



FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

January 15-16, 2005

A newspaper with issues

Volume 4, Issue 55

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

3 17 20 28 44
Meganumber: 21
Jackpot: \$7 Million

FANTASY 5

1 3 16 21 37

DAILY 3

Daytime: 4 4 7
Evening: 8 1 4

DAILY DERBY

1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 09 Winning Spirit
3rd: 07 Eureka

RACE TIME: 1:45:49

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In November, BBC News previewed an upcoming story for its wildlife TV magazine show "Spy in the Woods," derived from film footage from a stationary hidden camera in the Quingling mountains in northwest China. Featured on the show was a panda doing a handstand against a tree, apparently for the purpose of extending the vertical reach of his urine, to more dominantly mark his territory.

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1870, the Democratic party was represented as a donkey for the first time in a cartoon by Thomas Nast in Harper's Weekly.

In 1942, Jawaharlal Nehru succeeded Mohandas K. Gandhi as head of India's National Congress Party.

In 1943, work was completed on the Pentagon, now the headquarters of the U.S. Defense Department.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"One day we must come to see that peace is not merely a distant goal we seek, but that it is a means by which we arrive at that goal. We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means."

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
(1929-1968)

INDEX

Horoscopes	
Don't pay, Pisces	2
Surf Report	
Water Temperature: 59°	3
Opinion	
Stop having a ball, already	4
Recreation	
Trojan coarse	8
State	
Oh, dam!	9
National	
Calm before the storm	10
People in the News	
Hair line fractures	16

City courting solution to homelessness

(Editor's note: This is the first article in a three-part series detailing new strategies for dealing with homelessness, the cost and effectiveness of providing social service programs, and the impacts of homelessness on Santa Monica.)

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — A special courtroom may soon be established for homeless residents who routinely land in court for what social service workers call "lifestyle violations," like taking shopping carts for personal use or sleeping in

Santa Monica parks.

The idea of a homeless court, where officials could help offenders transition out of the courts and into social service programs, was one of several new ideas discussed at City Hall this week for tackling the persistent problem of homelessness.

Last year, nearly 2,200 homeless people received some form of

help from city-funded nonprofit organizations in Santa Monica, according to an annual report on homelessness delivered to city officials last week. City Hall gave more than \$1.8 million to nine local agencies, which collectively leveraged another \$5 million from outside sources, the report says.

Residents and merchants continue to rank homelessness as the No. 1 problem in Santa Monica. Officials said this week that they were working on several new efforts to reduce the number of

transients on the streets, while continuing established programs.

Starting last summer, officials launched a pilot program to tackle what they dubbed "chronic homelessness." A dozen people who have been homeless in Santa Monica for between 5 and 20 years were picked, based on their frequent interaction with police and paramedics, and given preference at local social service organizations.

As a result of a combined effort between city staffers, authorities, See **HOMELESSNESS**, page 7

Comb-over



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

A city worker rakes the Santa Monica Beach during the early morning hours while the high tide rolls in.

Main Street denizens expect a bright future

Following a dark period, change is in the air all along popular city strip

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

MAIN STREET — This funky stretch of restaurants, shops and eclectic eye candy is bracing for a brighter future.

Change has been constant on Main Street in recent months, with anchor retailer The Gap closing shop in late December and ground breaking on two major developments that will bookend the popu-

lar strip for years to come.

What's more, officials plan on Monday to string lights along both sides of Main Street, from Pico Boulevard to the southern Santa Monica city limit. The white lights will lend a festive, intimate air to the popular thoroughfare and will stay up throughout the year, according to Gary Gordon, who heads the Main Street Merchants' Association.

"It's going to be decorative, but it also will add some light to the street," Gordon said. "It will really give some definition to Main Street as a business, shopping and dining district."

See **MAIN STREET**, page 6

Finding 12 angry men is easier said than done

BY DIDIER DIELS

Special to the Daily Press

SM COURTHOUSE — In the end, Jaime Toribio's repeated attempts to avoid a courtroom landed him squarely within one Friday. He had three summons to appear for jury duty, a mailer to explain his reasoning for being absent and another chance to appear in Santa Monica Court last week.

When Judge Craig Karlan asked him on Friday why — even

after departing his job as a welder — he failed to show up, the sanctioned juror's blushed just a bit.

"Uh, I don't know," he replied.

If Toribio serves his summons, appearing at the Airport Courthouse on the morning of Feb. 28, and staying until whatever time more the judge requests, Judge Karlan will reduce his fine from \$250 to \$50.

"It's not about the money," Judge Karlan said from his courtroom, where potential jurors plead

for reduced fines or exemptions from serving jury duty. "I think this is a money losing venture. The goal is to get people to serve."

Karlan said he expected about 30 of the 126 runaway jurors called to appear before him on Friday. Five showed up.

"Yes, I expected more," Karlan said. "On the flip side, it might be a good thing. Maybe more people are showing up (when first called)."

In the West District, which

includes Santa Monica, Culver City, Van Nyes, Malibu and Beverly Hills, more than 10,000 absent jurors are currently being sought after they neglected to serve or even provide a reasonable excuse for not serving.

Since a 1999 court rule established "one day, one trial," everyone must show up for jury selection or mail in an allowable excuse once a year.

Meanwhile, the fines for failing See **CALL TO DUTY**, page 6

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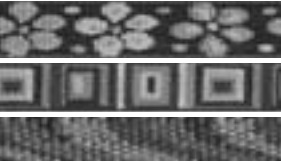



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Kristine Johnson Fountain of Joy



The Kristine Johnson Fountain of Joy is seeking donations. Situated in a courtyard garden visible to the community, the fountain will be a respite for those seeking faith, peace and hope amongst the challenges of the world.

Donations to the Kristine Johnson Fountain of Joy may be sent to:

St. Augustine By-The-Sea Episcopal Church
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 **ARIES (March 21-April 19)**
 ★★★★★ Going to extremes feels good when the Moon slides into your sign. Excess marks your adventures. Your wanton ways could cause a misunderstanding with someone who is quite judgmental. Still, you cannot discard this person's reactions. Tonight: You are the center of the party

 **TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
 ★★ A tendency to be overly sensitive could muck up your day. Add in a misunderstanding, and you could be very upset. Know when to cocoon. Try to distance yourself from knee-jerk reactions. Ultimately, you will be happier. Tonight: Order in, zone out on some good music and relax

 **GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
 ★★★★★ Zoom in on your desires, inviting others and structuring plans. Confusion and laughter could easily break out. Don't get uptight about a misunderstanding. Laugh and correct information. Tonight: Just don't be alone. OK?

 **CANCER (June 21-July 22)**
 ★★★ While others let go and get into the weekend, responsibilities fall on you. Consider what might be going on concerning a partner or friend. Is he or she jealous? Do you need to include this person in your plans more often? Tonight: Others follow your lead, for better or for worse.

 **LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
 ★★★★★ Read between the lines with others. You discover more than you realize or perhaps want. Hop into the car and take a day trip. Enjoy the winter scenery. Decide to do something unique to the season. Where are your ice skates? Tonight: Surround yourself with music.

 **VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**
 ★★★★★ Dealing with one special person can be a real pleasure and one that you might not want to change. A close encounter adds that extra sparkle and energy. Vanish and do absolutely what you want, with the person you want. Tonight: Light candles; add atmosphere.

 **LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
 ★★★★★ Why not allow others to be peacocks and parade in front of you? You get to see another's true colors, which will ultimately be important in making decisions. Your popularity soars as you develop an easy, laid-back attitude. Tonight: Where the action is

 **SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
 ★★★ Not every moment of the weekend can be a pleasurable retreat. Some work might be trailing behind you. Reverse directions and tackle what you must. The relaxation and contentment that follows will make you happy. Tonight: Keep it easy

 **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
 ★★★★★ You're full of spunk, energy and ideas. Just follow through on one of your ideas, and you'll come up with a delightful plan. Allow romance to filter through a relationship, even if it is a very old one. Don't eliminate the joys in life. Tonight: Act like a kid.

 **CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
 ★★★ Chilling out and relaxing at home doesn't have to be a grueling event. Light a fire, drink some hot cider and curl up with a good book. Invite others over only if you want to. Return calls and visit on the phone. Tonight: Nice and cozy

 **AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
 ★★★★★ Toss on a coat, hop out the door and make sure you have enough money to go off and have a day of adventure. Whether joining a pal at the movies or luxuriating over a yummy meal, take time to catch up on each other's news. Tonight: Swap jokes

 **PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
 ★★★ Expenses could soar, but perhaps you have spent too much. Curb any wild money ideas, as you could find yourself more in debt than you would like to be. You don't have to spend to have a good time. Work on that idea. Tonight: Let someone else treat.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Mountains Conservancy receives lofty praise

By Daily Press staff

An organization that's devoted almost three decades to preserving one of the area's most coveted recreation areas will receive national recognition this spring.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy will be the recipient of the American Planning Association's Daniel Burnham Award during a luncheon ceremony in San Francisco on March 22 in recognition of its success in purchasing and preserving land that otherwise would have fallen into the hands of developers.

The award is the APA's most prestigious honor and is given to individuals and organizations who have improved the value and awareness of planning, as well as improved the quality of life in one or more communities.

Since its establishment by the California Legislature in 1980, the Conservancy has preserved more than 55,000 acres of parkland across the Santa Monica Mountains, the Simi Hills, the Verdugo Mountains and portions of the Santa Susana and the San Gabriel Mountains. It also provides grants to fund the creation of programs to educate park visitors and children.

Big Blue goes to Saturday schedule for MLK

By Daily Press staff

A reminder to Big Blue Bus customers that on Martin Luther King Jr. (Monday, Jan. 17), the bus will operate Saturday schedules on all lines, except for lines 1, 3, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14.

The lines will have added trips. For further information, call the Big Blue Bus customer service office at (310) 451-5444. Note that the Big Blue Bus Customer Service office will be closed Jan. 17 in observance of the holiday.

Kor beliefs: Hotel undertakes own tsunami effort

By Daily Press staff

Amidst devastating reports of continued suffering by victims of December's tsunami disaster, a Santa Monica hotel company has undertaken its own relief efforts.

The Kor Hotel Group, which owns the Viceroy, has created customer- and company-based fundraising programs to provide immediate aid to survivors of the tragedy and to families in need.

For guests wishing to share in Kor Hotel Group's efforts, the company is offering "relief rates." The Kor Hotel Group will donate 10 percent of all reservations made in January 2005 to tsunami relief. Guests need to make reservations through www.reachout2005.com for donations to take effect. All of Kor Hotel Group's Southern California-based properties are participating, including Viceroy Santa Monica, Viceroy Palm Springs, and Avalon and Maison 140 in Beverly Hills.

In addition, Kor Hotel Group President John Arnett has announced that the company will match dollar-for-dollar all of the donations personally made by its employees. To ensure effective distribution of relief and supplies to tsunami-affected families in need, the Kor Hotel Group has selected World Vision (www.world-vision.org), a Seattle-based charity organization, as the distributor of its financial aid. Kor Hotel Group employees and matching donations will go towards providing family survival kits through World Vision. Each kit costs \$100, and will sustain a family of four for several days. It takes approximately 72 hours from the time of donation to a family's receipt of the goods.

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SURF REPORT

The surf for Saturday looks tiny. Leftover wind swell and trace Southern Hemi swell will have most breaks below knee high, while top breaks see some knee high sets. Look for the surf to remain tiny through Sunday morning.

By Monday a very modest W wind swell (260-280) will arrive and boost the surf ever so slightly. The better exposed breaks see ankle to waist high surf, while top San Diego breaks pull in a rare plus set. Those waves back down on Tuesday, although better surf is likely for the middle to second half of next week. See the long range forecasts for more details.

Conditions: Look for clean morning conditions through the weekend with light and variable wind. Light W winds build in the 6-10 knot range for the afternoons. Look for similar conditions to prevail through early next week.

**Today the
water is:**

59°

Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today
at your local break.



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	7:30	1.9	7:16	0.5	1:17	4.6	12:42	2.2
SUNDAY	8:37	1.7	8:01	1.2	2:09	4.7	2:04	3.3
MONDAY	10:19	1.3	8:53	1.9	3:03	4.7	4:03	2.8
TUESDAY	11:42	0.7	9:58	2.3	3:59	5.0	6:10	2.8
WEDNESDAY	12:41	0.2	11:07	2.6	4:52	5.2	7:31	3.1
THURSDAY	N/A	N/A	1:25	0.2	5:40	5.3	8:19	3.3
FRIDAY	N/A	N/A	1:25	0.2	5:40	5.3	8:19	3.3

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**THE Q-LINE
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**WE HAVE THE QUESTIONS.
YOU HAVE THE ANSWERS.
CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S Q-LINE
RESPONSES ON PAGE 4.**

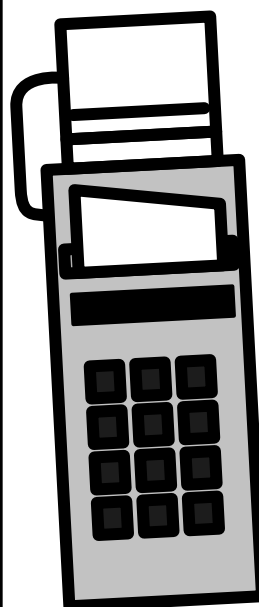


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The Q-Line

RESIDENTS RELAY THE BURRS IN THEIR SADDLES

This past week, Q-line asked:
What's on your mind in this city by the sea?
Here are your responses:

☉ “There are a lot of things in this city that need remedying. Chief among them is the resolution of the out of control vagrancy, homeless problem. Everything else depends on this. We need a clean, safe, attractive city again.”

☉ “I am vehemently against forced medication of our population via fluoridation. There are no benefits to fluoridation. We actually pay the phosphate fertilizer industry to take their waste materials. Only big business wins with fluoridation, not our children or us.”

☉ “Unfortunately, I see, well I've known, that the people of Santa Monica lazily reelected the same crooks that were there before. Case in point, (City Councilman) Herb Katz and his special interest. And I hear that Bobby Shriver says that ... he is leaving it up to him (Katz) if he has any integrity to proceed. When did the word “integrity” enter the world of politics? I'm just very sad, too, because each one of those people, except for Bobby Shriver, have a hidden agenda and it's very, very sorry for the City of Santa Monica to be governed by people like them ... very, very sorry. I'm disgusted.”

☉ “What's on my mind is, in Santa Monica, we got a city crawling with bums. In Sacramento, we've got a governor who has lived in this country for 30 years and still can't pronounce the name of the state, and all he wants to do is run for president. And we got a president that's a bigger idiot than Homer Simpson running things, unfortunately.”

☉ “The thing that's on my mind a lot, and I don't think I've ever seen it in print regarding the homeless, is the unrelenting amount of homeless that go through the alleyways and pick through the trash cans. For me, it's the single most annoying thing about living in Santa Monica, especially for people living near alleyways and apartment buildings.”

☉ “I would like to see less collusion between the City Council.”

☉ “What's on my mind is finding somewhere to move to. I'm looking for a quiet seaside town which is not overcrowded, which is not a testing ground for social engineering, or a magnet for vagrants, which is driver friendly, as well as pedestrian friendly, which is not polarized by a highly charged political climate, whose citizens are not over-taxed and over-regulated, and which is governed by a group of people who do not throw public money away on wasteful projects. In other words, I'm looking for Santa Monica as it was 30 years ago, when I moved here.”

☉ “What's on my mind: Affordable housing. We need to have a public review to go over again why we're doing this — why we are making this

city denser, why we are opening up our city to more people who do not live in Santa Monica. It's time — the 1990s proposition was a long time ago — to review this, whether this is something that's still important in Santa Monica.”

☉ “My thinking is Mr. Shriver is trying to solve the homeless problem and clean up the streets. Genser and Bloom are trying to perpetuate and exacerbate the problem. The Jan. 11 city council meeting bore this out lucidly. Genser and Bloom want to import low-income housing tenants, and build new large apartment buildings for them, with city funding for favors from low-income housing developers, like the community corporation of Santa Monica — our city's biggest landlord. They call themselves a non-profit corporation, but everybody makes large salaries there, starting with executive director Jay Ling. I would like to see a full investigation of the Community Corporation of Santa Monica and its relationship with Genser and Bloom, who are, respectively, a development consultant and a lawyer. This is a situation that cries out for a full blown investigation of all concerning and including City Hall officials.”

☉ “We've got to cut out these six- and seven-figured salaries to run our schools. It's a real joke on the homeowners in this city how six or seven people can put their ideas on a ballot, every so often, that states they need more money to run their office. Just get rid of those people with the awful salaries they're receiving, like our superintendent of schools, who is imported from somewhere out of state. The school board should have hired one of the many local school board employees to run the job. That's a start. There's a lot more.”

☉ “Santa Monica Place shopping mall should definitely not be destroyed to make room for huge skyscrapers. If the mall is destroyed, the city council will regret their approval actions.”

☉ “Santa Monica is largely dysfunctional for its residents. There's no normal neighborhood area with these services to serve residents: Laundromat, drugstore, hardware, Xerox, etc. The Promenade is for tourists. The parks are given over to the homeless. Soon, we'll have the Twin Towers West to overwhelm the scale of the city. The city council has all the visibility and gets all the flack, but the people who actually run the city are invisible and largely unknown. A city manager, whom no one has ever seen and few could name, and a couple of boards whose function it is to maximize income even though it means driving out established local businesses and bringing in gas and Hooters. Maybe if we actually elected these people they would have some accountability to us.”

Dear Mr. President: Now is not the time to cash in



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

Dear Mr. President:

Like millions of Americans, I was moved by your appeal to open my heart and wallet at this time and think about the victims of the tsunami in Southeast Asia. Now, I'm appealing to you to hold a more modest inauguration celebration so that money can be used for a more appropriate cause.

Currently, the celebration is estimated at a cost of between \$40 and \$50 million. It's scheduled to go on for four days, and will include nine official balls, countless “unofficial parties” and a parade. I know the dollar isn't worth what it once was, and the price of those little hot dogs keeps going up, but a four-day, \$50 million party? Considering what's going on in the world, these plans make Marie Antoinette's “Let them eat cake” attitude seem like the height of sensitivity.

Many of your supporters — some of whom even raised money for you — are complaining that they can't afford to come to the celebration. It could easily cost a couple \$10,000 to go to the festivities, and some are going to spend \$250,000 on the “underwriter package,” which does include a nice lunch. The Republican Party might no longer just be the party of the rich, but with six-figure lunches, this inauguration is definitely a party just for the rich.

I know you're not responsible for planning this overkill. From everything we've been told, you're no longer a party guy, you go to bed early, and you like things simple. No, those who want this elaborate celebration are some of your big, big money supporters. “Only” \$1.25 million plus whatever it costs for the unprecedented amount of security will come from ordinary taxpayers. Wealthy individuals and corporations will contribute the bulk of the money. Contributors of \$250,000 each to the inauguration celebration include Chevron Texaco, Exxon Mobil and Occidental Petroleum. But these fat cats will listen to you. If you tell them this is not the appropriate time for something like this, they'll dial back the celebration.

And that's all I'm asking. I'm not suggesting that you cancel it. Celebrate. Have a party. Have a big party. Get all dressed up and dance at the elegant ball. Have some ribs at The Texas Black Tie and

Boots Ball. But don't have a four-day “coronation” that says to the world, “champagne and caviar are more important to us than human lives.” Cut back on the party and ask those guys to give their big money to something that's really important — just as you asked all Americans.

There is precedent of presidents calling for less elaborate ceremonies. Woodrow Wilson felt the ball was too expensive and unnecessary, and canceled it. Warren Harding did away with the ball and the parade, hoping to set an example of thrift and simplicity. The inaugurations of Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt featured charity balls.

Charity balls instead of self-indulgent balls seem like a pretty good idea at this time. Think of what could be done with that \$50 million if you convinced those sponsors to spend their money on more meaningful things than paté and limos. How many parentless victims of the tsunami could be saved with that money? How much body armor could be provided for our soldiers with that money? How many soldiers' families who are having a tough time financially could be helped?

Some readers might prefer to give their opinions about all this to you instead of to me. I'm suggesting they either e-mail you at president@whitehouse.gov or call you at (202) 456-1111. I'm assuming that now that your daughters are getting a little older, they'll actually give you the message if they happen to answer the phone.

Mr. President, we've all been to great parties and then forgotten about them a few days later. No matter which bands play, no matter what fancy chefs cook, no matter what wines are opened, everybody will forget about these inaugural parties pretty soon. But if you convince these people to give their money to a worthy cause instead of just throwing a gala dedicated to excess, no one will ever forget this inauguration.

Wouldn't that be a more appropriate way to celebrate America?

Yours truly,
Lloyd Garver

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from “Sesame Street” to “Family Ties” to “Frasier.” He also has read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the “Modern Times” column for CBSnews.com's opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com).



GOT SOMETHING TO SAY? SOUND OFF IN THE DAILY PRESS!

PLEASE SEND LETTERS TO:

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Editor

1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202
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Or email: sack@smdp.com

OPINION



GUEST COMMENTARY BY ELAN JOURNO

America's compassion in Iraq is self-destructive

Fighting a compassionate war is immoral and is costing the lives of American soldiers in Iraq and emboldening our enemies throughout the Islamic world

The horrific suicide bombing in December of a U.S. mess tent near Mosul and the assassination on Jan. 10 of the deputy chief of Baghdad police — the second Iraqi official murdered in five days — are further indications that the war in Iraq is worsening. Things are going badly not because, as some claim, the United States is arrogant and lacking in humility but because it is self-effacing and compassionate.

The Bush Administration's war in Iraq embraces compassion instead of the rational goal of victory. Such an immoral approach to war wantonly sacrifices the lives of soldiers and emboldens our enemies throughout the Middle East to mount further attacks against us.

Regardless of whether the Iraqi dictatorship should have been our initial target in the war against totalitarian Islam, when in the nation's defense a president sends troops to war, morally he must resolve to soundly defeat the enemy while safeguarding our forces and citizens. But America's attention has been diverted to rebuilding Iraqi hospitals, schools, roads and sewers, and on currying favor with the locals (some U.S. soldiers were even ordered to grow mustaches in token of their respect for Iraqi culture, others are now given cultural sensitivity courses before arriving in Iraq). Since the war began, Islamic militants and Saddam loyalists have carried out random abductions, devastating ambushes, and catastrophic bombings throughout the country. That attacks on U.S. forces, including those engaged in reconstruction efforts, have gone unpunished has emboldened the enemy.

Early and stark evidence of the enemy's growing audacity came in March 2004 with the grisly murder and mutilation of four American contractors.

Following the attack, U.S. forces entered the city of Fallujah vowing to capture the murderers and punish the town that supports them. But such resolve was supplanted by compassion.

In the midst of the fighting the United States called a unilateral ceasefire to allow humanitarian aid in and to enable the other side to collect and bury its dead. The so-called truce benefited only the enemy. The Iraqis, as one soldier told the Associated Press, were "absolutely taking advantage" of the situation, regrouping and mounting sporadic attacks: As another soldier aptly noted, "It is hard to have a cease-fire when they maneuver against us, they fire at us." As the siege wore on, the goal of capturing the murderers quietly faded — and the enemy's confidence swelled.

Neither the later offensive on Fallujah in November nor any of the subsequent incursions have quelled the insurgents: Witness the unending string of car bombings and (road-side) ambushes. Why?

Because in Fallujah and throughout this war the military (under orders from Washington) has been purposely treading lightly. Soldiers have strict orders to avoid the risk of killing civilians — many of whom aid or are themselves militants — even at the cost of imperiling their own lives. Mosques, which have served as hideouts for terrorists, are kept off the list of allowed targets. Military operations have been timed to avoid alienating Muslim pilgrims on holy days.

There is no shortage of aggressors lusting for American blood, and they grow bolder with each display of American compassion.

Consider the shameful tenderness shown toward the Islamic cleric Moktadr al-Sadr, who aspires to be the dictator of an Iranian-style theocracy in Iraq. An admirer of the 9/11 hijackers, Sadr has amassed an armed militia of 10,000 men (right under the noses of our military), and demanded that coalition forces leave Iraq. On the run for the murder of another cleric, he took refuge with his militia in the holy city of Najaf, which has been surrounded by U.S. troops. Rather than attacking, however, the United States agreed to negotiate. It is as absurd to

negotiate with and trust the word of a villain such as Sadr as it would have been to negotiate with Nazis bent on wiping out Allied forces in World War II. It is shockingly dangerous that the United States allowed a mediator from Iran — part of the "Axis of Evil" and Sadr's ideological ally — to assist in the negotiations.

In the end Sadr was allowed to walk away along with his armed militia. His agreement to disarm them has predictably gone unfulfilled.

For the enemies of America, Iraq is like a laboratory where they are testing our mettle, with mounting ferocity. The negotiations with Sadr; the half-hearted raids on Fallujah; our timid response to daily insurrections throughout Iraq; America's outrageously deferential treatment of its enemies — all of these instances of moral weakness reinforce the view of bin Laden and his ilk that America will appease those who seek its destruction.

If we continue to confess doubts about

our moral right to defend ourselves, it will only be a matter of time before Islamic militants bring suicide-bombings and mass murder (again) to the streets of the United States.

Though Washington may be blinded by the longing to buy the love of Iraqis, our servicemen know all too well that "When you go to fight, it's time to shoot — not to make friends with people," as one person put it. In its might and courage our military is unequalled; it is the moral responsibility of Washington to issue battle plans that will properly "shock and awe" the enemy. Eschewing self-interest in the name of compassion is immoral. The result is self-destruction.

(Elan Jurno is a junior fellow at the Ayn Rand Institute (www.aynrand.org), in Irvine. The Institute promotes the philosophy of Ayn Rand, author of "Atlas Shrugged" and "The Fountainhead." Send reactions to reaction@aynrand.org).

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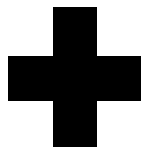
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New businesses, new attitudes along Main Street

MAIN STREET, from page 1

Gordon manages an \$85,000 annual budget as head of the association, which collects merchant dues ranging from \$100 to \$2,000, according to Gwen Pentecost, an analyst for City Hall. Pentecost, Gordon and other city officials said Main Street is building its way out of a recession.

“As to the vitality of Main Street ... it’s beginning to pick up again,” said City Councilman Herb Katz, an architect who drafted plans for a new residential and retail project at Main and Marine streets. “It hit a slump and it’s beginning to come back. I saw a lot of life over the holidays down there.”

Sales tax receipts for the holiday shopping months have yet to be tallied, but the popular Main Street strip typically gener-

ates nearly \$800,000 in annual sales tax proceeds for Santa Monica City Hall, which receives 1 percent of the value of most sales, according to Dave Carr, City Hall’s treasurer. City Hall collected \$371,335 in sales tax from Main Street merchants during the first two quarters of 2004, records show.

The mile-long strip, which has about 150 restaurants and retail outlets, has seen its fair share of alterations to its appearance over the past several months. Among the more notable changes was the closing in December of The Gap, an anchor store located smack in the middle of Main Street.

Gordon said high rent probably wasn’t the only factor that led to the store being closed.

“Everybody always says it’s the rent, but

the fact of the matter is some places have survived rent increases,” he added. “I don’t know how (The Gap) really ever performed. Some people thought it was always really out of place and the street is really more of an independently owned kind of place, especially with clothing stores.”

After months of delays, the Good Urth, a cafe on the north end of Main Street, is expected to open sometime in the next few weeks, along with a Venice-based bike store called Bike Attack, which will move into a vacant space across the street. Several other shops have opened in recent months, including a new art shop, a mom-and-pop designer clothes store and a gift boutique.

Meanwhile, work continues on two major mixed-use projects that will serve as bookends for Main Street. Construction is under-

way on developments at Main and Marine streets, and at Main and Bicknell streets. Both will include new residential units and ground-floor spaces for merchants.

Merchants had mixed emotions regarding the evolution of Main Street.

Matt Schuppel, 42, who opened Shoop’s European Deli with his wife four and a half years ago, said the changes likely would help solve some of the strip’s problems, but not all of them.

“You’re still dealing with all the issues down here,” Schuppel said. “I still have the homeless guys walking in my restaurant every day ... Still, it’s nice with all the improvements and everything. There are other areas of Santa Monica that are really put together well, and it’s about time Main Street caught up.”

Runaway jurors eventually have to pay the price

CALL TO DUTY, from page 1

to appear have actually dropped dramatically over the last two years. Failing to appear in 2002 would cost a potential juror \$1,500, while the first-year fine now stands at just \$250. However, the penalties rise in time.

On Friday, the elusive jurors faced \$250 fines for failing to appear at first, \$750 for disregarding the summons a second year, and \$1,500 for a third negligence.

At the reduced cost of \$50, if he final-

ly serves in February, Toribio’s punishment was the stiffest of the five doled out on Friday. Three had their fines vacated entirely, all for medical reasons, while Brandon Watson of Gardena, who missed duty to attend class at a pharmaceutical technical college, was ordered to pay \$35, that is if he shows up on March 7.

“If I went down to zero, that wouldn’t send the message we’re trying to get across,” Judge Karlan said.

Asked what excuses were considered sufficient for an absence, the justice pre-

ferred not to provide a cheat sheet.

“I think David Letterman has a top ten list,” he mused. “Maybe you should ask him.”

Those who failed to appear Friday, even if Friday was their second of two possible dates to appear, will still get some leniency from the judge and can still avoid or reduce any fines if they show up either Jan. 21 or Feb. 4 ... and can spin a good yarn.

If not, they will receive a fine by mail. If they don’t pay, their names go to GC

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Judge Karlan himself had his court shut down for five days in late October while he waited to answer lawyer’s questions in jury selection for a capital punishment case. He was dismissed as a juror.

“I know what it’s like sitting in hallways,” the judge said. “The most frustrating thing is I didn’t actually get to serve.”

“When people serve on jury duty, they come away loving it,” he added. “I mean, what are all the big shows on TV about?”

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LOCAL



Help or jail? New programs would give transients a choice

HOMELESSNESS, from page 1

social service providers and county mental health workers, eight of the 12 homeless people chosen are now off the streets, three in permanent housing, said Julie Rusk, City Hall's human services manager. No extra costs were incurred, as existing resources were rearranged within the pilot program.

"It really is the most chronic, entrenched people on the streets, in the parks, on the (Third Street) Promenade of Santa Monica," Rusk said. "It's a start."

The idea of operating a special courtroom for homeless offenders in Santa Monica was raised by Dan Grunfeld, president of Public Counsel, a pro bono law firm. Grunfeld said the model is currently enjoying success in San Diego and Los Angeles. In a homeless court, offenders who take concrete steps to turn around their lives, stay sober and reestablish connections to society can have warrants dismissed for so-called lifestyle offenses.

Paul Freese, also from Public Counsel, suggested Santa Monica consider another program entitled "Streets or Services," which allows long-time transients charged with low-grade misdemeanors to choose to enroll in social service programs rather than serve time in jail. In 2004, the program served 568 homeless people along Los Angeles' Skid Row with a success rate of 17 percent, according to Freese.

"If they accept services — for example, rehabilitative services, access to shelter, access to detox — if the person voluntarily chooses that, they can opt to avoid the whole court system," said Freese, adding that it costs about \$100,000 to staff the police department with a counselor to work with candidates for the program.

The City Council is expected to consider both the homeless court idea and the "Streets or Services" program at its Jan. 25 meeting, when the overall strategy for reducing homeless in Santa Monica over the next year will be established.

Several other strategies were laid out in the annual report on homelessness. Among them is City Hall's intention to open a sobering center where public drunks can be taken, instead of jail, to sober up and receive counseling. Goals were identified this week for the center, which may be built in the old jailhouse behind City Hall.

In the meantime, new homeless housing projects are in the works, including a 55-bed facility at Michigan Avenue and Cloverfield Boulevard that is scheduled to open in March of 2006. In a separate development, social service

"One of my concerns is that we're reaching a critical mass point ... We simply will never get ahead of this problem until we establish increased bed capacity."

— JOHN MACERI
Executive director, OPCC

provider Step Up On Second has purchased the property at 1548 Fifth St. and hopes to open a new shelter there.

The new beds will be critical, officials said.

"A lot of people talk to us about homelessness, and we talk about the regional plan and we talk about the various things that we're doing, but the bottom line in the issue of homelessness is there aren't enough homes to live in," City Councilman Richard Bloom said. "That has to be a place where we put a great deal of emphasis."

Officials also are looking at opening a year-round shelter somewhere on the Westside, something housing providers say is desperately needed.

"One of my concerns is that we're reaching a critical mass point," said John Maceri, executive director of the nonprofit Ocean Park Community Center. "We simply will never get ahead of this problem until we establish increased bed capacity."

Also critical in the effort to reduce homelessness, officials said, are increased participation from neighboring communities and fine-tuning a set of ordinances aimed at reducing the impact of vagrancy on residents, merchants and tourists.

One of those ordinances, which currently is being challenged in court as a First Amendment violation, was designed to relocate large homeless feedings currently held in Santa Monica parks indoors. Many of the feedings are staged by nonprofit groups from outside Santa Monica that don't belong to what the city calls its "continuum of care."

"I think a lot of the visible impression (of homelessness) could be mitigated significantly" by moving the feedings inside, City Councilman Kevin McKeown said.

"Besides which, there's a level of dignity to people to just let them sit down and have their meal indoors."

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RECREATION

Snap decision: Leinert opts to stay put at USC

BY JOHN NADEL

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Heisman Trophy winner Matt Leinart will be back for his senior season at Southern California and try to lead the Trojans to an unprecedented third straight national championship.

The USC quarterback announced his decision Friday, opting to complete his eligibility rather than enter the NFL draft, where he figured to be one of the top selections and become an instant millionaire.

"I realized the opportunity right now to support my family by going to the NFL early, but to me I think college football and this whole atmosphere here and being with my fans and my teammates ... is ultimately more satisfying and will make me happier than any amount of money could make someone happy," he said.

There was a roar of approval from a crowd of about 500 students and fans jammed into the foyer at Heritage Hall to hear Leinart's decision.

"OK, so I'm smiling," a beaming coach Pete Carroll said after Leinart's announcement.

Leinart has made clear for months his desire to stay in school. He said last August he would definitely return because he loved playing for the Trojans, he needed to get stronger physically and make other improvements.

More recently, he said he was leaning toward returning, but would investigate his options.

In the end, Leinart decided the risk of serious injury or a sub-par performance next season was less important than following his heart and enjoying college for another year.

Leinart consulted coaches, friends, teammates, NFL quarterbacks Carson Palmer and Ben Roethlisberger and his parents. The 21-year-old said he didn't come to a final decision until Friday.

A 6-foot-5, 225-pound left-hander, Leinart was a third-year sophomore who hadn't thrown a pass for the Trojans when he succeeded Palmer, another Heisman Trophy winner, as USC's starting quarterback 16 1/2 months ago.

The Trojans have a 25-1 record with Leinart at the controls — including 13-0 this season. He capped the year by passing for 332 yards and an Orange Bowl-record five touchdowns in USC's resounding 55-19 victory over Oklahoma on Jan. 4.

Leinart's 6,878 career passing yards rank fourth on the school's career list, and

his 71 TD passes rank second — one behind Palmer.

All that in just 26 games.

Two other USC juniors, linebacker Lofa Tatupu and punter Tom Malone, also announced decisions on their futures. Tatupu said he is making himself eligible for the NFL draft, while Malone said he will return to USC.

By staying in school, Leinart could become the second player to win the Heisman twice. Ohio State running back Archie Griffin accomplished the feat in 1974-75.

He also becomes the second straight Heisman winner to play another year of college football. Oklahoma's Jason White won college football's most prestigious award in 2003, then finished third in the 2004 balloting.

USC's only loss in the last two seasons was a 34-31 triple overtime setback at California on Sept. 27, 2003, in Leinart's fourth game as the Trojans' quarterback.

He overcame a shaky start to go 21-of-39 for 277 yards, but was intercepted three times. He has thrown only 12 other interceptions at USC.

Leinart passed for 3,556 yards and 38 touchdowns with nine interceptions in his first season as the starter, no doubt helped by the presence of talented and experienced wide receivers Mike Williams and Keary Colbert.

As a fourth-year junior this season, throwing to a corps of young, inexperienced wideouts, Leinart passed for 3,322 yards and 33 TDs with six interceptions.

Leinart's return means John David Booty, a former Louisiana prep standout who will be a third-year sophomore next season, is slated to be No. 2 on the depth chart.

Booty is considered a better prospect now than Leinart was when he took over.

The Trojans will have two other highly regarded quarterbacks on the roster next fall in Rocky Hinds, a freshman who red-shirted this season, and Mark Sanchez, who will be a freshman. Sanchez, a senior at Mission Viejo, Calif., High who has committed to USC, is considered one of the best prep quarterbacks in the country.

Even without Leinart, USC figured to enter next season as the one of the country's highest-ranked teams, if not No. 1, since the majority of its starters this season were underclassmen. With Leinart, it's a virtual certainty the Trojans will be No. 1.

USC will bring a 22-game winning streak into next season — longest in the country.

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STATE



Hundreds are evacuated near leaky Riverside dam

BY RYAN PEARSON

Associated Press Writer

CORONA — Authorities released a fierce, brown river of water from a Riverside County dam and evacuated more than 1,000 people from its path Friday after a temporary earthen barrier at the site began seeping water.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers unleashed more than 10,000 cubic feet of water per second to relieve pressure on the earthen dam 50 miles east-southeast of Los Angeles after more water than usual began pushing through the dirt of a temporary coffer dam that is protecting workers who are extending and raising the dam.

"That's like a swimming pool every second," Corona Mayor Darrell Talbert said.

The water gushed into the Santa Ana River, whose banks were deep enough to handle the flow without flooding, said Lt. Col. John Guenther, deputy commander of the corps' Los Angeles district.

However, the National Weather Service issued a flash flood watch for the length of the Santa Ana River from the dam in western Riverside County to the river's mouth in Newport Beach.

The seepage itself was estimated at more than 10 gallons per minute.

But the temporary dam was intact and so was the original dam, Guenther said.

"Right now, there is no imminent danger," he said.

Crews were working to shore up the coffer dam. The work and the water released could continue through Sunday, Guenther said.

Nearly 1,000 homes in town and about 100 people from a recreational vehicle park in adjoining Yorba Linda in Orange County were evacuated, forming a slow caravan of cars that snaked through the neighborhoods. Residents later were told they might be allowed back by afternoon.

At an evacuation center in the high school gymnasium, Corona officials defended their decision to evacuate 330 mobile homes and 508 other homes in town.

Corona Police Chief Richard Gonzales said seepage at the base of the dam had increased fivefold after it was detected Thursday evening.

"I'm sorry if we woke you up, I'm sorry if we got you out of your home. ... I wasn't gonna lose any of you, period," he said to a round of applause.

"We're here to tell you the threat was real, the danger was real and we did the right thing," Talbert said.

The mayor said he was told by the Corps of Engineers that a dam break would have wiped out the neighborhoods in 2 1/2 minutes.

"That's not a risk I'm willing to take," he said.

Five days of relentless rains in Southern California ended Wednesday

after causing at least 28 deaths and millions of dollars in damage. Ten of the victims were killed in Ventura County's La Conchita area, where a super-saturated bluff gave way and buried part of the seaside community.

In an interview, Talbert accused corps officials of failing to warn the city about the potential threat from the seepage.

"It's been like this for years. They don't communicate," he said. "We are learning stuff from workers working on the dam and not from the Corps of Engineers itself. It's a joke."

Calls to a corps spokesman for comment were not immediately returned.

At Corona Senior High School, as many as 100 people gathered in the gym. Cheerleaders played games with evacuated children while adults snacked on doughnuts and coffee or slept on cots as they awaited news of their homes.

Barbara Johnsen, 53, said a friend called her at 3 a.m. to say police were evacuating Green River Ranch, the mobile home park where she has lived for 20 years.

After checking with police to make sure it was true, she gathered up some clothes, photographs, important documents, her cat, Bussie, and her 80-year-old mother, Gurry Johnsen.

"First thing I took was the cat," she said.

They packed into the family motorhome and went to the evacuation center but Johnsen said she wouldn't return until at least Monday and planned to park the vehicle in Palm Springs for the weekend.

"When they can say there's absolutely no danger, then I'll go back," she said.

Johnsen also said she felt lucky that she had received a warning.

"After watching the mudslide in La Conchita, and the tsunami, we've been blessed," she said.

Although the dam never has cracked, Johnsen said neighbors always kept an eye on it and even joshed about it.

"It's always been a big joke, 'when the dam goes ...,'" she said.

Jay Oney, 30, said he was grateful police decided to empty his mobile home park even if he never was in danger.

"I'd rather be here than wake up ... floating down the river," he said.

The seepage came from a temporary earthen barrier protecting construction crews who are relocating outlet channels and raising the dam's height by 28 feet.

The dam, built in 1941, can hold about 83,000 acre-feet of water, creating a pool more than 1,000 acres wide and 500 feet deep.

It currently is about 41 percent filled, although days of rain that ended earlier this week had filled it and also flooded nearby Corona Municipal Airport. Much of the runway remained under water and the airport remained closed Friday.

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NATIONAL

U.S. to institute a better tsunami warning system

BY JOHN HEILPRIN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration unveiled a \$37.5 million plan Friday to erect a tsunami warning system designed to protect both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts by mid-2007.

The plan would quadruple the size of the warning network in the Pacific and erect similar safeguards for the Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf coasts, officials of the White House science office said. Operating it would cost about \$24.5 million a year.

To help monitor for waves from a tsunami, the plan envisions a network of 38 high-tech buoys attached to pressure recorders on the ocean floor. Twenty-five buoys

would be added to the six now in the Pacific, including two as back-ups to existing ones off the coast of Alaska.

Five new ones would be installed in the Atlantic Ocean, and two in the Caribbean Sea to provide coverage also for the Gulf of Mexico. None now exist in those areas.

The buoys would be connected to pressure recorders below the ocean floor, and data would be relayed by satellite to scientists. The system also would include an expansion of seismic sensors.

Tsunamis can strike thousands of miles away from an earthquake or a volcanic eruption, lashing coastlines with energy built as it rushes across the ocean floor.

The warning system would "provide the U.S. nearly 100 percent detection capability for the coasts, allowing

an alert within minutes and, in some cases, within seconds of a tsunami's formation," John Marburger, President Bush's science adviser, told a news conference.

The system, which would be overseen by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Geological Survey, is being designed so that other nations can add to the network.

Chile already plans to add two buoys of its own.

Other international efforts are under way to erect a warning system in the Indian Ocean, where an earthquake spawned a tsunami Dec. 26 that killed more than 157,000 people in Southeast Asia, South Asia and East Africa. Fifty-four nations, including the United States, are working to create a global earth observing system.

NOAA already runs a warning system that includes 25 other countries with Pacific coastlines. Friday's announcement Friday would expand the program to cover all U.S. coastlines.

"What the United States is providing today is significant coverage for all the Pacific and the Atlantic and Caribbean areas," said NOAA Administrator Conrad C. Lautenbacher, also the Commerce Department's under-secretary for oceans and atmosphere.

The greatest worry about tsunamis has been in the Pacific. Three years ago the Hawaii-based Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, run by NOAA, received a half-dozen sensors.

There has been less concern about other U.S. coasts, although the Caribbean has had more than 50 tsunamis in the past 150 years and the Atlantic more than 30, about half which were off the U.S. and Canadian coasts. None has occurred since 1964. A huge earthquake in 1755 off Portugal's coast generated a tsunami that crossed the Atlantic and caused severe damage in the Caribbean and West Coast of Africa.

The administration will present its plan for protecting coastal populations at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, sponsored by the United Nations this month in Kobe, Japan.

The administration will have to ask Congress for the \$37.5 million needed to expand the warning system as well as the money to operate it beginning in 2007. Lawmakers have indicated they will be quick to approve funding.

Australian scientists are designing an Indian Ocean warning system they say could be built within a year for about \$20 million. It would have about 30 seismographs, 10 tidal gauges and six special buoys for deep-ocean assessment and reporting of tsunamis.



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INTERNATIONAL



European probe touches down on Saturn moon

BY MELISSA EDDY

Associated Press Writer

DARMSTADT, Germany — A European space probe landed safely on the surface of Saturn's moon Titan on Friday, a space official said, buoying hopes the mission would produce data that could shed light on the origins of life on Earth.

Officials were jubilant as early signals showed the probe powering up for entry, then beginning the 2 1/2-hour parachute descent during which it was to gather information that could shed light on how life arose on Earth.

Mission controllers were confident the Huygens probe made a soft landing because it was still transmitting steadily long after it should have landed, said David Southwood, the European Space Agency's science director.

"We know that it has landed based on the laws of gravity," Southwood said. "It simply cannot still be flying. It's got to be on a solid surface, and it must soft."

Southwood said the early signal showed little more than that Huygens was still alive and the mission wouldn't be a success until a full set of data could be sent back via the Cassini mother ship orbiting Saturn.

"We still can't fully celebrate — we need to wait for the data to come from Cassini, but we have enormous faith in this mission," Southwood said.

The heart of the mission was the parachute descent, during which the probe was to take pictures and sample the atmosphere, believed to resemble that of the Earth when it was young.

Officials were optimistic because Huygens was designed to transmit for at least three minutes after landing before its batteries died and the signal had continued for more than five hours.

Early data showed that one of Huygens' experiments, designed to measure the Titan winds, had begun to work, said Jean-Pierre Lebreton, ESA mission manager.

"We clearly have an engineering success," Lebreton said. "We are going to work very hard to convert this into a scientific success."

Mission officials had tears in their eyes as the first signal was picked up, indicating that the probe was transmitting to its mother ship, the international Cassini spacecraft.

Huygens was spun off from Cassini on Dec. 24 to begin its free-fall toward Titan, the first moon other than the Earth's to be explored by spacecraft.

Named after Titan's discoverer, the 17th century Dutch astronomer Christiaan Huygens, the probe carries instruments to explore what Titan's atmosphere is made of and find out whether it has the cold seas of liquid methane and ethane that have been theorized by scientists.

Timers inside the 705-pound probe awakened it just before it entered Titan's atmosphere. Huygens is shaped like a wok and covered with a shield to survive the intense heat of entry.

On the way down, it was to shed its heat shield and use a special camera and instruments to collect information on wind speeds and the makeup of Titan's atmosphere. The data will be transmitted back to Cassini, which will relay them to NASA's Deep Space Network in California

and on to ESA controllers in Darmstadt, Germany.

Titan is the only moon in the solar system known to have a significant atmosphere. Rich in nitrogen and containing about 6 percent methane, its atmosphere is believed to be 1 1/2 times thicker than Earth's.

Alphonso Diaz, science administrator for NASA, said Titan may offer hints about the conditions under which life first arose on Earth.

"Titan is a time machine," Diaz said. "It will provide us the opportunity to look at conditions that may well have existed on Earth in the beginning. It may have preserved in a deep freeze many chemical compounds that set the stage for life on Earth."

Part of a \$3.3 billion international mission to study the Saturn system, Huygens is also equipped with instru-

ments to study Titan's surface upon landing. Scientists don't know exactly what it will hit when it lands at about 22 mph.

The probe floats and can survive a landing in methane or ethane, which exist in liquid form due to the cold. One hazard would be landing on a solid slope in a position that doesn't permit a strong signal back to Cassini.

Engineers at ESA are counting on the probe having at least three minutes to transmit information and images from Titan's surface, before its battery runs out or Cassini gets out of range.

The Cassini-Huygens mission, a project of NASA, ESA and the Italian space agency, was launched Oct. 15, 1997, from Cape Canaveral, Fla., to study Saturn, its rings and many moons.

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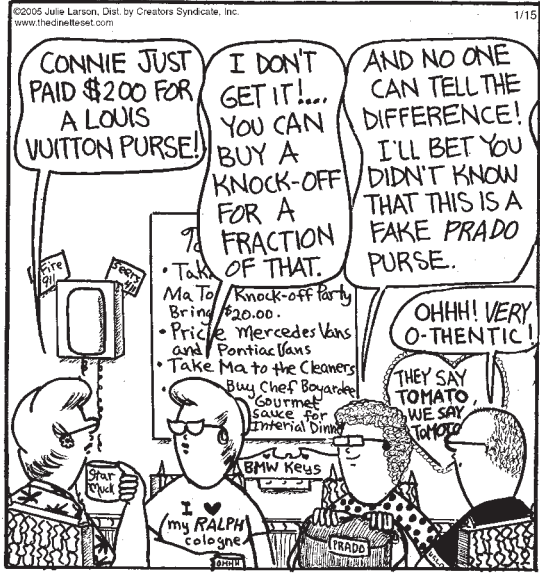
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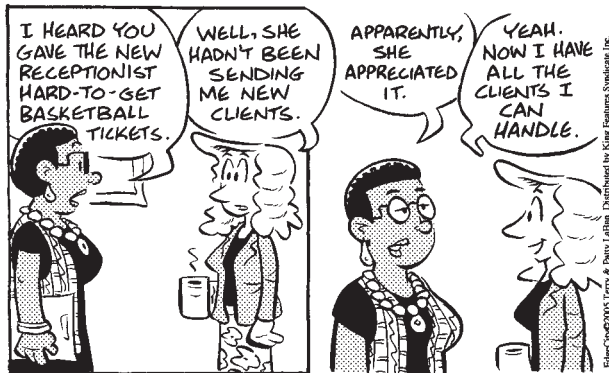


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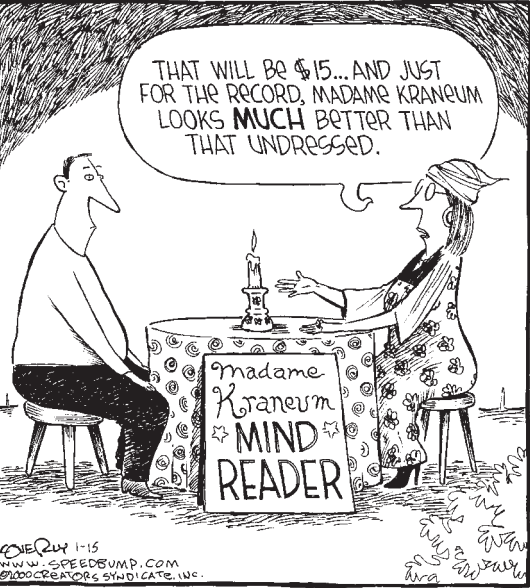
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

‘Company’ Quaid keeps gets younger and younger

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Dennis Quaid has a hard time working for a boss who is much younger than he is in the new film “In Good Company.” But in real life, he doesn’t have a problem with it.

The 50-year-old actor recently told AP Radio that heads of studios and directors are mostly younger, but he doesn’t mind.

“I used to look upon directors as father figures. I don’t know when that changed,” he said.

He said he has matured as an actor and has learned some lessons that only come with age, something he’s grateful for.

“As you get older you start to acquire more character,” he said. You seem to care less about how you appear. So you just sort of let go of stuff. You can be a leading man and a character actor at the same time, in a way.”

“In Good Company,” also stars Topher Grace as Quaid’s much-younger boss. Scarlett Johansson plays his 18-year-old daughter who becomes involved with Grace’s character. The film, written and directed by Paul Weitz, opened in wider release Friday.

NEW YORK — For a “character actor,” Paul Giamatti is certainly getting a lot of front-man gigs.

The “Sideways” star will host NBC’s “Saturday Night Live” on Jan. 22. It will be the actor’s “SNL” debut, with Ludacris to appear as the musical guest.

Up for a Golden Globe this Sunday night, Giamatti already received a Screen Actors Guild nomination for best actor earlier this week.

Previously known more for smaller roles such as Howard Stern’s boss in “Private Parts,” his portrayal of a wine-obsessed writer in “Sideways” is Giamatti’s second well-regarded lead performance in two years, following 2003’s “American Splendor.”

LOS ANGELES — Marge Simpson has surrendered her towering blue coiffure to help market a new hair care line.

The animated mom from “The Simpsons” is part of new magazine ads starting next month for Dove Styling. Also featured in the ad campaign are fellow cartoon characters Wilma Flintstone (“The Flintstones”), Jane Jetson (“The Jetsons”) and Velma Dinkley (“Scooby-Doo”).

A TV commercial that began airing this month features Jane, Wilma and Velma.

The characters got a temporary makeover for the promotion, trading their usual helmet hair for “beautiful styles that move naturally,” the company said in a statement.

RALEIGH, N.C. — Television icon Andy Griffith, who appeared in campaign ads with North Carolina governor Mike Easley for two elections, will participate in his second inauguration.

The 78-year-old Griffith has agreed to read a poem at Saturday’s swearing-in of the Democratic governor and other Council of State members, Easley’s office said.

The North Carolina native, who played Sheriff Andy Taylor on “The Andy Griffith Show,” will read “The Bridge Builder” by Will Allen Dromgoole at the ceremony in downtown Raleigh.

Griffith delivered the state toast at Easley’s January 2001 inauguration. His appearance in an ad during the 2000 gubernatorial campaign was touted as a key component in Easley’s victory.

ST. PAUL — A Minneapolis man has donated some of the earliest recordings made by Bob Dylan to the Minnesota Historical Society.

Cleve Pettersen said he made the reel-to-reel tape at a Minneapolis apartment in 1960 after getting to know Dylan at coffeehouses in the Dinkytown neighborhood of Minneapolis near the University of Minnesota.

Dylan, briefly a student at the university, didn’t make any formal recordings until two years later. On the tape, he sings traditional folk songs by Woody Guthrie, Jimmie Rodgers and others.

Pettersen, a teenager when he invited Dylan to the apartment to record the songs, has been the sole owner of the tape ever since. But the tape’s existence has been well-known by music buffs and Dylan aficionados who have come to know it as the “Minnesota Party Tape.”

“The surfacing of this original recording should correct all the rumors and speculation circulating on the Internet and within the circles of Dylan followers and music critics,” said Bonnie Wilson, curator at the Historical Society.

The tape includes such songs as “Blues Yodel No. 8,” “San Francisco Bay Blues” and “Johnny I Hardly Knew You.”

The public can listen to the tape, copied onto CDs and cassettes, for free at the Minnesota History Center library in St. Paul, but making copies won’t be allowed.

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