 6:00AM	-0.7FT 6.0FT	N/A 8:24PM	3.4FT
WEDNESDAY	Low Tide: 12:23AM High Tide: 6:44AM	2.5FT 6.0FT	2:53PM 9:04PM	-0.9FT 3.7FT
THURSDAY	Low Tide: 1:10AM High Tide: 7:24AM	2.5FT 6.1FT	2:53PM 9:36PM	-1.0FT 3.7FT
FRIDAY	Low Tide: 1:50AM High Tide: 8:01AM	2.4FT 6.1FT	3:26PM 10:05PM	-1.0FT 3.7FT

SURF AND SNOW QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? EMAIL ALEX@SMOP.COM



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The Q Line

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Officials are giving renewed consideration to construction of a subway line that would run from downtown Los Angeles to the beaches of Santa Monica. Leaders at City Hall say they are generally supportive of the 15-mile underground transit line that would free up commuters from freeway gridlock, though there is some debate as to exactly what path the transit line should take. Some officials say a monorail system might make more sense for the area.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, “If plans for a mass-transit line between downtown Los Angeles and Santa Monica go forward, what shape should they take?”

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your responses in the weekend edition. Please try to limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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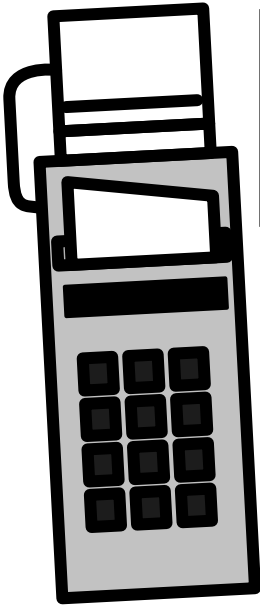
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OPINION



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CITY ATTORNEY DIGGING UP EVIDENCE OF SKULDUGGERY...

E-MAIL: FUNNYPAPERZ@YAHOO.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Opinion piece left reader wronged

Editor:

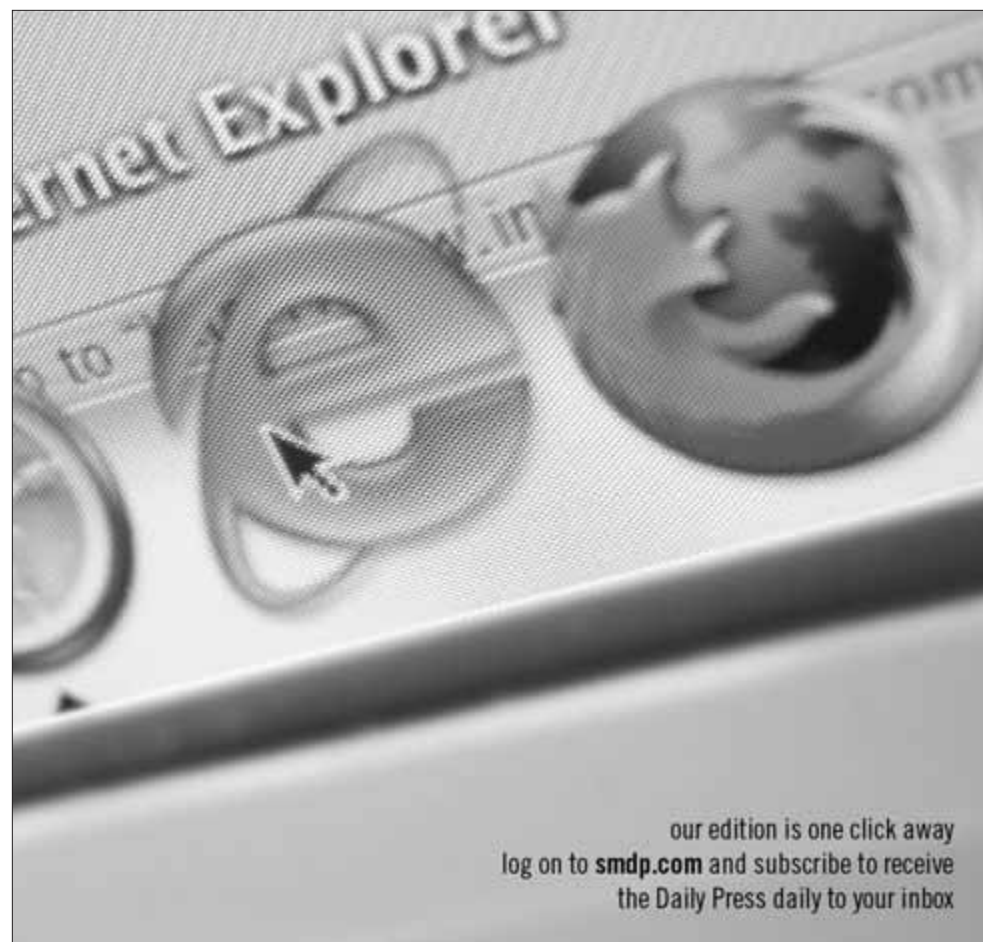
To the extent that major newspapers across the country influence public opinion — presumably based on rational viewpoints and truthful facts — the Los Angeles Times has failed miserably.

The opinion piece by Saree Makdisi “The Whitewashing of Ariel Sharon,” (Los Angeles Times, Jan. 7) is full of distortions and untruths — words used in ways intended to leave a false impression. It serves only to misinform and prejudice the reader.

Makdisi should stick to teaching English and comparative literature, and not try to pass him/herself off as an expert in the history and background of the Israeli-Arab conflict surrounding the state of Israel. Since Makdisi apparently is deemed qualified to teach at UCLA by dint of pertinent credentials, I can only surmise that he/she is a product of utterly biased teachings. Makdisi should have researched the facts — the truth — before writing this piece. In any event, this opinion piece is not worthy of being published in any newspaper.

George Epstein
Los Angeles

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



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the Daily Press daily to your inbox

GUEST COMMENTARY BY JOHN W. WHITEHEAD

Nomination process just a shot in dark

The fact that Harriet Miers was forced to withdraw her name for a Supreme Court seat raises real concerns about the nomination process. Before the American people could even hear what she had to say in her testimony before Congress, she was completely demonized by right-wing interest groups. And of course the media, with a giddy zeal, attempted to find out every personal tidbit about this lady in exposing any weaknesses. Now, the exacting and wearisome nomination process begins again, this time with Samuel Alito. Because of Alito's conservative record, some in Congress are threatening a fight over the Alito nomination.

However, with all the scrutiny and attention paid to possible Supreme Court justices in today's media, some of the greatest judges to ever sit on the Supreme Court would never have made it to the bench.

For example, Justice Hugo Black was a staunch advocate for the Bill of Rights. During the anti-communist McCarthy era of the 1950s, Black consistently voted to uphold the First Amendment rights of those brought under the heavy hand of the government. He also wrote the unanimous opinion in the 1963 case of Gideon vs. Wainwright, which guaranteed the right of all defendants to be represented by a lawyer in state criminal trials. Black was famous for pulling a pocket Constitution from inside his coat jacket and liberally quoting from it.

However, in the 1920s, Black was a member of the Ku Klux Klan. In 1921, he defended Klansmen accused of murdering a priest. Although he later disavowed his membership in the Klan, in today's over-scrutinized attention paid to the background of potential nominees, Black would have been slaughtered like a sacrificial lamb on the altar of politics.

When Earl Warren was a district attorney, he was noted for being “tough on crime.” And later as the Republican governor of California, Warren exuded a conservative bias. But President Eisenhower was surprised that Warren turned out to be more liberal than he appeared.

Indeed, it was Chief Justice Warren who wrote the opinion in the landmark decision of Brown vs. Board of Education in 1954, which did away with the segregation of public schools.

He also wrote the opinion in Miranda vs. Arizona, which required that the rights of people arrested be explained to them, including the right to an attorney — often called the “miranda warnings.” Warren later headed up the Warren Commission to investigate the circumstances of John Kennedy's assassination. But when he was governor of California, he supported the internment of Japanese-Americans in concentration camps during World War II. Because of this, it is quite unlikely that he would ever have made it to the Supreme Court.

One of the complaints lodged against Miers was that she was never a judge. However, Robert Jackson, considered one of the great Supreme Court justices

of all time, did not even attend college and was never a judge.

Finally, William Rehnquist, whose vacancy was recently filled by John Roberts, had a lurid past, some have argued. While a student at Stanford University, Jewish classmates were allegedly outraged by Rehnquist goose-stepping and “Heil Hitlering” with friends in front of a dormitory for Jewish students. He was an attorney in private practice in Phoenix, Ariz., in the mid-'50s to the late '60s. In 1964, Rehnquist voiced opposition to the Phoenix City Council's proposed Public Accommodation Ordinance, which permitted blacks to enter stores and restaurants. In fact, according to George Brooks, president of the Phoenix NAACP chapter from 1963 to 1972, one evening when he and other civil-rights activists were picketing in front of the Arizona State House, Rehnquist emerged from the building.

“He remonstrated against us,” Brooks said. Others have testified to the altercation, which Rehnquist says didn't happen — even claiming under oath, to Brooks' amusement, that he did not know anyone by the name of George Brooks. Several witnesses even stated under oath that Rehnquist harassed minority voters in the early 1960s — primarily black and Hispanic. Rehnquist also owned property containing restrictive covenants barring its sale to non-whites and Jews. These facts alone today would destroy any chance of Rehnquist ever sitting on the Supreme Court. But he went on to serve on the court 33 years and was one of the longest-sitting chief justices ever — 19 years. And while his opinions were not memorable, they did nothing to dismantle the staid Supreme Court.

Clearly, the current nomination process forces presidents to pick nominees with no past. These are people who hide what they believe and hold a politically correct view of almost everything. They are stealth candidates like Roberts who, in his testimony before Congress, revealed virtually nothing. In the process, the sort of diversity needed on the Supreme Court will never exist again under the current procedure.

On one side, the interest groups scream and spend millions of dollars to either bolster or destroy the candidate. Consider the case of Judge Robert Bork, nominated to the court by Ronald Reagan. Interest groups spent an unprecedented \$20 million in campaigns to either demonize or praise him. Bork was so scrutinized that he was criticized for his movie rentals — such as “A Day at the Races,” “Ruthless People” and, amazingly, Alfred Hitchcock's “The Man Who Knew Too Much.”

On the other side is the celebrity-driven media fed by leaks from government agents that attempt to expose every weakness of the individual. And who gets left out of the process? As usual, the American people.

(Contact constitutional attorney John W. Whitehead at johnw@rutherford.org.)



For wine consumers, their ship has come in

BY MICHELLE LOCKE
Associated Press Writer

NAPA — Napa vintner Dennis Cakebread is finally sending out cases of wine to thirsty New York state customers, seven long months after a Supreme Court ruling paved the way for the shipments.

“What we’ve learned about this is patience and persistence,” said Cakebread. “These lawsuits aren’t like an episode of ‘L.A. Law’ — after one hour you win your case and you’re off and running.”

A lot has happened since the U.S. Supreme Court opened the door to shipping wine across state lines. But change hasn’t been swift in an industry that sometimes seems as rich in red tape as it is red grapes.

“We’re in a highly regulated industry. This isn’t like selling sweaters,” said Jeremy Benson, executive director of Free The Grapes, a Napa-based group that has been working to loosen shipping restrictions. “The regulations are there and we have to work through them.”

The Supreme Court struck down laws last spring in New York and Michigan that allowed wineries to ship directly to in-state consumers but forbade out-of-state businesses from doing the same thing.

The court said either all wineries should be allowed to ship directly to consumers or none, a blow to the old distribution system that required a wholesaler to sell to restaurants and retailers. States have been acting to adjust their shipping laws ever since.

The ruling was particularly important to smaller wineries that don’t have the volume for wide distribution in liquor stores and supermarkets and rely on direct sales to consumers, many of whom have developed a taste for their products on winery visits.

“It makes a huge difference,” says Cakebread, part-owner and senior vice president of sales and marketing at

Cakebread Cellars, which began with a 156-case vintage in 1973 and now makes about 95,000 cases a year.

For a small winery like Elan, which makes about 1,000 cases a year, being able to ship is crucial, said owner Linda Elliott-Smith, who has had 15 cases of cabernet sauvignon paid for and ready to go to New York for a while.

They were delayed from shipping even further in January, when floods knocked power out. Customers who are big fans of Elan’s elegant reds have been willing to wait. “It’s nice that we have customers who are true followers,” she said.

Since the Supreme Court ruling, New York, Michigan and Ohio have loosened shipping restrictions. Texas also made shipping easier just prior to the high court ruling.

In December, shipping to New York became practical when the New York State Liquor Authority approved using UPS for wine shipments. FedEx also is working to get approval.

The New York law only allows shipments from states that extend similar privileges to New York vintners, which some experts say may not be constitutional. Michigan’s new law says wineries can’t ship more than 1,500 cases per year in direct-to-consumer shipments and also prohibits out-of-state wineries from selling direct to restaurants and retailers.

Still, the overall shipping picture is brighter for wineries, who have seen their potential shipping audience increase considerably.

At Joseph Phelps Vineyards, president and CEO Tom Shelton celebrated the California-New York connection when he hosted a dinner last year for New York Gov. George Pataki, who was visiting wine country.

“We got the flow going both ways,” he said. In a bit of bottle diplomacy, they served wines from New York state.

Officials find border tunnel near San Diego port of entry

By The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — U.S. Border Patrol agents stumbled on a cross-border tunnel after it caved in and the asphalt roadway above it collapsed, officials said.

The 35-foot-long tunnel, which was found Monday, ended in a patch of vacant land on the U.S. side near the San Ysidro port of entry, said Lauren Mack, a spokeswoman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.

The primitive tunnel was about 3 feet by 3 feet and appeared to have been used recently, she said.

The exit on the U.S. side was sealed with sandbags and metal strips, Mack said. Authorities did not know when it was built and whether it was used for smuggling drugs or people, she said.

The tunnel is across the border from an area that is either owned or leased by Mexican Customs.

No arrests were made.

Also on Monday, authorities in Nogales, Ariz. discovered a 40-foot-long border tunnel. Two men were arrested as they hauled 300 pounds of marijuana from the tunnel, authorities said.

More than a dozen tunnels have been found along the southwestern border in recent years.

In 2003, Border Patrol agents found a tunnel that originated in a private house in Mexico and ended in a parking lot on the U.S. side. A year later, U.S. authorities found evidence that someone was trying to rebuild the passageway.

“We do believe it’s a trend where smugglers are attempting to go underground after 9/11 as a result of the heightened security,” Mack said.



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LOCAL

Ethical conflicts may have undone director

WOODLAWN, from page 1

partner's monument-making business at the cemetery.

Steen has appealed City Hall's decision to fire him on the grounds that he feels his dismissal was unjust. According to his attorney, William Becker, City Hall should have done more to address issues it had with Steen's management of the cemetery. Instead, City Hall set up false expectations by giving Steen excellent performance reviews up until the time of his dismissal. In addition, Becker argued City Hall could have corrected particular issues it had with Steen — such as the business relationship he had with his domestic partner — which would have been more effective than firing him.

Testimony on Tuesday focused on Steen's superiors, who were responsible for his evaluation and ultimate dismissal. The botched sale of \$200,000 in burial plots was discussed, as well as Steen's possibly shady relationship with Woodlawn Monument, a marker company owned by his domestic partner.

The hearing will continue on Jan. 19, at which time Steen and his domestic partner are expected to testify.

Steen appealed City Hall's decision to terminate him last September after a nine-month investigation concluded there was no criminal wrongdoing on his part regarding financial discrepancies discovered at Woodlawn, a municipal cemetery located between Pico Boulevard and Michigan Avenue, from 14th to 17th streets.

Officials haven't said specifically how much money might not be accounted for at Woodlawn or what revenue might be realized. They have, however, paid outside firms for two audits, as well as conducted their own audit, all of which have shown discrepancies in Woodlawn's financial books.

The cemetery brings in about \$450,000 a year in revenue, but it's subsidized by City Hall because it operates at a loss.

Because Steen's firing is a personnel matter, city officials won't elaborate on circumstances surrounding the criminal investigation, or his termination — beyond what is said in the appeal hearing, a matter of public record.

Steen was placed on paid administrative leave in December of 2004 while City Hall investigated his financial management of the cemetery. While it was concluded he committed no criminal wrongdoing, City Hall believed it had grounds to terminate him.

As a result of his termination, Steen has taken private funeral jobs which pay between \$200 and \$300 a week — a fraction of the \$100,000-plus annual salary Steen is believed to have earned as Woodlawn's top administrator.

On Tuesday, Steen — wearing a dark suit — watched intently as his former superiors testified in his case.

Considering the fact no criminal charges have been filed against him, Steen hopes to clear his name and be compensated by City Hall through the course of the appeal. Testimony on Tuesday, how-

ever, indicated that while City Hall might have done more to steer his management style, Steen needed to go.

BORBOA REGRETS 'HANDS-OFF' APPROACH

Gil Borboa, Steen's former boss, testified that he has been the utilities division manager for more than eight years. During testimony on Tuesday, he calmly answered the attorneys' questions.

Steen, seated a few chairs away, watched Borboa throughout his testimony, but the two rarely made eye contact.

Borboa told the personnel board he has an engineering background with little experience in cemetery operations. Therefore, he mostly had a "hands-off" approach when it came to Woodlawn.

"It was my expectation that Michael would handle the day-to-day operations of the cemetery, and do that function accurately," Borboa said.

"That was (Steen's) job, not yours?" asked Irma Rodriguez-Moisa, counsel for City Hall.

"That's correct," Borboa replied.

Steen, who began working as Woodlawn's top administrator in 1989, received just one less-than-satisfactory performance review during his 15-year tenure. That was in 1991, when he was first criticized for a messy desk and lack of organization. Otherwise, Steen's performance reviews have been very favorable over the years, taking particular note of his communication skills.

That includes the performance reviews Borboa prepared from 2000 until Steen was put on paid administrative leave in December of 2004, when City Hall began conducting its criminal investigation.

However, it was during an audit for the 2001-02 fiscal year in which a "significant number of issues" first arose, according to testimony. A letter from the auditing firm Moss, Levy & Hartzheim informed City Hall, "The cemetery did not have adequate audit trails or records available to determine if internal controls existed. The internal controls appear to have been inadequate or non-existent ..."

ML&H didn't draw definitive conclusions about what questionable financial role Steen may or may not have played in the cemetery's operations. Instead, its 13 findings, mirrored in two subsequent audits, examined the discrepancies and what opportunities they might have presented for the misappropriation of funds.

In light of the audit, Borboa issued a corrective action plan to address the lack of internal controls that the ML&H audit pointed out.

However, Steen didn't accept the evaluation of his performance that year. The evaluation, generally favorable, indicated that as a manager, Steen was responsible for ensuring that internal financial controls were in place. Since they weren't at the time of the audit, Steen didn't receive a bonus.

Steen appealed the evaluation. The appeal required City Hall to bolster Steen's performance review. Otherwise,

See WOODLAWN, page 7

**WANT TO TICKLE YOUR FUNNY BONE?
CHECK OUT THE COMICS ON PAGE 12!**

LOCAL



Plot thickens: City wants widow's cash

WOODLAWN, from page 6

City Hall's position was upheld, according to testimony.

Subsequently, Steen continued to receive favorable evaluations, including a performance bonus the following year.

Borboa was asked by the personnel board if he had followed up to make sure the corrective action plan was being put into place at Woodlawn.

Borboa said he followed up with some of the plan's steps, but not all of them. Borboa explained that he preferred to let his managers work independently. When he asked managers to make changes, Borboa expected them to do so without him following up.

Borboa said it's that quality of self-initiative which distinguishes managers from other kinds of employees. However, in light of the controversy that came from the findings of the audits, Borboa admitted he could have taken more initiative himself regarding the cemetery.

"I didn't ask for concrete proof (the corrective action plan) was being done," Borboa said. "Michael told me it was done, and I took his word on it."

"I could have been more diligent."

DEATH ON THE INSTALLMENT PLAN

Borboa and top city officials began to seriously consider there may have been criminal activity on Steen's part by November of 2004, after a City Hall audit for the previous fiscal year found that the financial controls that had been requested long ago had still not been put into place at Woodlawn.

In 2002, then-City Manager Susan McCarthy asked another outside auditing firm, KPMG, to follow up on the 2001 audit. The new audit, however, wasn't available until two and a half years later, according to testimony. KPMG was only able to provide an unsigned draft of its audit, which it presented to City Hall in July of 2004. It's unknown why there was a two-year delay in presenting the audit or why it was an unsigned draft.

After reviewing the KPMG audit, which mirrored many of the key findings of the ML&H audit, City Hall conducted an audit of its own.

That audit was overseen by Steve Stark, City Hall's finance director. Stark asked Mabel Borja, a senior finance manager with the city's Big Blue Bus, to lead the audit.

Borja — whose accounting career spans more than 20 years — developed a plan to test the findings in the previous audits. The goal was to sample between 3 and 10 percent of the 820 financial transactions for fiscal year 2003-04 at Woodlawn Cemetery.

One of the biggest discrepancies had to do with several premium burial plots Steen had evidently sold to an eccentric widow and failed to collect on the transaction. The plots, valued at \$200,000, were for Rose Dimitrio's dead husband, previously interred at a less expensive section of the cemetery.

According to testimony, Steen might have sold Dimitrio the plots on an installment plan, which is against the law. The criminal investigation attempted to determine whether Steen may have had some ulterior motive in providing Dimitrio with the plots, of which only \$6,000 has been collected to date. However, investigators

on the case testified they could find no evidence to support criminal wrongdoing.

City Hall plans on providing Dimitrio with a final notice to buy the plots. Otherwise, City Hall will move her husband's remains to the plot she previously purchased.

In light of City Hall's audit, Borboa and other city officials said they began to seriously question Steen's professional judgment.

"I was extremely troubled by the audit's findings," Borboa said. "There was not only minimal improvement, but new problems that hadn't been identified before."

IN SEARCH OF 'BILL STEVENS'

In the lineup to testify in coming weeks are Steen and his domestic partner of 32 years.

According to testimony, Steen's domestic partner has been identified in promotional literature at the cemetery as "Bill Stevens." However, that is not his real name.

Stevens, who works full time in law enforcement, often uses an alias because of the sensitive nature of his work, he told the Daily Press. In addition to his full-time job, he also is the owner of Woodlawn Monument, a company providing grave markers to families at the cemetery.

City Hall believes Steen admitted in previous interviews that Stevens paid him \$1,000 a month to refer cemetery customers to Woodlawn Monument, which was operated out of their home. If true, City Hall believes Steen compromised conflict-of-interest guidelines by promoting a private business for self-gain while working as a municipal employee.

Steen and his domestic partner have admitted to engaging in many side businesses over the years, including selling guns and insurance out of their home. However, Steen denies having any ties to Woodlawn Monument except to say his domestic partner owns it.

Borboa and other city higher ups said they were unaware of Woodlawn Monument's possible role in the cemetery until November of 2004. A month before Steen was put on paid administrative leave, a citizen complained to the city manager's office about private businesses being referred at the cemetery.

As a result of the complaint, City Hall prohibited any businesses referred by cemetery staff.

Then, Stevens complained to City Hall about the prohibition. It was when city managers received a voice mail from Stevens that they realized he sounded a lot like Steen's domestic partner. That's when they said they began to make the connection that Steen may have had an unethical tie-in with Woodlawn Monument.

According to Borboa's testimony, it was because of Steen's possible involvement with Woodlawn Monument that he began to question his positive evaluations of Steen.

Becker, Steen's attorney, said instead of firing Steen, City Hall might have better addressed the situation by keeping Woodlawn Monument out of the graveyard.

"Would it have been a conflict of interest if Woodlawn Monument did not operate at the cemetery?" Becker asked.

"I believe not," Borboa said.



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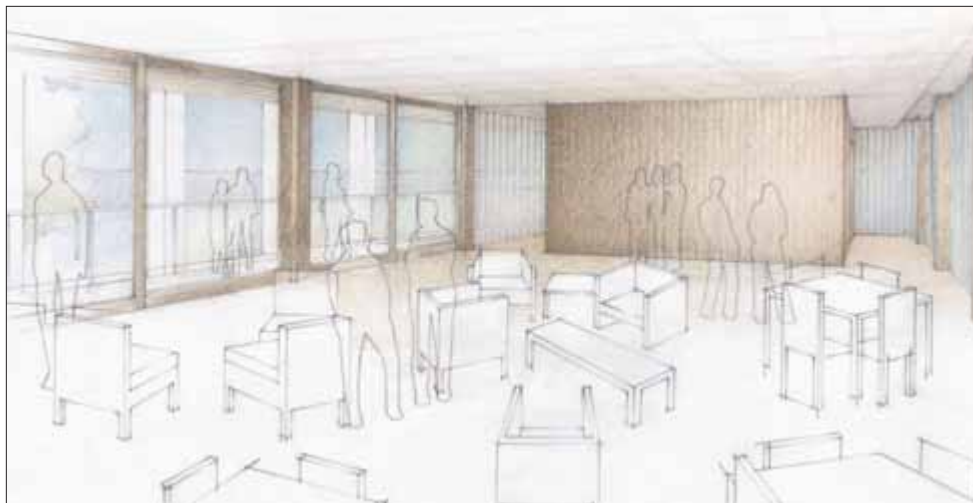
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LOCAL



Renderings courtesy of Frederick Fisher & Partners, Architects

VISIONS OF THINGS TO COME: The beach club that will open its doors at 415 PCH will feature the new and celebrate the old, as the former Marion Davies Estate is transformed into a public playground and meeting place complete with (above) refurbished structures, wide open expanses and ocean-view meeting rooms.

‘Bandit’ gets 1,200 years in jail

BANDIT, from page 1

Encino State Bank, located at 720 Wilshire Blvd., on Sept. 20, 2004, and Pacific Western Bank, located at 120 Wilshire Blvd., on Oct. 22, 2004, amid his robbing spree throughout Los Angeles and the South Bay.

Torrance Superior Court Judge Eric Taylor sentenced the 54-year-old Robinson to 1,210 years to life in prison and 22 life sentences after his conviction on 19 counts of robbery at banks throughout Los Angeles.

In October of 2005, Robinson was convicted of 22 counts, including three counts of attempted robbery, by a jury of 10 women and two men. Before he was sentenced, Robinson admitted to having six prior strikes against him, according to Deputy District Attorney Warren Kato.

When apprehended by Torrance police on Oct. 30, 2004, Robinson was on federal probation after serving 14 years for rob-

bing 30 banks over a two-year period in the 1980s. He was arrested while driving out of the Carson Street Western Financial Bank parking lot, a bank that had been robbed several days earlier.

Robinson is known as the “Dreadlocks Bandit” because of the long braids of hair he wore during the robberies, FBI officials said.

During the robberies, Robinson typically entered the bank and presented a note to the teller demanding money. He has been described as being discreet during the robberies, alerting only the teller that a crime is taking place.

Approximately \$70,000 was taken during Robinson’s recent string of robberies.

In addition, Robinson threatened to shoot or kill the bank tellers, and in at least one instance, was seen with a knife according to FBI officials. Robinson, described as a transient, had a demeanor that was considered calm and friendly by witnesses. Authorities allege that he is a drug addict.

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LOCAL



New public beach club will likely need City Hall subsidy

415 PCH, from page 1

rehabilitation and residential work.

The project is funded by a \$21 million grant through the Annenberg Foundation, and a \$3 million contribution by City Hall.

The pool deck will be surrounded with chairs and chaise lounges, and a children's water play area will be located just to the north of the pool. To the east, a two-story pool house will be designed to recall the physical and formal stature of the mansion, built in the 1920s for Davies, Hearst's mistress and a well-known actress of her time. A new colonnade that will frame the shaded deck area is reminiscent of the spatial quality and architectural scale of the mansion's original multi-story porch, according to city staff.

The first floor of the pool house will have changing rooms, lockers, equipment storage and office functions. The second level will provide a viewing deck of the Pacific Ocean similar to the upper floor balconies the mansion once had. The second-floor community room will be used for informal recreation.

A beach walk that will run north to south in front of the property will follow the historic 1921 mean high tide line. Beach volleyball, paddle tennis courts and a small beach concession stand will be located at the north end of the property. A children's area will include play equipment and rubber safety surface paths. Showers and foot washes will be located at both north and south entrances to the beach from the parking lot, restroom area and the intersection of the Beach Walk and Ocean Walk.

An event house will be able to accommodate up to 200 guests at public and private functions. Its amenities include an event room, a catering kitchen, restrooms, and elevators to access the second level pool house viewing deck and community room. The event court will be a paved area shaded by a grove of trees, where people can picnic.

The north house and terrace garden will undergo rehabilitation, conforming to local, state and federal historic preservation guidelines. The interior floor plan of the north house will have built-in features like cabinetry, stair rails, a decorative marble fireplace, hand-painted bathroom tiles and a crystal entry chandelier. A moveable partition wall will be installed so a large meeting room can be created,

according to city staff. The ground level will be dedicated to interpretative and cultural programming for visitors, meeting spaces, as well as a small kitchen and other office functions. The upper level will provide space for meeting rooms, with ocean views. The terrace garden, located just west of the north house, will accommodate small outdoor gatherings.

There will be 280 parking spaces on two lots at the property, including 162 existing spaces for public beachgoers, with 374 projected spaces expected to be needed if facilities are in full use at the same time.

Video cameras are also due to be installed, as well as onsite staffing, including nighttime security.

City Hall hopes to begin construction on the project in December of 2006. The renovations are expected to be completed in time for a public opening by January of 2009.

In October of last year, project leaders and consultants met with 110 community members to discuss the emerging design schemes to rehabilitate the site. Two workshops were hosted by Pankow Special Projects, Ltd., the Pasadena-based design firm contracted by City Hall in July to manage the project from conception to completion.

City staff and Rincon Consultants, Inc., City Hall's environmental consultant, are preparing the final environmental impact report which will be considered by the Planning Commission for certification in February 2006.

The economic assumptions of the facility outlined in a plan approved by the City Council in 1999 point out that while the goal is to have it be financially self-sustaining, there is a likelihood that City Hall will need to subsidize the operation, said Barbara Stinchfield, director of community and cultural services at City Hall.

At the request of a councilmember, city staff provided on Tuesday a financial breakdown of operating revenue and expenditures for the first and second year of the facility's operation. Year one, which is the start-up phase, will require a significant subsidy while year two could possibly be a break-even year, depending upon how much the facility is used and at what rates City Hall charges.

"The intent of this project is to generate revenue to offset the costs of the recreational facilities," Stinchfield said. "But these are all very preliminary estimates based on working assumptions."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

around, officials said. SHARE recently embarked on a project to create housing similar to sober living for people with mental health problems. One six-bed "collaborative" house already has opened for mentally ill people, and cooperating landlords throughout the county have committed 200 more beds for collaborative housing.

"Community resources provide a preparatory experience for many recovering people to get back into the work force," said Michael Saliba, president of LACSLC, which inspects and certifies more than 170 sober living homes within the county.

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Business

SANTA MONICA BUSINESS BRIEFS

Bank employee receives service award

By Daily Press staff

A local volunteer organization has received \$1,000, thanks to an U.S. Bank employee.

Araxie Naufal has been honored with a U.S. Bank five star volunteer award for exceptional volunteer service. The Soroptimist International-Los Angeles West/Santa Monica will be \$1,000 richer as a result. It is one of 115 organizations across the United States to receive an award in the second half of 2005. Recipients of the U.S. Bank five star volunteer award were chosen based on nominations submitted by employees, or the organization for which they volunteered.

Naufal, who works for U.S. Bank in West Los Angeles, is vice president of programs for Soroptimist International-Los Angeles West/Santa Monica. The position involves recruitment and scheduling of at least one speaker per month for special programs meetings. In addition, Naufal works with the club to raise funds to implement community awareness programs aimed at improving the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world.

The second round of U.S. Bank five star volunteer awards will be presented in 26 states and the District of Columbia. Nominations are being accepted for the first round of awards for 2006 and may be made by an employee or by a nonprofit organization. The deadline for the first round of 2006 nominations is April 15. Winners will be announced in June.

Staying on top of the market means staying on top of market developments



MARKET MATTERS

BY BRIAN HEPP

Investors have been keeping a close eye on the Federal Reserve as it has continued to raise interest rates over the past year and a half. After 13 consecutive increases, many are hoping that an end may soon be in sight.

A.G. Edwards analysts believe the Fed's decision on when to put an end to the current streak of rate hikes could have a direct impact on individual investors, so it's important to pay attention to that economic variable as we move into a new year.

Rising interest rates are just one of the many worries stock investors have had to deal with in recent months. But if the Fed ends its rate-hike cycle early in the year, investors who had fled the stock market — or even those who may have simply been sitting on the sidelines — might consider coming back to stocks, especially if they feel rates could head back down shortly after hitting a peak.

As for stocks themselves, the market has been a mixed bag this year. After a good start in the first couple months, events over the balance of the past calendar year have caused many investors to lose confidence in stocks. Other asset classes — such as second homes, commodities and bonds — became more popular with investors. But a number of potential positives could bode well for stocks in the coming year.

Our equity analysts feel one positive for stocks could very well be the fact that stocks are currently an unpopular asset class. The market averages really haven't made any significant progress for the past two years. While it's hard to come to grips emotionally, sometimes the best time to buy an asset is when it is unpopular, because it is likely selling at attractive levels. Popularity means higher prices and more risk.

For long-term investment success, investors should purchase stocks that are fundamentally sound, even if it

doesn't feel comfortable. The potential for rewards in the long run can make up for any discomfort in the near term. Keep in mind, though, the return and principal value of an investment in stocks fluctuates with changes in market conditions, and you may receive more or less than your original investment when you sell.

Given these circumstances, it would appear that the popular market averages should see moderate increases in the coming year, according to our analysts. As investors get back into the market, increased buying should help lift stock prices overall. The market indexes, which are based on stock prices, should therefore begin to climb as well. When the Fed ends its rate-hike cycle, price-earnings ratios — an important measure related to stocks — will likely expand to some extent from current levels.

Besides gains in the overall averages, our analysts believe several sectors of the market are likely to benefit from the economic conditions laid out for the coming year. At this point in the cycle, investors should continue to hold overweighted positions in the relatively defensive health care and consumer staples sectors. In addition to those broad sectors, several specific industry groups stand to benefit in the coming year, including oil and gas refining and marketing, construction and engineering, and wireless telecom services.

Economic and corporate earnings growth should continue as well, giving investors all the more reason to invest in stocks. How these events ultimately unfold remains to be seen. But those who are willing to stay on top of those important market developments as they occur will have a distinct advantage, and will position themselves to make positive strides in the coming year.

(Brian Hepp is a financial consultant for Santa Monica-based A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. Member SIPC. He can be reached at (310) 453-0077 or at brian.hepp@agedwards.com. A.G. Edwards is a full-service retail brokerage firm that offers a complete spectrum of financial products and services, including stocks, bonds and mutual funds, financial retirement planning and tax-advantage investments.)

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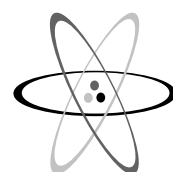
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THE WEEKLY RECKONING

BY BILL BONNER

Our advice at the beginning of last year was the same as the advice we gave the year before, and the year before that — buy gold.

Happily, gold was the year's top performing sector, for which we claim no distinction nor ask for any thanks. We have only one virtue here at The Daily Reckoning headquarters — humility. And we are even insincere about that. But even false modesty is a great advantage in the forecasting business — that, and not watching television.

Nobody knows what will happen. The worst thing you can do is to listen to other forecasters. The New Year brings them out like a new moon brings out werewolves. All tend to howl the same thing: Next year will be more or less like the last. How do they know? They read it in the paper!

If you follow the consensus view, you are doomed to mediocrity. You will make the same investments everyone else makes and get the same returns that everyone else gets. That is not only a dull and cowardly way to do things, it practically guarantees that you will eventually be looking for coins under cushions and asking your brother-in-law for a loan.

Over time, the great mass of investors loses money. Every bull market is followed by a bear market. Every bubble pops. Every great company fails. G.M. lost half its value last year. Fannie Mae fell 31 percent. The typical investor merely goes along. He follows the trends up and back down. All the while he is paying Wall Street's costs. For long periods of time, he thinks he is smart.

The last bull trend in stocks began in

1982. It lasted for 18 years. All an investor had to do was to follow the consensus view and buy stocks "for the long run." Even now, five years after the peak, he still thinks he will get rich in stocks if he waits long enough. But the typical bear market lasts about as long as the bull market that preceded it. And it wipes out most or all of the gain. By the time it is finally over — perhaps in 2015 — the Dow will probably be back below 5,000 and the average investor will be underwater, because he bought when the newspapers, experts and forecasters told him to: When the Dow was over 5,000.

The big opportunities — and big dangers — are all at the turning points. When the Dow turns down, for example, it is time to sell. When gold begins to take off, it is time to buy. But these turning points — these major market shifts — are never foreseen by the forecasters. They are "discontinuities." That is, they are breaks in the visible and usual patterns. You cannot see them coming by looking at what happened last year or the year before. You cannot predict them by guessing that things, next year, will be more or less as they were the last. They are the very time when things will not be as they have been.

They are the points at which new trends begin.

We are too ornery to follow the crowd, and too modest to think we know what the year ahead will bring. The best we can do is to follow hunches, instincts and old-fashioned theories. "You get what you've got coming," is one of them. "Buy low, sell high" is another.

At \$10 a barrel, they were practically

giving away oil a few years ago. It hit \$70 a barrel on Sept. 1, 2005. Now it is around \$60. Stocks were selling at only six times earnings in 1982. They were practically giving them away. Likewise, gold was so cheap in the early '70s — at \$41 an ounce — they were practically giving it away. Whenever people give away something valuable, we take it.

We've never regretted buying at give-away prices. It is what led us to buy buildings in Baltimore in the early '90s, our place in Nicaragua, and more recently, land in Argentina.

By the late 1990s, gold was being

given away again at under \$300 an ounce. Then, with the Dow near 12,000, we announced our Trade of the Decade: buy gold, sell stocks. Half the decade has now gone by. Gold has doubled. Stocks have not yet broken down. But we will stick with our trade. They are not giving gold away anymore. Still, a major bull market in the yellow metal is underway. We are too humble to make a forecast, but we stay with our Trade of the Decade, just to see how it turns out.

(For more insight and analysis, visit www.dailyreckoning.com)

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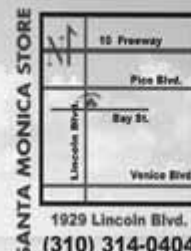
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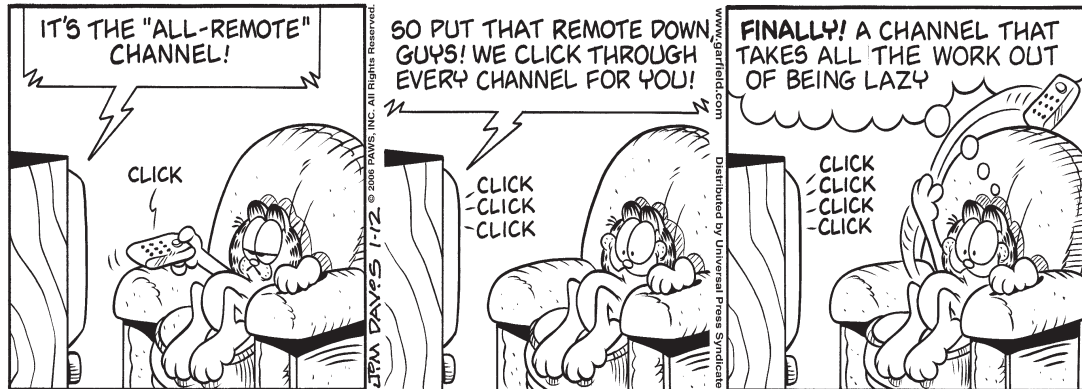
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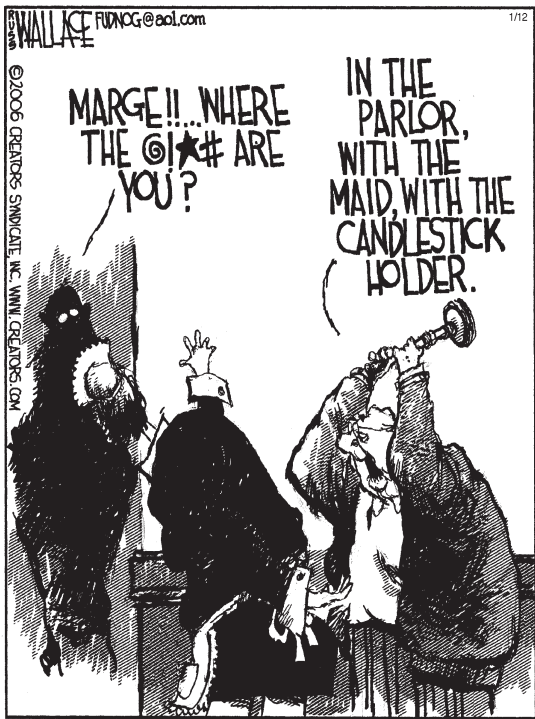
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12 Road reversal

13 Kitchen output

14 Masked hero

15 Actor Cariou

16 Board cutter

18 Surround

20 Compass dir.

21 Very bright

23 Say further

24 Ocelot feature

26 Diner offering

28 Mole, e.g.

29 Improvise musically

31 Pitch's kin

32 Frames

36 Baffled

39 Clumsy person

40 Grapevine item

41 Busy

43 Writer Barker

44 Less loony

46 Belfry bunch

DOWN

1 Diva's practice

2 Filmdom's Sophia

3 In the middle of

4 Bob Cratchit's son

5 Peach cover

6 Full range

7 Vituperate

8 Chores

9 Deceived

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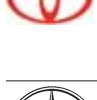


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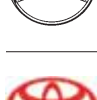
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Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF QUANG QUANG KLEINMAN

Case No. BP096101

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of QUANG QUANG KLEIN-MAN

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Mimi Chiang in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PRO-BATE requests that Mimi Chiang be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on February 7, 2006 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 5 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

IF YOU OBJECT to the grant-ing of the petition, you should ap-pear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a per-son interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and ap-praisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner: ROBERT C EROEN ESQ SBN 170255

THE EROEN LAW FIRM PC

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16TH FLR

LOS ANGELES CA 90067

Santa Monica Daily Press

CN745244 KLEINMAN Jan 11,12,18, 2006

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2938643 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as First Look Sonogram, AI #/ON 200524210069, 10657 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90064. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Virces, LLC, 10657 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90064 This Business is being conducted by, a limited liability. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Virces, LLC, President, Eumea Yun

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/1/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/29/2005, 1/5/2006, 1/12/2006, 1/19/2006

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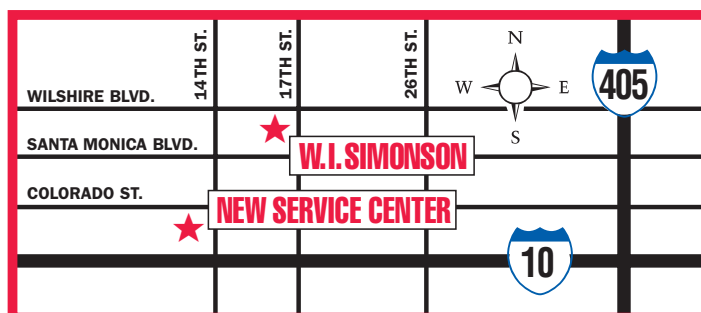
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