

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Former President Jimmy Carter told GQ magazine for a January article that he saw a UFO in 1969 in southwest Georgia as he was preparing to speak at a Lions Club meeting. He recalled that it was a bright light that got "closer and closer to us," but then "changed color to blue," then to red, then back to white, and then "receded into the distance." However, he said, "I've never believed it came from Mars." (In September, Paul Hellyer, a former Canadian minister of defense, asked Parliament to hold hearings on extraterrestrials. UFOs, he said, "are as real as the airplanes that fly over your head," and he fears the U.S. military might get Earth involved in an intergalactic war.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 18th day of 2006.
There are 347 days left in the year.

On Jan. 18, 1912, English explorer Robert F. Scott and his expedition reached the South Pole, only to discover that Roald Amundsen had beaten them to it. (Scott and his party perished during the return trip.)

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Being in politics is like being a football coach. You have to be smart enough to understand the game, and dumb enough to think it's important."

EUGENE MCCARTHY
US POLITICIAN (1916 -)

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City Hall disputes its 'mean' streak

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Officials said a report ranking Santa Monica among the country's "meanest" cities for criminalizing the homeless missed the mark, failing to recognize efforts underway here to help the down and out.

That National Coalition for the Homeless — a nonprofit group whose mission is to end homelessness — issued a January report which ranks Santa Monica as the No. 9 "mean" U.S. city for the down and out to live, due to its anti-homeless laws.

National news agencies like MSNBC have written about the NCH report, upsetting some local officials who contend the information in it is skewed and question the methodology of its findings.

"It's crazy," Mayor Bob Holbrook said. "There's so much misinformation about what Santa Monica's doing in regards to homelessness that I can only question the intention of those who wrote the report."

"If it were true, then why do so many homeless people move to Santa Monica?"

Michael Stoops, executive director for the NCH, admitted there might have been some factual errors in the report.

However, the NCH — which he



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

A group of students from Loyola Marymount calling themselves 'Feed the Hungry, do just that during lunchtime at the Ocean Park Community Center's Access Center on Colorado Avenue and Sixth Street. Each week, the group feeds the homeless in Santa Monica, which was recently named the ninth meanest city toward homeless people.

said is the nation's oldest homeless advocacy group — stands by its rankings.

"We're glad that cities don't want to be considered mean to the homeless," Stoops said. "At the same time, we're trying to put a

magnifying glass to anti-homeless laws, which these cities have.

"Santa Monica may have great people and programs to address homelessness, but (none of the cities polled) can house all of their homeless."

"We're trying to attract attention to a civil rights issue."

Stoops said the rankings are based on information gathered from 212 cities' anti-homeless

See MEAN STREAK, page 6

Plan to chase squirrels could be for the birds

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

PALISADES PARK — Feed them, and they will come.

So says City Hall, which is encouraging the public to stop feeding the ground squirrels in Palisades Park. Evidently, the feedings are spurring the ground squirrel population, which has once again exceeded safe proportions and needs to be suppressed, officials said.

LA County has notified City Hall that Santa Monica's ground squirrels will have to be drastical-

ly reduced by early 2006.

To comply with the mandate, City Hall has two programs it is considering which may be effective, and also be preferred by the council and some residents, who have been critical of previous eradication methods.

In particular, City Hall will likely allow groups to perform short-term and long-term population control measures.

But animal rights groups are already taking issue with some aspect of the new program being

See SQUIRRELS, page 7



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

(Top) County officials are requiring the local government to rid the Palisades Bluffs of ground squirrels, rodents that often carry diseases.

(Inset) City officials may soon be mandated by the county to reinstitute traps like this one found last year at the park.



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HOROSCOPES

Let them dote, 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)
 ★★★★★ You might try all you want to make a point to a spendthrift friend, but you will not succeed. In fact, you might catch his or her penchant for spending. Steer clear, and focus on projects and the more mundane side of life. Tonight: Allow someone to dote on you



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ Your imagination knows no limits, but on the other hand, it could trip you up with someone you would like to impress. Know when to express your good ideas. Remember, being practical is one of your sign's gifts. Tonight: Good news might have you daydreaming



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ Sometimes you need to think before you leap. Make this thought your motto of the day. As tempting and alluring as certain ideas and people might be, the right word is "no." A little self-discipline can save the moment, if not much more. Tonight: Let someone know how much he or she is cared about



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ You say the right words, and people act. Still, be careful about lassoing funds when it involves your friends. You might want to play it conservatively. Let someone else express the depth of his or her caring. Tonight: Isn't it nice to be the receiver for a change?



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ If you listen to others right now, you might find yourself picking up the pieces of what you thought was a good idea. You need to find experts before leaping in any direction or making any choices. Your daily routine needs to take precedence. Tonight: Pay bills



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ You have reason to smile, and smile you will. Invariably, you hit a problem with information you hear and what your reality is telling you. Some investigation on your part could end a problematic situation. Tonight: Do absolutely what you want



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ You could be uncomfortable with what someone proclaims as the truth and only the truth. You might not want to burst another's bubble. Subtle is the only way to go. A close family member or loved one's gesture touches you. Tonight: Get some extra R and R. You will need it tomorrow



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ Think before you leap into action right now. Others might push way too hard for what they want. Knowing when to say enough is important. Use diplomacy right now, as others could be more touchy than you know. Tonight: Where the crowds are



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ Investigate what someone means before reacting. What you believe is on his or her mind could be a lot different from reality. Observe a tendency to act like a bull in a china shop. You know what works. Tonight: Out late



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ You can see much more than others. Simply don't cave into a risk. The only answer is no. You will be happier ultimately if you relax and detach. Creativity bubbles up with some perspective. Tonight: Movie night



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ Others don't always understand where you are coming from. What you might need to do is become more verbal and direct. The end results could be excellent. You could be feistier than you are aware of. Tonight: Chitchat with a friend



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ Others might not realize the impact of their words, and you of yours. Rather than generate hurt or problems, take all the time you need to think, and you will come up with answers. Others dominate. Don't fight the inevitable. Tonight: Do a better job of risking.



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LOCAL



The scarring letter



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

A boy at the pier wears a sign as punishment by his mother. The disciplinary action was the brainstorm of his older brother, who stood next to him while he wore the sign.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Striking out hunger

By Daily Press staff

Who knew that a simple game of bowling could help hundreds of those in need? More than 65 teams representing various businesses, community organizations, media and government will pit their bowling and fundraising skills against one another at the 10th annual Superbowl-A-Thon. Each bowler receives an event T-shirt, food and the chance to win door prizes.

The event will take place on Feb. 3 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at AMF Bay Shore Lanes, 234 Pico Blvd.

Proceeds from the Superbowl-A-Thon will benefit the Westside Shelter & Hunger Coalition and the winter shelter that provides emergency beds for about 300 people nightly.

For 20 years, coalition, a project of community partners, has addressed the needs of the homeless and low-income population in the western part of Los Angeles County by coordinating programs, such as food and shelter, job counseling and health services, as well as providing education and advocacy. The coalition brings together more than 30 organizations representing local human service, government agencies and faith-based programs committed to ending hunger and homelessness on the Westside.

First Federal Bank of California is this year's "perfect game" title sponsor for the third consecutive year with "strike" sponsor, the Santa Monica Police Officers' Association and "spare" level sponsors: Santa Monica Place; Big Blue Bus; Fremont Investment & Loan; Harding, Larmore, Mullen, Jakle Kutcher & Kozal, LLP; The Lobster; Pacific Park and Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau.

At a March 2005 post-event function, awards will be presented to the individuals and teams with the top scores for each of the three sessions, as well as individuals and teams that raise funds through pledges supporting the Superbowl-A-Thon.

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 12	LIFTS OPEN 9/12
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Icy Spots, Wind Blown				

JUNE MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 24"	BASE DEPTH 96" - 120"	LIFT HOURS 8:30am - 4:00pm	RUNS OPEN 35	LIFTS OPEN 6/16
CONDITIONS: Powder, 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 100	LIFTS OPEN 26/28
CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

MOUNTAIN HIGH

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12"-18"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 12	LIFTS OPEN 9/16
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed				

MT. BALDY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 6"-12"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:30 pm	RUNS OPEN 4	LIFTS OPEN 2/14
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 12	LIFTS OPEN 9/13
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Icy Spots				

SNOW VALLEY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 18"-12"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 4	LIFTS OPEN 5/11
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed				

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 58°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (2-7 FT)

Today into Thursday is when our next NW swell is due. This is a significant swell that will likely bring with it some strong winds at times, and a slight chance of rain (10%, but even that's a stretch according to the NWS today). This swell is from another of those familiar, wintertime, Kamchatka Peninsula-originating systems that's been on our charts since last week.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

NW swell builds today, peaks Thursday...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

SATURDAY	Low Tide: 2:26AM High Tide: 8:35AM	2.3FT 6.0FT	3:56PM 10:33PM	-0.9FT 3.7FT
SUNDAY	Low Tide: 3:00AM High Tide: 9:08AM	2.3FT 5.9FT	4:25PM 11:00AM	-0.7FT 3.7FT
MONDAY	Low Tide: 3:35AM High Tide: 9:41AM	2.2FT 5.6FT	4:52PM 11:28PM	-0.4FT 3.8FT
TUESDAY	Low Tide: 4:12AM High Tide: 10:12AM	2.2FT 5.3FT	5:19PM 11:57PM	-0.1FT 3.8FT
WEDNESDAY	Low Tide: 4:54AM High Tide: 10:45AM	2.2FT 4.8FT	5:44PM N/A	0.3FT N/A
THURSDAY	Low Tide: 5:44AM High Tide: 12:27AM	2.3FT 3.9FT	6:08PM 11:20AM	0.7FT 4.2FT
FRIDAY	Low Tide: 6:50AM High Tide: 1:00AM	2.3FT 4.0FT	6:31PM 12:04PM	1.2FT 3.5FT

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The Q Line

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Last week, activists across the country battled over whether or not undocumented immigrants have a right to work in the United States. At a Santa Monica site, numerous counter-protesters came out to confront members of the Minutemen Project, who organized demonstrations at 100 different day laborer sites across the country. Dubbed "Stop the Invasion" National Protest Day, the day was meant to send the symbolic message that the Minutemen are opposed to illegal immigration and seek to tighten borders.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, **"What's your take on the illegal immigrant situation in Southern California? How should the government handle it?"**

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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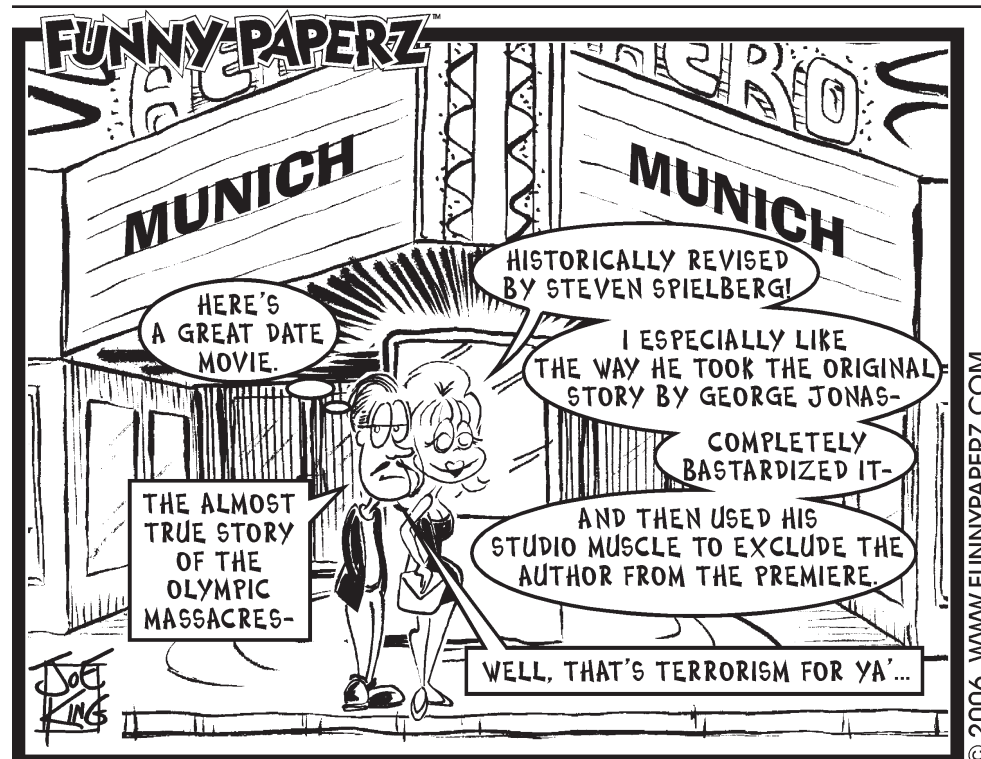
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OPINION



"HE DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE THIS MOVIE - HE HAD TO."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fighting homelessness starts with working together

Editor:

This is in response to the release of the Los Angeles County homeless count — 88,000 people homeless each day in Los Angeles county is a staggering number, but not that surprising for agencies, cities, faith communities and individuals that work with the homeless everyday. What's surprising is how it can be this prevalent in a region with so much wealth. Although it is painful to face these numbers, hopefully this reality will force us to address this growing social problem.

It is time we all work together, and stop pointing fingers. Homelessness, however bad it is in Los Angeles, is a national problem. Los Angeles has taken steps to make change with the allocation of \$24 million for homeless services by the LA County Supervisors, Mayor Villaraigosa's housing plan and the Mental Health Services Act. Bring LA Home, the region's 10-year plan to end homelessness is due to be released in late February. It will serve as a call to action, as well as a roadmap for what needs to be done to end homelessness. Wouldn't it be great to be known as the city and county that ended homelessness — rather than the one that has the highest number of homeless people in the United States?

All of LA County's 88 cities need to step up to the table and address this issue regionally. Communities need to get onboard and do away with the NIMBY (not in my back yard) attitude to providing services, because according to the released numbers, the homeless are in everyone's backyard. The homeless are not just some "social problem," they are mothers, fathers, grandfathers, brothers, sisters, families, and children that need some compassion, understanding and assistance to get back on their feet.

Poverty is the driving force, coupled with lack of affordable housing, eroding work opportunities, lack of affordable healthcare, mental illness, substance abuse, domestic violence and HIV/AIDS. Many people are forced to choose between food, shelter and other basic needs. Affordable housing, transitional housing, shelters, jobs and social services are needed if we are going to seriously work to end homelessness.

We need to stop playing the blame game and start making real changes. The 2005 homeless count proves that ignoring the problem will not make it go away.

The Westside Shelter & Hunger Coalition is an alliance of 30 organizations, public agencies, and faith communities committed to ending hunger and homelessness through service coordination, public education and advocacy.

Lisa Fisher

Director, Westside Shelter & Hunger Coalition/SPN
Santa Monica

Feed your minds, not the wildlife

Editor:

It is very concerning that Santa Monica is trapping and killing squirrels in Palisades Park. Officials are trying to control the squirrel population. Their first response to do so is to eradicate them. We should be trying to live with nature instead of controlling it. Killing the squirrels will not solve the problem anyway, because more squirrels will move in. Public education, enforcing the policy of not feeding wildlife and implementing a non-lethal plan that includes an immunocontraception study are better first steps at solving problems with these squirrels.

William McMullin

Mt. Morris, MI

Teddy's quivering jowls



THE
WITNESS
STAND
BY CLIFF NICHOLS

Last week we got to watch Teddy's jowls a' quivering. They had reason to be. For all the world to see, his attempts to disparage a judicial nominee whose intellect by comparison made his appear diminimus were failing, and I think he knew it. Teddy, in conspiracy with the likes of Senators Patrick J. Leahy, Dianne Feinstein and other Democrats, was doing his best to thwart the nomination of Judge Sam Alito to the Supreme Court. In the end, however, all he succeeded in doing was embarrassing himself.

Teddy and his cohorts were visibly troubled on the numerous occasions they necessarily found themselves sparring with Alito on subjects in which they were clearly out of their league, like anything having to do with jurisprudence. Consequently, we witnessed them repeatedly resorting to things like spewing forth about what no doubt was their favorite subject — themselves. For example, when Senator Leahy found himself getting tripped up by Alito on the subject of search warrants, he ended up using a good deal of what remained of his allotted time talking about his achievements in light of his family's humble beginnings — as if anyone cared. By the end one might have thought the senator was going to ask us to believe that his ancestors were so poor they had to collectively suck syrup from Vermont maple trees in order to survive their ten mile barefoot walks to school in the snow.

Yet, we digress. Returning to the jiggling jowls of Kennedy, to me his concern about the rights of a minor who had been strip-searched pursuant to a search warrant approved by Alito appeared uninformed, if not hypocritical. Kennedy hoped to portray Alito as a man who supported the idea of strip searching minors, but, in doing so, he left out pertinent details that, when provided by Alito, made Kennedy's position look ludicrous. It turned out that when the warrant was issued the judge had been informed by the police that the suspect had been known to conceal narcotics on other people he associated with. So, with that in mind, the police sought and obtained the judge's approval to search all who might be present at the scene. Under those circumstances, would Kennedy immunize all minors from being searched, and if so, what might that tell criminals in the future where would be a good place to hide their dope if they were to anticipated being raided by the police?

Additionally, one might also find it worth considering that, prior to the warrant's issuance, Alito informed us that the judge had no reason to foresee that it would result in the search of a minor — any more, say, than Kennedy had of foreseeing that Mary Jo Kopeckne would survive in a car at the bottom of a river for the several hours Kennedy used after he put her there to cover his own butt. Yet, during the period of time that it took for her to ultimately drown, it would appear that nobody, much less the good senator, made any effort to come forward to champion her right to continue living, did they?

OK, I concede that I may be comparing apples and oranges. There may be some who think that Mary Jo's right to not die should not compare in importance to the right of a child present at a drug house to be free from being searched. But, wait a minute. Let's not forget we are also talking about the same Senator Kennedy who several years later was reported to have been parading around his Florida compound in his underwear on the evening that one of his nephews openly engaged in sexual activity with a woman at the same location — a woman who subsequently alleged that she had been raped. Is anyone able to remember whether the Senator demonstrated any sympathy for that woman's rights either? I can't. All I seem to recall in that regard was the Senator's unquestioned support of the alleged rapist.

Again I concede, however, I might yet again be comparing apples and oranges. It is possible that some reasonable people (though not me) could believe that certain rights of women — in particular the rights of women not only to remain alive, but also to be free from sexual assault — should not be compared to the more important rights of children found at a drug houses to not be subject to a police search. And I must concede further that those who would hold this view might also argue (as I am sure some will) that what might appear to be illogical to the simple-minded about the Senator's contradictory positions regarding these events does not necessarily make him a hypocrite. But wait. Before laying the subject of Kennedy's hypocrisy to rest, would we not be remiss if we did not include in our analysis his support for things like late-term abortion? Wouldn't that present us with yet another confusing contradiction by compelling us to conclude that if the drug house child whose rights Kennedy championed last week were found instead to have been located anywhere in his mother's birth canal, that child not only could be searched, but also could have its brains sucked out of it with the Senator's whole-hearted approval? And if so, don't you think that might justify finding the Senator to be just a tad hypocritical?

Let's face it. The primary reason motivating democrats to thwart the Alito's nomination is to protect abortion — an agenda summarized concisely by the following admonition reported last Saturday in the Washington Times: "Abortion rights activist Kate Michelman warned against confirming (Alito)." That is their right if that's how they feel and I say so be it if they pursue their goals honestly. But when such people like Kennedy attempt to advance that agenda by pretending to champion the rights of children, they shouldn't be allowed to pretend it isn't hypocritical. In fact, the magnitude of the hypocrisy is so great that it would likely cause any normal person to experience a gut wrenching repulsion at even the thought of trying to pull it off undetected. Sadly, however, as we witnessed, the only sensation Kennedy appeared to experience was a quivering of his jowls.

(Cliff Nichols is an attorney practicing criminal defense/entertainment law in Santa Monica. He may be contacted at either (310) 917-1083, cliff@cliffnicholslaw.com or www.cliffnicholslaw.com and you may join his blog at www.thedaily-stand.com.)



GUEST COMMENTARY BY ELAN JOURNO

Why 'diplomacy' with Iran had to fail

European diplomats, who courted Iran in an attempt to halt its suspected nuclear weapons program, regret that "diplomacy" did not dissuade Iran from its plans. But this failure was foreseeable.

Europe's diplomatic effort was touted as a reasonable way to settle the dispute over Iran's suspected nuclear weapons program without any losers. By enticing Iran to the negotiating table, we were told, the West can avoid a military confrontation, while Iran gains "economic incentives" that can help build its economy. But the negotiations — backed also by the Bush administration — only strengthened Iran and turned it into a greater menace.

The proposed deal — which was said to include the sale of civilian aircraft and membership for Iran in the World Trade Organization — rested on the notion that no one would put abstract goals or principles ahead of gaining a steady flow of economic loot. And so, if only we could have negotiated a deal that gave Iran a sufficiently juicy carrot, it would forgo its ambitions.

But to believe that Iran really hungers for nuclear energy — as it claims — is sheer fantasy. Possessing abundant oil and gas reserves, Iran is the second-largest oil producer in OPEC. To believe that it values prosperity at all is equally fantastic; Iran is a theocracy that systematically violates its citizens' right to political and economic liberty.

What Iran desires is a nuclear weapon — the better to threaten and annihilate the impious in the West and in Iran's neighborhood. Iran declares its anti-Western ambitions stridently. At an official parade in 2004, Iran flaunted a missile draped with a banner declaring that: "We will crush America under our feet." Its leaders, moreover, have for years repeated the demand that "Israel must be wiped off the map."

A committed enemy of the West, Iran is the ideological wellspring of Islamic terrorism, and the "world's most active sponsor of terrorism," according to the U.S. government. A totalitarian regime that viciously punishes "un-Islamic" behavior among its own citizens, Iran actively exports its contempt for freedom and human life throughout the infidel world. For years it has been fomenting and underwriting savage attacks on Western and American interests, using such proxies as Hezbollah. Like several of the 9/11 hijackers before them, many senior al-Qaida leaders, fugitives of the Afghanistan war, have found refuge in Iran. And lately Iran has funneled millions of dollars, arms and ammunition to insurgents in Iraq.

It's absurd to think that by offering Iran rewards to halt its aggression, we will deflect it from its goal.

The only consequence of engaging

such a vociferously hostile regime in negotiations is the whitewashing of its crimes and the granting of undeserved legitimacy. The attempt to conciliate Iran has further inflamed the boldness of Iran's mullahs. What it has taught them is that the West lacks the intellectual self-confidence to name its enemies and deal with them accordingly. It has vindicated the mullahs' view that their religious worldview can bring a scientific, technologically advanced West to its knees.

Whether or not negotiations yield a deal, "diplomacy" abets Iran. The deal would have sustained Iran's economy, propped up its dictatorial government and perpetuated its terrorist war against the West. But even without a deal, simply by prolonging "negotiations," Iran grows stronger because it gains time to continue covert nuclear-weapons research.

This approach of diplomacy-with-anyone-at-any-cost necessarily results in nourishing one's enemy and sharpening its fangs. That is what happened under a 1994 deal with communist North Korea. After endless negotiations and offers of aid, North Korea promised not to develop nuclear weapons. When the North was caught cheating on its pledge, the West pursued yet more negotiations, and the North eventually promised anew to end its nuclear program. In February 2005 North Korea declared (plausibly) that it had succeeded in building nuclear weapons.

Another, older, attempt to negotiate with an avowed enemy was a cataclysmic failure. In 1938 the Europeans pretended that Hitler's intentions were not really hostile, and insisted that "peace in our time" could be brokered diplomatically (by letting him take Czechoslovakia). The negotiations afforded him time to build his military machine and emboldened him to launch World War II.

Ignoring the lessons of history, the Europeans embarked on negotiations with Iran that likewise sought the reckless pretense of peace today, at the cost of unleashing catastrophic dangers tomorrow.

To protect American (and European) lives, we must learn the life-or-death importance of passing objective moral judgment. By any rational standard, Iran should be condemned and its nuclear ambition thwarted, now. The brazenly amoral European gambit has only aided its quest — and will entail a future confrontation with a bolder, stronger Iran.

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



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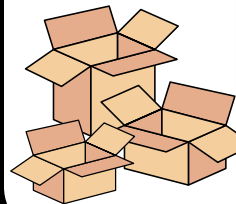
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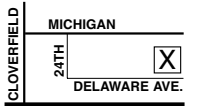
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PHOTO: Group of women celebrating with champagne.

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PHOTO: Group of people at the bar.

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Coalition's intentions come under fire following report

MEAN STREAK, from page 1

laws. The NCH contacted the city attorney's office of each municipality, weighing all the anti-homeless laws on their respective books in comparison to others.

Stoops said he has been working on homeless issues for more than 30 years and that he spends considerable time living among the homeless population. Years ago, he said he slept in Palisades Park and on Santa Monica beach, where he was removed at the request of police.

"The police were professional and service oriented, but we still had to go," Stoops said. "I was all right, but there was a woman, and I'm not sure what happened to her or where she went."

"Because she had no place to go."

According to the NCH report, a proposal soon to be floated by Mayor Holbrook would require that social service groups which provide meals to homeless people in parks would be fined for clean-up costs.

"Food providers may be required to pick up the yearly estimated tab of \$40,000 that Santa Monica spends annually providing park rangers and a cleaning service after meals," the NCH report said.

Mayor Holbrook has in fact asked City Hall to research how much clean up for the feedings costs City Hall. However, he has not pushed for any further discussion of new laws that would require service groups to pick up the tab for the cleaning up City Hall does after the feedings, said Mona Miyasato, acting human services manager.

The NCH report also takes a swipe at Santa Monica's newest elected official, Councilman Bobby Shriver, who it describes as one the ringleaders for the city's anti-homeless laws.

It states, "with the election of (Shriver) to the City Council, homeless people in Santa Monica are facing what may be the single biggest push in the nation to pass a massive wave of new anti-homeless laws."

"The new collection of proposed city laws would make it illegal for any homeless person to set down a backpack for more than 10 minutes on any sidewalk, lie, or sit, on any sidewalk in the city, shave, bathe, wash clothing items in any public restrooms, and sleep anywhere in a vehicle."

"The laws would also sweep homeless individuals from all freeway sides and ramps."

Miyasato said the information regarding Santa Monica's homeless laws was not entirely accurate.

"The city does prohibit lying or sitting on sidewalks on the Third Street Promenade, but that's because it's an area with a high volume of foot traffic," Miyasato said. "It's intended for safety. That law is not in effect in any other part of Santa Monica."

"I believe the report says its a citywide law."

Miyasato said that Santa Monica does prohibit people from leaving personal belongings unattended. However, she said that items must be left unattended for more than an hour before a person is cited, not 10 minutes, as indicated in the report.

Miyasato also said there are rules in place at public restrooms which do prohibit bathing. However, City Hall's public

showers, located at the Santa Monica Pier, do permit bathing starting at 5 a.m.

Homeless residents are prohibited from camping in parks, on the beaches, bluffs and other public open spaces. However, sleeping inside cars is permissible in areas of the city.

Shriver, dismayed by some of the suggestions in the NCH report, recently appeared on local television in an effort to set the record straight.

Shriver noted that while the NCH focuses on what it believes to be anti-homeless laws, it fails to indicate what sorts of social services cities such as Santa Monica also provide to help the down and out. He believes such information is central to the issue and that neglecting to include it is inappropriate for cities which are attempting to combat the problem.

"I have to wonder about the method of analysis," Shriver said. "The report focuses on the laws, but it doesn't even address our budget. Requiring social service providers to have to pay for the clean up after feedings may be seen as anti-homeless, or not."

"But the report fails to mention what the city is spending on social services to address the homelessness."

Stoops conceded that Santa Monica uses its own funds to address homelessness, unlike most municipalities, but that issue wasn't within the purview of the NCH report.

Miyasato said City Hall spends more than \$1.4 million a year on its grant program to social service providers.

When "unseen" costs are figured in — such as the cost for City Hall to clean up after feedings, that actual budget may be hundreds of thousands of dollars higher.

Some residents believe that may already be too much, if it's not effective.

Bill Bauer, a local resident who also contributes a Monday column for the Santa Monica Daily Press, often questions how City Hall tackles problems, including homelessness.

Bauer said he believes people who need help getting back on their feet should be able to receive it, as long as getting back on their feet is what they're trying to do.

However, Bauer feels there are homeless people who come to Santa Monica because of its reputation for being homeless friendly. He suggests social service providers which provide a one time fix of food, coffee and rest may be exacerbating Santa Monica's long-term homeless problem.

"I don't believe in enabling, because there are people out there looking to take advantage of the system," Bauer said. "People who are down and out and need help should get it, but there needs to be a process in place to see to it they're getting an intervention ... job training, working, something that is seeing to it they're heading toward being productive members of society, if they're going to use its services."

Bauer, who has not yet had an opportunity to read the NCH report, said it's been his experience that some groups hoping to solicit a public reaction often publicize literature which puts cities actually trying to solve a problem in an unfavorable light.

He also said he often questions the methods of such groups' approach.

LOCAL



They're back ... for now

SQUIRRELS, from page 1

discussed.

LA County officials classify ground squirrels as communal rodents, many of which are believed to have fleas that carry the bubonic plague — a health risk to humans and other animals when a field inspection reveals there are more than three squirrels per acre visible above ground, said Gail VanGordon, a supervisor for the vector-born disease surveillance unit.

In addition to the visual survey, VanGordon said the county conducted two in-depth inspections at Palisades Park last March, which revealed the number of below-ground burrows had increased from 46 to 146 in a matter of weeks.

City Hall subsequently poisoned the ground squirrels to bring their numbers down to acceptable levels, and was chastised by animal rights groups for its methods. Joe McGrath, city parks operations superintendent, said City Hall had been attempting to suppress the ground squirrel population at the park since the spring, following a warning from vector control.

City Hall stopped using pesticide to reduce the ground squirrel population in late June. However, since there are no prohibitive measures currently in place to stop their growth, the ground squirrel population has grown. The City Council decided city staff should explore control measures within legal confines.

City Hall's short-term method to control the ground squirrel population would be to allow Heritage Wildlife Management, a pest control company, to live-trap the rodents over a period of six weeks. They would then be taken away from Palisades Park, euthanized and consumed by birds at a wildlife rehabilitation facility.

Judy Franz, City Hall spokeswoman, said that Santa

Monica is still conferring with the county to determine if the short-term trapping and feeding method is needed. Regardless, the plan wouldn't have to be approved by the City Council.

The long-term method would involve Animal Advocates, a non-profit organization which focuses on animal rescue and education.

Over a period of one-year, Animal Advocates will eliminate unnatural food sources through community outreach. During prime feeding times, Animal Advocates will urge the public to not feed the ground squirrels.

They will also treat the squirrels for fleas to prevent disease. They have also been licensed to research with immunocontraceptives which would discourage the squirrels from eating certain kinds of food.

Franz said the two programs would incur some costs, but how much hasn't been determined. There would be costs for signs and the public education component, but the costs for trapping, if it moves forward, is still being discussed.

According to City Hall, Animal Advocates' proposal is preventive in nature. The more the public stops feeding the squirrels, the less euthanizing and feeding them to other animals will occur.

However, some animals rights groups are taking issue with the proposal. Some organizations are calling the trap-and-feed method as unnecessary and potentially counterproductive.

"The only crisis here is bureaucratic," said Catherine Rich, executive officer of The Urban Wildlands Group. "The non-lethal control plan will humanely reduce the population of squirrels in a reasonable amount of time without resorting to homemade gas chambers."

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Expo Rail Gets Go Ahead

Metro has approved the final environmental impact report on the 9-mile Exposition Light Rail Line proposed from Downtown LA along Exposition Boulevard to Venice/Robertson boulevards in Culver City. Construction is scheduled to begin this year.

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Metro Bus Line 534 (formerly Line 434) offers service from the West LA Transit Center at Fairfax Avenue and Washington Boulevard to Malibu. The line also serves Santa Monica, Venice, Pepperdine University and the J. Paul Getty Museum Getty Villa when it reopens later this month. Check it out at metro.net.

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Now part of a major shopping complex, an updated Pico/Rimpau Transit Center has been relocated to adjacent San Vicente Boulevard. Improved passenger information and other amenities are prototypes of proposed upgrades for other Metro transit centers.



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Teenager accused of killing his family on Donaldson ranch says he was abused

BY FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press Writer

ALAMOGORDO, N.M. — A teenager charged with murdering his father, stepmother and stepsister on a New Mexico ranch owned by newsmen Sam Donaldson told investigators in a videotape that his stepmother sexually abused him and his father hit him.

The videotape was played Tuesday in the first day of the trial of Cody Posey, 16, who is accused of shooting his father Delbert Paul Posey, his stepmother Tryone Posey and his 13-year-old stepsister, Mary Lee Schmid, on July 5, 2004. Delbert Posey was Donaldson's ranch foreman.

The boy said in the videotape he'd had sex with his stepmother, and that she'd tell him, "While we're not related, we're not blood, come do it."

"My dad and her wouldn't have sex or something like that, and they were trying to do something to me," he said. "She would grab my hands and put it on her breast."

On the tape, made a couple of days after the killings, Cody told investigators he and his father fought daily. The boy said his father hit him in about every third fight, leaving bruises or split lips, and that his stepmother also hit him.

He described his father as "hard going, sometimes mean, rough, real up, real strict, real old-fashioned."

"I got tired of him hitting me, yelling and screaming at me all the time," he said on tape. "He hit me all the time. I couldn't

take it anymore."

The boy at first told investigators a different story on the videotape, but when they suggested he tell them what happened, he put his hands over his face and started crying. He then told officers he shot all three.

At the end of the tape — which the defense tried to have suppressed — Cody told investigators: "I regret it. It was the wrong thing to do, and I miss them, even though they were mean."

Donaldson, the first witness in the trial, testified he found blood on the porch and inside a house on his Hondo Valley ranch when he came home from a trip to Santa Fe.

He called the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, telling them, "I cannot find my ranch manager but I found a great deal of congealed blood."

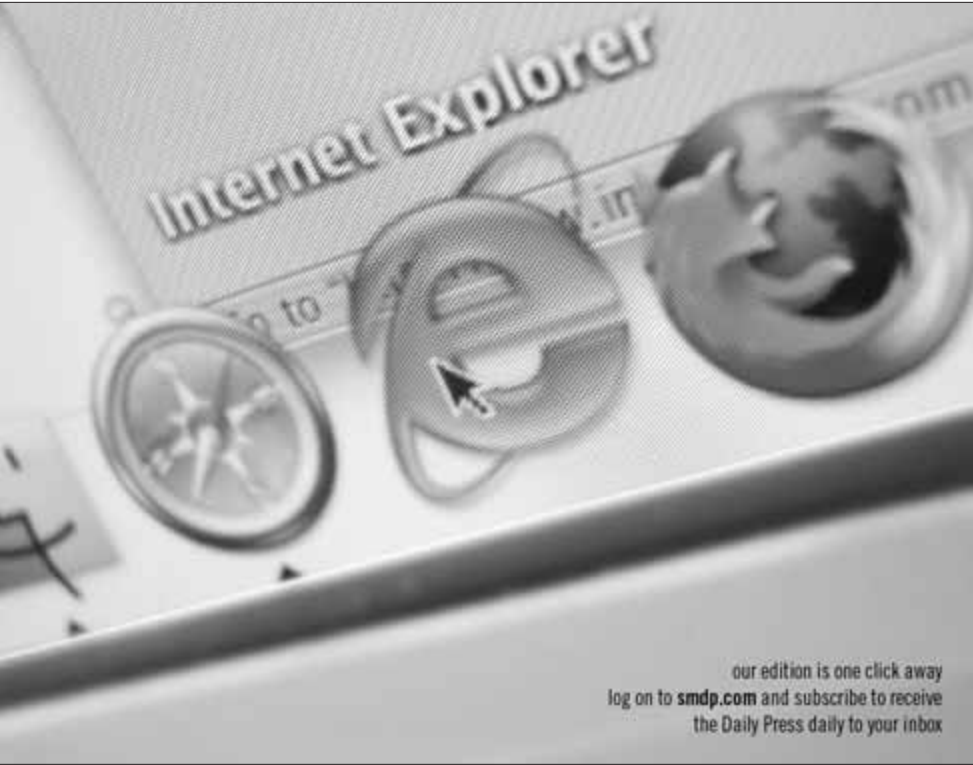
The three bodies were found in a shallow grave near the ranch house. Cody, then 14, was missing.

The teen, who had been staying with the family of a friend, was arrested two days after the killings.

According to the tape, he told investigators he argued with his father, took a gun from his stepsister's saddlebag in the barn and shot the three. His stepmother and stepsister were shot twice in the head; his father was shot once.

In the videotape, the teen said he shot his stepsister "so she wouldn't go tell or nothing."

Defense lawyer Gary Mitchell delayed his opening statement until he begins his case.



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Ann Greenspun, former Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce president

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STATE BRIEFS

Not to scale: Developer pulls back to help schools

By The Associated Press

ARCADIA — Responding to community concerns about overcrowded schools, mall developer Rick Caruso has removed 300 apartments from the proposed Shops at Santa Anita project.

It eliminates one of the project's most controversial elements and shrinks its size by a quarter. Caruso insisted the apartments would lure singles, empty nesters and young couples without children, but crowding at Arcadia High School was feared by many in the community.

A draft environmental report showed the project could add 171 students to the school district.

"If you took a poll it's probably 50/50 for and against," Caruso said Monday. "But there's enough concern that it's better to take the housing out."

"The project is still very viable without the housing," Caruso added.

Strip club loses its pole position to auto mall

By The Associated Press

SANTA ANA — The city is spending \$5 million to help expand a Honda dealership at the Santa Ana Auto Mall — which brings the city about \$4 million a year — and demolish a closed Mr. J's strip club.

The City Council feels expansion of the dealership is "beneficial to the entire auto mall" because it will bring in more tax revenue and add jobs, City Manager David N. Ream said.

Additionally, Councilman Jose Solorio said, demolishing the strip club will be an asset.

"Mr. J's was more than an eyesore," Solorio said. "It was not the best use of the land."

The Santa Ana Auto Mall is home to 10 dealerships that generated \$3.9 million for the city in fiscal 2005.

The council, acting Jan. 5 as the redevelopment agency board, voted to pay \$5 million to take over the 42-year lease of the strip club, pay for the club's demolition and sublet the land to Honda.

Within two years after Honda expands, Solorio said, the city will gain 200 jobs and \$675,000 more annual sales tax revenue.

Some dealers complained the city deal was unfair, but Honda Santa Ana attorney Michael Vivoli said the dealership was the only one next to Mr. J's strip club for decades.

"That has caused problems for that business," he said.

Energy firm to show others the way

By The Associated Press

LONG BEACH — An Australian energy firm said it has a safer, environmentally agreeable way to ship liquefied natural gas to California that doesn't use terminals proposed by three other companies.

The plan by Woodside Natural Gas Inc., a subsidiary of Woodside Energy Ltd., would convert natural gas from a liquid state on tankers and bring it ashore through a pipeline rather than making the conversion at an onshore facility.

Woodside planned to announce its plans Wednesday but the location of the Southern California system won't be disclosed.



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Gamblers may like their chances even more with slot machines of future

BY RICHARD N. VELOTTA

Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — Some day gamblers will be able to stride up to a slot machine, insert their slot club cards and be offered a list of their favorite games at the exact denominations they like to play.

And if it's the player's birthday, the machine may automatically print out a voucher for a free meal at one of the casino's restaurants.

Welcome to the world of server-based casino games. Experts say they have the potential of being the next big advancement in industry technology, an innovation that could increase the appeal of slot machines the way ticket in, ticket out technology has.

Industry professionals got their first look at the technology at this year's Global Gaming Expo in September. Regulators are slowly advancing the rules and technical standards to equipment manufacturers and casino operators so that field trials can begin next year.

The top Nevada players in server-based games — Reno-based slot machine behemoth International Game Technology and Las Vegas rival Alliance Gaming Inc. — are excited to bring the technology to the market, but aren't talking much about how it will change a slot player's experience. They don't want to tip their competitive hands.

In the early stages, the focus will be on how the technology can make a slot floor more profitable for operators.

"Today, if I have a slot floor with 2,000 machines and I want to make changes, I'd have to go to each and every one of them, open them up and change out the components," IGT spokesman Ed Rogich said. "Not only does that take a lot of time, but the machines are down for that period of time."

Rogich said that type of transformation is particularly cumbersome for software changes involving currency modifications because every machine has to be altered to recognize the new bills produced by the U.S. Treasury.

But with server-based games, every machine is electronically linked to a central computer file server and changes can be made in the time it takes for a software download. With the large bandwidth most slot systems use, changes can be made almost instantaneously.

Bob Luciano, Alliance Gaming's chief technology officer, demonstrated the capability of one of its system by changing games and denominations on 10 slots linked in a showroom. The modification involved a few computer mouse clicks and took just seconds.

Luciano said some downloadable technology has been a part of the gaming industry since the 1980s, but it has only been in the last four years that manufacturers have begun solving applications problems and security issues.

Nevada regulators have moved slowly on approving standards for systems, completing a series of workshops in 2005. State Gaming Control Board Chairman Dennis Neilander said regulators took a slow and deliberate pace to gather suggestions from all corners of the industry before setting final approval.

Once final approvals are adopted early this year, field trials on limited numbers of games and systems will be conducted. The casino companies will be able to determine just how much revenue will be generated by the technological advancements.

Analysts believe the results could be huge. By having the ability to change games instantly, floor managers will be able to analyze what games and denominations would perform best at any particular time of the day. They can also alter hold percentages within regulatory parameters.

For example, a floor manager could determine that most video poker players are on the floor in the afternoon, but that nighttime crowds lean toward reel games. A manager could change a machine, a row of them or an entire floor in seconds.

Easy off: High Court upholds Oregon's assisted suicide law

BY GINA HOLLAND

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Tuesday blocked the Bush administration's attempt to punish doctors who help terminally ill patients die, protecting Oregon's one-of-a-kind assisted-suicide law.

It was the first loss for Chief Justice John Roberts, who joined the court's most conservative members — Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas — in a long but restrained dissent.

The administration improperly tried to use a federal drug law to pursue Oregon doctors who prescribe lethal doses of prescription medicines, the court said in a rebuke to former Attorney General John Ashcroft.

The 6-3 ruling could encourage other states to consider copying Oregon's law, used to end the lives of more than 200 seriously ill people in that state. The decision, one of the biggest expected from the court this year, also could set the stage for Congress to attempt to outlaw assisted suicide.

"Congress did not have this far-reaching intent to alter the federal-state balance," Justice Anthony M. Kennedy wrote for the majority — himself, retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and Justices John Paul Stevens, David Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer.

With this decision Kennedy showed signs of becoming a more influential swing voter after O'Connor departs. He is a moderate conservative who sometimes joins more liberal members on cases involving such things as gay rights and capital punishment.

In some ways, the decision was an anticlimactic end to the court's latest clash over assisted suicide.

The case was argued in October on Roberts' second day on the bench, and he strongly hinted that he would back the Bush administration. Some court watchers had expected O'Connor to be the decisive vote, which could have delayed the case until her successor was on the court. The Senate is set to vote soon on nominee Samuel Alito.

Justices have dealt with end-of-life cases before, most recently in 1997 when the court unanimously ruled that people have no constitutional right to die. That decision, by then-Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, left room for states to set their own rules.

The Tuesday ruling, and dissents, were tinged with an understanding about the delicate nature of the subject. The court itself is aging and the death of Rehnquist this past September after a yearlong fight with cancer was emotional for the justices.

Scalia said in his dissent that the court's ruling "is per-

haps driven by a feeling that the subject of assisted suicide is none of the federal government's business. It is easy to sympathize with that position."

At the same time, Scalia said federal officials have the power to regulate doctors in prescribing addictive drugs and "if the term 'legitimate medical purpose' has any meaning, it surely excludes the prescription of drugs to produce death."

He was joined in the dissent by Thomas and Roberts. Roberts did not write separately to explain his vote. Thomas also wrote his own dissent.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said, "The president remains fully committed to building a culture of life, a culture of life that is built on valuing life at all stages."

The court majority dealt harshly with Ashcroft, who in 2001 declared that Oregon doctors who helped people die would be violating the federal Controlled Substances Act. Lower courts prevented any punishment while Ashcroft's authority was contested by the state of Oregon, a physician, a pharmacist and terminally ill patients.

Kennedy said the "authority claimed by the attorney general is both beyond his expertise and incongruous with the statutory purposes and design."

Oregon's law, which was passed by voters, covers only extremely sick people — those with incurable diseases and who are of sound mind. At least two doctors must agree the ill have six months or less to live before they can use the law.

"For Oregon's physicians and pharmacists, as well as patients and their families, today's ruling confirms that Oregon's law is valid and that they can act under it without fear of federal sanctions," said state Solicitor General Mary Williams.

The ruling backed a decision by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which said Ashcroft's "unilateral attempt to regulate general medical practices historically entrusted to state lawmakers interferes with the democratic debate about physician-assisted suicide."

The court's ruling was not a final say on federal authority to override state doctor-assisted suicide laws — only a declaration that the current federal scheme did not permit that. However, it still could have ramifications outside of Oregon.

"This is a disappointing decision that is likely to result in a troubling movement by states to pass their own assisted suicide laws," said Jay Sekulow, chief counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice, which backed the administration.

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11636 Montana Ave. #108, Brentwood.....2BD,2.5BA,1,564sq.ft.(A).....\$749,000.....Sold And Saved \$19,283

3219 Colorado Ave. Santa Monica.....2BD,2BA,905sq.ft.(A).....\$543,000.....Sold And Saved \$12,000

2767 Woodwardia Dr. Bel Air.....4BD, 2.5BA, 2,263sq.ft.(A).....\$1,499,000.....Sold And Saved \$30,975

1741 Colby Ave, #301 Los Angeles.....2BD,2.5BA,1,242sq.ft.(A).....\$635,000.....Sold And Saved \$15,525

8001 Redlands Ave. Playa Del Rey.....2BR,2BA, 1,066sq.ft.(A).....\$540,000.....Sold And Saved \$21,500

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You dig? People who left mark in real estate



DAYS ON THE MARKET

BY JODI SUMMERS

Every year, the real estate industry specialists compile lists of the most influential people in real estate — outstanding individuals whose actions have influenced the business of buying and selling properties. We are particularly partial to Inman News, which annually assembles a grouping of the 100 leading people in real estate. Instead of boring you with a long list, we would like to share with you profiles on several individuals whose real estate related activities were noteworthy for California in 2005:

■ Alan Greenspan. Everyone in real estate appreciates Alan Greenspan, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, for overseeing the housing boom.

Greenspan originally took office as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board on Aug. 11, 1987, filling an unexpired term as a member of the board. On Feb. 1, 1992, Greenspan was reappointed to the board to a full 14-year term, which ends Jan. 31, 2006. He is credited with helping guide the U.S. economy through the crash of 1987, the recession of the early '90s, the dot-com bubble and the terrorist attacks of 9-11. According to ABC News, in 1998 unemployment reached a 24-year low, inflation hit an 11-year low and consumer confidence was the highest it had been in 30 years, thanks in no small part to Greenspan.

As chairman of the board of governors of the Federal Reserve of the United States, Greenspan's decision to substantially lower the federal bank rate during the early 2000s fueled the housing boom. The federal bank rate, which the Fed's open market committee controls, is not directly tied to long-term interest rates, but it almost inevitably affects them. His decrease and subsequent increase of bank rates (beginning last summer) make him one of the most influential and respected people in real estate.

■ Erin Toll. Deputy Insurance Commissioner of Colorado and former title insurance researcher, launched an investigation of nine Colorado title insurers, which eventually led to the refunding of about \$24 million to consumers by First American Title Insurance Co.

Her activities have lead to California's insurance commissioner John Garamendi to ask the Department of Housing and Urban Development to pursue the home builders and banks that may have been involved in insurance kickbacks. Similar investigations are taking places in other states, including New York, Florida, Washington, Oklahoma and Minnesota.

The companies under investigation have been accused of issuing false reinsurance contracts between title companies and subsidiaries of real estate agents, developers and lenders. Under these alleged schemes, title insurers agreed to give about half of the premium on title insurance policies to captive reinsurance companies fashioned by co-conspirators. As one hand washed the other, the parent companies of the co-conspirators would refer business to the title insurer. It is suspected that these arrangements are forcing up title insurance rates.

■ Alphonso Jackson. The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, is continually devising ways to help lower income families better their housing scenario and/or become homeowners. Noteworthy to everyone, the housing agency has attempted to simplify the home-buying process for consumers by making changes to the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA), which regulates the closing process.

Among Federal Housing Administration non-disaster related accomplishments in 2005 were \$23.7 million in grants to more than 100 rural communities nationwide in an effort to stimulate their local economies, produce more affordable housing and create jobs. Nearly \$19 million in funding was aimed to help low-income individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS get permanent housing and access to care. In August, \$10 million in funding was allocated to get chronically homeless persons who are addicted to alcohol off the streets and into a permanent residence. All of that money did not go to Santa Monica, even though our city of 100,000 residents is said to have a 2 percent homeless population.

And the accomplishments go on. Effective Jan. 1, 2006, the FHA increased its single-family home mortgage limits by more than 15 percent, up to \$200,160 in standard areas and up to \$362,790 in high-cost areas — this is nearly \$50,000 more than last year. The loan limits for two-, three- and four-unit dwellings also increased. HUD also has recently awarded more than \$710 million in grants to help very low-income elderly and people with disabilities find affordable housing, and they have issued \$32.9 million in grants to public housing agencies to help public housing residents get jobs and buy homes.

"This administration is working to make home ownership more affordable and accessible so that more families can own a piece of the American Dream," notes Jackson.

Additionally, in 2005, the FHA has been aggressively pursuing RESPA violations — tripling the department's enforcement staff and doubling its budget.

■ U.S. Justice Department's Antitrust Division. The officials get credit for taking action to promote open competition in the real estate industry. In 2005, the department investigated alleged anti-competitive practices, warning regulators in several states not to pass rules or legislation that could restrict competition and harm some discount business models. In addition, the department is aggressively pursuing an antitrust lawsuit against the National Association of Realtors over the group's policies for online property listings display. In 2005, the Justice Department was able to curtail real estate rebates in Kentucky and other states.

■ Laurie Janik. The General Counsel for National Association of Realtors has been responsible for defending the association's policies in the face of antitrust accusations. Janik, the chief legal advisor for NAR, protects the association from legal disasters and cleans up afterwards if trouble ensues. She has spent the better part of the past two years battling with U.S. Justice Department officials since the agency's antitrust division opened an investigation of the trade group's online property listings policies.

(Contact Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com or call (310) 309-4219.)

Real Estate

Fear not: The 1031 Exchange made easy



IN YOUR SPACE

BY CHRISTINA S. PORTER

Many investors don't take advantages of 1031 exchanges because of the fear of the 45-day identification period. That fear is supported by numerous horror stories of failed exchanges, resulting in the payment of devastating taxes.

With proper planning and the right resources, investors can navigate the waters of a 1031 Exchange unscathed, and frequently double or triple their spendable income, diversifying their portfolio and reducing risk. What is needed is a good grasp of the exchange process, a clear set of investment objectives and a plentiful and consistent source of quality replacement properties.

The process does not have to be difficult or stressful. The goal is to make the 45th day of your identification period the most unruffled day of your life. Believe it or not, it can be done by simply making a plan and following through.

The planning process begins by evaluating your current situation — how much do you have to work with — the income you would like to receive monthly and what your risk tolerance is — are you conservative, middle of the road or an aggressive investor? Once you have this infor-

mation you can review the various scenarios, making sure that the income you would like to achieve can be produced at a level of risk that is tolerable to you.

To evaluate risk the keys are real estate basics: Make sure you understand the demographics, the terms of the leases and the quality of the tenants. By understanding the risk you will be able to judge the likelihood of you receiving the income desired and have a ready tool to compare various investment opportunities.

One of the more powerful strategies for managing risk is to diversify your portfolio. By spreading the risk out by geographical location, assets class — office, retail, multi-family, etc. — and risk category, the investor can construct a source of income that is suitable to their individual needs and tolerances.

Next week we will discuss additional ways that using a 1031 exchange can help build wealth.

Please consult with your legal and tax professionals prior to making any decision regarding any real estate investment.



(You can call Christina Porter at 1-877-4 TM 1031, or e-mail her at christina@tm1031exchange.com to discuss your specific needs. Visit www.tm1031exchange.com.)

SAMPLE INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

Net Leased (No Management)

Tenant	State	Price	Cap	Rate
Hollywood Video	FL	"\$2,004,500.00"	7.50	
Office Depot	TX	"\$3,435,000.00"	7.00	
Staples	CT	"\$4,500,000.00"	8.20	
Rite Aide	PA	"\$7,557,271.00"	7.00	
Bio Marin Pharmaceutical	CA	"\$18,250,000.00"	7.10	

Tenant In Common (No Management)

Type	State	Minimum Investment	First Year Cash on Cash	Year 5 Cash on Cash
Family Dollar	TX	"\$50,000.00"	6.50%	7.00%
Self Storage	PA	"\$100,000.00"	7.80%	11.50%
OIL & Gas	TX	"\$250,000.00"	20.00%	20.00%
Retail Center	LA	"\$145,000.00"	9.29%	10.25%
Food Lion Retail Center	SC	"\$300,000.00"	8.00%	11.00%
Roadhouse Grill	FL	"\$1,298,182.00"	8.25%	8.75%

The above is a sample of the types of properties that are selling across the country. The cash on cash amounts quoted are estimated and not guaranteed.

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12415 Matteson Ave, Palms/Mar Vista

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\$775,000 Cesar Marquez 310/393-8491

7122 La Tijera # 1 201, Westchester

Designer perfect luxury condo in beautiful Mediterranean style building. Unit is in move-in condition. 1 bedroom 1 bath plus loft which could be used as 2nd bedroom. Hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, central heat & A/C and a huge private rooftop deck with awesome sunset views. All appliances included. Washer/Dryer in unit. Tons of natural light. Spa, gym, security building & parking with 2 car tandem spaces. Must see!

\$435,000 Jim Davis 310 393-8491 ext 5#

3138 Reid Ave, Culver City

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4338 Glencoe Ave, #1, Marina del Rey.

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Ohio case is first since homeowner rights ruling

BY ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS
Associated Press Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Long before the U.S. Supreme Court ruled last summer that municipalities could seize homes for a private economic development project, Joy and Carl Gamble filed a lawsuit to save their house.

The couple contests the city's decision to declare their neighborhood in the Cincinnati suburb of Norwood as blighted so it can be redeveloped. They believe the city is misusing its power of eminent domain.

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Status: NOT ON MLS - LIMITED TIME

"Our home meant everything to us," said Joy Gamble, who is fighting Norwood with another couple, backed by the Institute for Justice, a Washington, D.C.-based organization that supports private property rights.

Their case goes before the Ohio Supreme Court on Wednesday. It is the first challenge of property rights laws to reach a state high court since the U.S. Supreme Court's decision that the city of New London, Conn. could take homes to build a privately owned hotel and office space.

Property rights advocates, business groups and backers of city planning are watching the Ohio case because of the precedent it could set as more than a dozen states consider bans against governments taking homes to boost economic development.

Legislatures are rushing to pass their own laws because Justice John Paul Stevens, author of the majority decision in the federal court's 5-4 ruling, also noted that states have the ability to pass laws with stronger protections if they want.

So far Alabama, California, Delaware, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin have proposed bills, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

In Ohio, a new law stops local governments from seizing unblighted private property for use by private developers while a committee studies the issue. The Gambles' lawsuit also was filed before that law was passed.

The city and a private developer contend that Norwood had the right to acquire the property. They also argue that eminent domain applied not because the area is "blighted," but because it is "deteriorating."

How the Ohio court deals with the issue of blight has

important ramifications for municipalities around the country, said Steven Eagle, a George Mason University law professor who studies property rights.

"Every jurisdiction allows condemnation to relieve blight," Eagle said. "If blight is going to be vaguely defined, then it could be open season for condemnations for redevelopment."

A ruling in favor of the Gambles would be an important first step in setting limits that courts around the country could follow, said Karen Harned, executive director of the National Federation of Independent Business' Legal Foundation. The group worries that the small businesses it represents could be overtaken by bigger development.

A decision in favor of Norwood would help slow the knee-jerk reaction of many states to the U.S. Supreme Court decision, said Daniel Lindner, a lawyer representing the American Planning Association.

The Gambles, in their 60s, hoped to live comfortably in their home after selling their small Cincinnati grocery store, Tasty Bird Poultry, and retiring five years ago.

Instead, they watched their neighborhood disappear as neighbors sold willingly to developer Rookwood Partners. The Gambles temporarily left their home to live with a grown daughter in Kentucky but vow to return should they win the case.

Joy Gamble speaks bitterly about the couple's ordeal and what it meant to see their home of 35 years, purchased after years of savings, in danger of demolition.

"When the municipalities and the people that have lots of money decide they want what you have, you don't own it," Gamble said. "You bought it, you paid for it, you kept the taxes up, you kept the appearance up, but it wasn't yours."

Find the Axis of downtown LA

By Daily Press staff

With interest building quickly for the coolest new address in downtown Los Angeles, Standard Pacific Homes has announced that an off-site sales office will open in February for Axis at Union Station, where residents will experience the thrill of urban living with "downtown all around."

To be among the first to own one of Axis' contemporary condominiums, designed by GMP Architects, prospective buyers can be pre-qualified now by visiting standardpacifichomes.com. And when sales get underway in March, Axis will be offering hardhat tours as it readies the residential buildings for their first occupants in summer 2006.

With such lifestyle amenities as a rooftop pool and lounge, clubroom, fitness center, screening room, Internet café and secure subterranean parking for one or two cars, living at Axis will be like being a permanent guest at a stylish boutique hotel. The private accommodations offer one- and two-bedroom condominiums mea-



Photo courtesy

Urban life could revolve around the Axis in summer 2006.

suring approximately 644 to 1,460 square feet. The units will feature granite countertops, sleek contemporary cabinetry and stainless steel appliances, as well as private balconies and floor-to-ceiling windows in select floorplans.

The allure of Axis is augmented by its prime location adjacent to historic Union Station in the heart of the city, where entertainment, excitement and culture blend. From Axis, it's just a short walk or taxi ride to fine dining at one of downtown's many new gourmet restaurants, Philharmonic concerts at the Disney Hall, Broadway plays at the Music Center, fast-paced sports action and big-name rock concerts at Staples Center, and a taste of LA's rich heritage in Chinatown and Olvera Street.

Axis's location is particularly attractive to employees who work in downtown offices, and they can even leave their cars at home when traveling throughout the greater Los Angeles area, because Metrolink and Amtrak trains, the Metro subway and city transit are all available right next door at Union Station. For those who prefer to drive to their destinations, four major freeways intersect nearby.

When sales begin in March, prices are expected to start in the low \$400,000s.

Standard Pacific Homes is one of the nation's largest homebuilders. During its 39-year history, Standard Pacific has built homes for more than 74,000 families. The company constructs homes within a wide range of prices and sizes targeting a broad range of homebuyers. Standard Pacific operates in major metropolitan areas in California, Florida, Arizona, the Carolinas, Texas, Colorado and Nevada.

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Universities dangle housing incentive before new teachers

BY JENNIFER COLEMAN
Associated Press Writer

DAVIS, Calif. — It doesn't take a Ph.D. to understand that home prices in California are sky high.

The state ranks at the top for housing costs and near the bottom for the percentage of residents who can afford to buy a home. The state's median home price was \$458,000 in November, about double the national figure, but prices are far higher in much of Southern California and the San Francisco Bay area, where three-bedroom homes commonly are on the market for \$600,000 or more.

Such prices have made it difficult for California's public universities to attract faculty and administrators, especially those just starting their careers.

"When we had new faculty recruits turning us down because they couldn't afford to live here ... we knew we had to do something," said Matt Altiers, vice president of planning and research at Sacramento State University.

The solution, employed by a few California State University and University of California campuses, was for the college to build its own community where employees can buy homes at below-market rates.

The Sacramento campus plans to build as many as 500 homes for faculty and staff on 25 acres it bought last year. A 30 percent discount on homes below the region's median price will help assistant professors get into the housing market, which otherwise would be nearly impossible with a starting salary that averages \$48,000, Altiers said.

"It's a way to offer something else instead of just extremely high salaries, which we can't do because we're a public university," he said.

The waiting list already tops 300, even though the neighborhood is years away from completion.

"For a single person like myself, it's almost impossible to get into the housing game," said Mark Rodriguez, an assistant professor in Sacramento State's teacher education department who is on the list. "And it's convenient. The location would be great."

In the 23-campus CSU system, three universities have similar housing developments — Fullerton, Monterey Bay and Channel Islands in Ventura. Several others are planning them, CSU spokeswoman Clara Potes-Fellow said.

The houses sell for at least 30 percent below market-rate because the university keeps ownership of the land. When employees buy, they must agree that the resale price will be limited because the rate of appreciation is restricted.

University of California, Irvine was the first UC to introduce such a housing program, opening University Hills in 1984. The community has 900 homes today, most of which are owned by campus employees.

University officials began the project when high housing prices left them unable to recruit "the kind of faculty we wanted," said William Parker, vice chancellor for research.

Since then, he said the community has become the university's most valuable recruiting asset. The school plans to expand the community to about 1,300 homes.

The average home price in Irvine was \$657,000 in December, according to DataQuick, a real estate tracking firm. But at University Hills, houses sell for up to half that amount, Parker said.

About 60 percent of the school's faculty live on campus, Parker said, and about 80 percent of new faculty choose to buy in University Hills.

Similar programs followed at the UC's Berkeley, Davis, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz campuses.

UC Davis' West Village eventually will have 500 condominiums, townhouses and single-family homes for university employees, plus housing for 3,000 students.

The subdivision, to be built by private developers, will include shopping, parks, a high school and a community college satellite campus on farmland the university has owned for about 50 years, said Bob Segar, assistant vice chancellor for campus planning.

Officials expect the first West Village residents to move in by the end of 2008.

The state's high housing costs affect far more than just the public university systems, said economist Stephen Levy, director of the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy.

Housing affordability is the "No. 1 challenge we face in maintaining competitiveness in California because it affects the ability of everyone to hire quality people," Levy said.

"Universities are fortunate that they have a head start. Most private companies can't take a piece of their land and get a private developer to build."

The UC Davis project is costing the university very little cash, Segar said. It already owned the land, and developers will bear the building costs. In return, the university gets a recruiting tool that's proven to be effective, officials said.

UC Davis opened a smaller project, the 37-unit Aggie Village, in the 1990s. Since then, home prices in Davis have soared to a median of about \$560,000. But university salaries have remained fairly constant, with a starting salary for an assistant professor averaging about \$65,000, Segar said.

Nearly 1,000 university employees are on the waiting list for either community.

Lora Barrett's husband bought the couple's 1,800-square-foot home when the first UC Davis housing development opened. While the price of the home and its proximity to campus have been clear advantages, they've discovered one downside: Their house can appreciate only so much a year — well below current market values.

The Barretts, who have a 16-month-old son, want to move to a larger house. But property values in Davis have soared, while the Barretts' home remains under the price cap.

"We are so far out of the market," Barrett said. "It feels like we're in here until we retire. We just feel stuck."

The houses in university projects appreciate at a much lower rate — about 3 percent a year, rather than the double-digit percentage hikes other California communities have experienced, said Parker, of UC Irvine.

The owners get all the tax benefits of homeownership, he said. But he cautions prospective buyers who want to buy a home as a speculative investment: "You'll be disappointed."

"But if you want more home for your money, great location and a sound financial investment, then university housing is a wonderful thing," he said.



IS IT TIME TO ROLL OVER YOUR NEST EGG?



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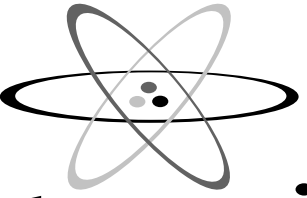
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INTERNATIONAL

Singapore plans to lift mad-cow import ban on beef from America

BY CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA

Associated Press Writer

SINGAPORE — Singapore said Tuesday it is taking steps to end a ban on beef imports from the United States, two years after it suspended imports following detection of a case of mad cow disease in the state of Washington. U.S. beef accounted for about 5 percent of Singapore's beef imports prior to the ban.

Singapore's Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority "is finalizing with the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the operational details of the health certification program to facilitate the resumption of imports as soon as possible," the authority said in a statement.

"With the lifting of the ban, de-boned beef cuts from young cattle (less than 30 months old) from the U.S. will be allowed for import into Singapore," it said in a statement.

Little was known about mad cow disease at the time of the ban on Dec. 24, 2003, and Singaporean import rules allowed imports only from countries that had been free of the disease for six years, the statement said.

Since then, more has been learned about the disease, the government statement said.

The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority reviewed its import conditions for beef from countries affected by mad cow disease, and developed new import require-

ments to allow restricted beef imports that are safe for consumption.

After a full assessment of the risk of mad cow disease from U.S. beef and an on-site inspection in the United States in November 2005, the authority said it was satisfied that the United States "has in place effective safeguards to ensure that de-boned beef cuts exported are safe for consumption."

U.S. officials are pressing Japan and South Korea to go further after they partially lifted their bans on importing American beef imposed because of mad cow disease. Like South Korea, Japan still imposes restrictions; no U.S. beef is allowed from cattle older than 21 months.

Singapore's market for U.S. beef amounted to about \$5.8 million in 2003, the year before the ban. By comparison, Japan's market was worth \$1.4 billion and South Korea's was worth \$815 million in 2003.

Under international standards, U.S. imports should include beef from animals up to 30 months of age as well as beef ribs. The guidelines are set by the World Organization for Animal Health in France.

The medical name for mad cow disease is bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE. BSE is a degenerative nerve disease in cattle. It's linked to a rare but fatal nerve disorder in humans, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, believed to be caused by eating meat or cattle products contaminated with mad cow disease.

For Jackson, it's have glove, will travel

BY LARA SUKHTIAN

Associated Press Writer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Michael Jackson seems to be settling in to the Persian Gulf. The pop star has shopped for real estate here, been spotted in glitzy malls and now appears to be interviewing for a job.

Jackson, who was acquitted on child molestation charges in California last year, is negotiating a position as a consultant with a Bahrain-based company that plans to set up theme parks and music academies in the Middle East, according to a press release.

AAJ Holdings Ltd., owned by Ahmed Abu Bakr Janahi, said it wants to hire 47-year-old Jackson to give advice on setting up entertainment businesses.

Jackson's publicist, Raymone K. Bain, couldn't be reached for comment Monday.

AAJ, which focuses mainly on urban development projects, played a key role in designing Bahrain's ongoing Financial Harbor development and Oman's Blue City, a multibillion-dollar tourist resort with golf courses, hotels and several dozen miles of sandy beaches.

"Stagnant architectural structures need content in the form of entertainment to revive them and that's where Michael Jackson will play an integral role," the statement said.

Jackson is reportedly building a home in Bahrain, an island nation in the Persian Gulf linked to Saudi Arabia by a bridge.

In his last known visit to Dubai in November, he was seen checking out some of the world's priciest real estate developments. His host at the time, Emirates champion rally driver Mohammed bin Sulayem, said Jackson was considering buying property here.

News reports out of Manama, the Bahraini capital, have quoted Jackson's publicist as saying the pop star is in the process of finalizing his Hurricane Katrina relief song, which will be released on 2 Seas Records.

Keisha Cole, Ciara, Snoop Dogg, Babyface and R. Kelly are among those taking part in the song, "I Have This Dream," reports said.

The record label belongs to Sheik Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, a regional governor and the Bahraini king's son, who is reportedly spearheading the project.

Israel, Hamas rewrite rules of engagement during campaign

BY SARAH EL DEEB

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — Israel and Hamas, sworn enemies with a bloody history, have rewritten their rules of engagement for the Palestinian election campaign in Jerusalem, epicenter of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Israeli police briefly detained three Hamas candidates and the militants spouted a little anti-Israeli rhetoric, an expression of the conflicting claims to Jerusalem. Yet both sides have avoided a head-on clash to ensure the Palestinian parliament election takes place Jan. 25 as planned — Hamas because it expects to make a strong showing, and Israel because it doesn't want to upset the Bush administration.

On Sunday, Israel's Cabinet voted to allow Palestinians to cast absentee ballots in Jerusalem, but barred Hamas from campaigning in the city because the Islamic militants are pledged to Israel's destruction.

Later in the day, police picked up three Hamas candidates for questioning, tore down campaign banners and raided a charity they suspected was a Hamas front. On Monday, the candidates were released.

At home after his release, Mohammed Abu Teir, 55, said his brief detention had helped his campaign.

"It gave us the opportunity to give the people the picture of what is happening in Jerusalem, without even talking to our people," said Abu Teir, who spent 25 years in Israeli prisons.

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Mark Regev said the ultimate goal is to see the Palestinian election take place, suggesting Israel would find a way to settle any disputes over voting procedures or Hamas' role.

"In light of the Palestinian Authority's explicit commitment to disband Hamas and its terror infrastructure after and as a result of the elections, Israel will not provide the Palestinian Authority any excuse for postponement of the elections and evading this commitment," Regev said.

Palestinian voting in Jerusalem is largely symbolic, since only about 5,000 of the city's 230,000 Arab residents are eligible to cast ballots — a quota set when Israel and the Palestinians first negotiated the voting arrangements in the city in 1996. The compromise allowed 5,000 voters to mail absentee ballots from five post offices in the city, while the other eligible voters had to travel to nearby West Bank polling stations.

The arrangement was meant to allow both sides to keep their conflicting claims to east Jerusalem, the sector Israel captured from Jordan in the 1967 Mideast War. Israel says it will never relinquish sovereignty over all of Jerusalem, while the Palestinians want to establish their future capital in the eastern sector.

Recent polls indicate that Hamas is gaining ground against Abbas' ruling Fatah Party. A survey last week said Hamas would win 31 percent of the overall vote, compared to 35 percent for Fatah, with 22 percent undecided. That's a 10-point gain for Hamas from a month ago.

On Jerusalem's streets, there was no sign of Hamas, with the exception of a few boys handing out fliers near the Al Aqsa Mosque compound, out of the eyesight of Israeli police.

Abu Teir said his group has other ways of getting the message out. "Most of us preach in mosques, and we have university professors, doctors, students bodies, and we ... go from house to house," he said. "We are very well-organized, and not just confrontational."

In its Jerusalem campaign, Hamas focuses on the city's West Bank suburbs, which are part of the Jerusalem district on the Palestinian electoral map. Some 50,000 of the suburbs' 160,000 residents are eligible voters.

During a recent stop in the West Bank community of Anata, cut off from Jerusalem by Israel's separation barrier, Abu Teir addressed some 200 residents, many wearing the Islamic green basketball caps Hamas hands out as campaign gifts. "God is great," the crowd chanted.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Shatner stone free and richer for it

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — An online casino has a piece of Capt. Kirk.

Actor William Shatner has sold his kidney stone for \$25,000, with the money going to a housing charity, it was announced Tuesday.

Shatner reached agreement Monday to sell the stone to GoldenPalace.com.

“This takes organ donors to a new height, to a new low, maybe. How much is a piece of me worth?” he said in a telephone interview.

GoldenPalace.com is noted for its collection of oddities, which includes a partially eaten cheese sandwich thought to contain the image of the Virgin Mary.

“This is a bold new addition to our fleet,” GoldenPalace.com Chief Executive Officer Richard Rowe said in a statement.

The money will go to Habitat for Humanity, which builds houses for the needy.

“This would be the first Habitat for Humanity house built out of stone,” joked Darren Julien, president of Los Angeles-based Julien’s Auctions, which handled the sale.

Shatner, who played Kirk on the original “Star Trek” TV show and won an Emmy for his role on “Boston Legal,” passed the stone last fall.

The stone was so big, Shatner said, “you’d want to wear it on your finger.”

“If you subjected it to extreme heat, it might turn out to be a diamond,” he added.

Shatner said the idea of selling the stone came up after “Boston Legal” raised \$20,000 for Habitat for Humanity. With the money for the stone, Shatner said there is about enough funding to build half a house.

GoldenPalace.com originally offered \$15,000 for the stone but Shatner turned it down, noting that his “Star Trek” tunics have

commanded more than \$100,000. His counteroffer was accepted.

NEW YORK — Love him or not, viewers will have the chance to debate Bill O’Reilly on his Fox News Channel talk show, “The O’Reilly Factor,” next month.

O’Reilly has announced the Great Factor Debate Contest, in which six winners will face off with the outspoken TV commentator on a topic of their choice.

“You want a piece of me?” O’Reilly said Monday. “Would you like to sit on this set right here and let me have it? Of course you would. Well, now that can happen.”

He warned viewers to “be careful what you wish for.”

Applicants can enter by e-mailing OReillyContest"at"foxnews.com.

The segments will air Feb. 7-8, Feb. 14-15 and Feb. 21-22.

NEW YORK — Sanaa Lathan denies she had an affair with Denzel Washington, her co-star in the 2003 thriller “Out of Time,” in the February issue of Vibe.

“(The rumor) got started because the movie had a love scene with Denzel, and people took that and translated it to real life,” the 34-year-old actress tells the magazine, now on newsstands.

“They said I was pregnant with Denzel’s child, and people were calling my mother, saying I’m having his baby. It’s frustrating. People are going to talk no matter what.”

Washington, 51, has been married to his wife, Pauletta, for 22 years.

A call by The Associated Press to the actor’s representative wasn’t immediately returned Tuesday.

Lathan stars in the upcoming romantic comedy “Something New.”

Washington, who won Oscars for his roles in “Glory” and “Training Day,” stars in Spike Lee’s new film, “Inside Man.”

ROCHESTER, Mich. — Spike Lee gave a campus audience some serious words about the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. — and a joke about Eminem’s weekend wedding.

Lee, director of “Malcolm X,” “Jungle Fever” and “Do the Right Thing,” spoke to about 500 people Monday during Martin Luther King Day observances at Oakland University.

“I’m glad to be here on the day we honor Dr. King, a true giant, and it’s our responsibility to teach our children what the man was and how this is not just a day you don’t go to school,” Lee was quoted as saying in The Detroit News.

“So many people had to fight hard so this could be a national holiday,” he said. “Many young Americans, both black and white, have no idea of the blood, sweat and tears that were sacrificed so we could drink from a water fountain, sit down in a bus, have the right to vote.”

Lee, 48, urged parents to encourage their children to follow their own dreams and told his younger listeners to work toward careers they’re passionate about — citing his own as an example.

“I say my prayers every night because I get to do what I love,” The Oakland Press of Pontiac quoted the filmmaker as saying.

In one of several lighter moments in a 90-minute talk, Lee brought up Eminem’s wedding at nearby Meadow Brook Hall on Saturday. The Grammy-winning rapper, born Marshall Bruce Mathers III, remarried Kim Mathers, his high school sweetheart.

MOVIEGUIDE

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Tristan & Isolde
2:15pm 5pm 7:45pm 10:30pm
King Kong
1pm 4:45pm 8:30pm
Walk the Line
1:15pm 4pm 4:10pm

Mann’s Criterion Theatre
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Hoodwinked
11:30am 1:50pm 4:10pm 6:30pm
8:50pm
Munich
11:20am 2:50pm 6:20pm 9:50pm
Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
11am 4:40pm
The Ringer
2:20PM 8pm 10:20pm
Hostel
12pm 2:30pm 5pm 7:30pm 10:10pm
Last Holiday
1pm 4pm 7pm 10pm
Memoirs of a Geisha
12:30pm 3:40pm 7:10pm 10:50pm

AMC7 Santa Monica
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4262

Cheaper by the Dozen 2
11:45am 2:10pm 4:45pm 7:10pm
9:40pm
Chronicles of Narnia
12:30pm 3:45pm 7pm 9:40pm
The Family Stone
2pm 4:30pm 7:15pm 10pm
Fun with Dick and Jane
12pm 2:35pm 5pm 7:25pm
9:50pm
Glory Road
11:30am 1:50pm 4:40pm 7:30pm
10:25pm
Grandma’s Boy
11:50am 2:20pm 4:55pm 7:20pm
10:10pm
Syriana
1:15pm 4:15pm 7:40pm 10:30pm

Nuwilshire Theatre
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
(310) 281-8228

Brokeback Mountain
12:15pm 3:45pm 7pm 10pm
Casanova
1pm 4:10pm 7:20pm 9:55pm

Laemmle 4-Plex Theatre
1332 Second St.
(310) 394-9741

Matchpoint
1pm 4pm 7pm 9:55pm
Mrs. Henderson Presents
1:45pm 4:30pm 7:10pm 9:45pm
Goodnight & Goodluck
1pm 3:15pm 5:30pm 7:50pm
10:10pm
Pride and Prejudice
1:30pm 4:25pm 7:20pm 10:10pm

MORE TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1778, English navigator Captain James Cook reached the Hawaiian Islands, which he dubbed the “Sandwich Islands.”

In 1788, the first English settlers arrived in Australia’s Botany Bay to establish a penal colony.

In 1862, the 10th president of the United States, John Tyler, died in Richmond, Va., at age 71.

In 1919, the World War I Peace Congress opened in Versailles, France.

In 1936, author Rudyard Kipling died in Burwash, England.

In 1943, during World War II, the Soviets announced they’d broken the long Nazi siege of Leningrad.

In 1943, a wartime ban on the sale of pre-sliced bread in the U.S. _ aimed at reducing bakeries’ demand for metal replacement parts _ went into effect.

In 1967, Albert DeSalvo, who claimed to be the “Boston Strangler,” was convicted in Cambridge, Mass., of armed robbery, assault and sex offenses. (Sentenced to life, DeSalvo was killed by a fellow inmate in 1973.)

In 1970, Mormon president David McKay died at the age of 96.

In 1990, a jury in Los Angeles acquitted former preschool operators Raymond Buckey and his mother, Peggy McMartin Buckey, of 52 child molestation charges.

Ten years ago: Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced that 82 hostages were freed when his forces wiped out Chechen fighters in Pervomayskaya, ending a weeklong standoff.

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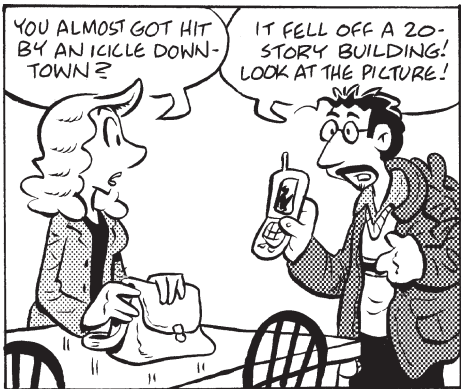


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edge city by Terry & Patty Laban



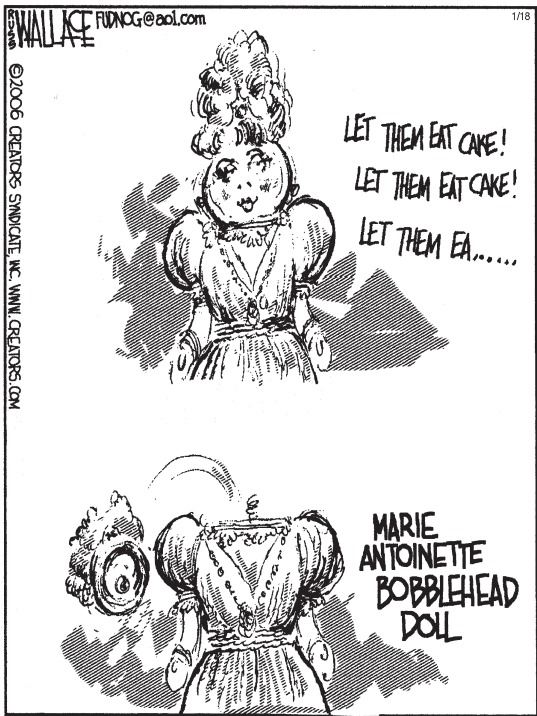
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10 Dark

11 Tolkien's

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12 Overly

theatrical

13 Traveler's

aid

14 Folding

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15 Grass

cutter

16 McKellen

of "X-

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17 Lab critter

18 Sinking

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19 IOU

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22 Sow chow

23 "Yeah,

right!"

26 Magazine

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29 Arrest

32 Fourth-yr.

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33 Work the

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34 Book

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36 Floor

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37 UN goal

38 Union

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39 Poker

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40 Furious

41 Young

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DOWN

1 Countri-

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2 Distraught

3 Pajama

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4 Mid-

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5 Messy

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6 Bohemian

7 Farm

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8 Oregon

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9 Needle

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11 Trivia

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15 Used a

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Yesterday's answer

17 Snappy

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE(S)
Date of Filing Application: JANUARY 12, 2006
To Whom it may concern:
The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: CHOI SOON WHA.
The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 500 BROADWAY AVE SANTA MONICA, CA 90401.
Type of License(s) Applied for: 41 - ON-SALE BEER AND WINE-EATING PLACE.
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control INGLEWOOD.
LA114441 SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 1/18/2006

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 Administra-tion of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representa-tive to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important ac-tions, however, the personal repre-sentative 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.

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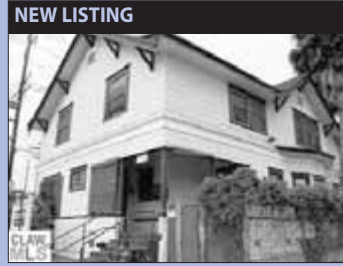
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* Rates subject to change

* As of January 11, 2006

** Denotes an interest only loan

*** Denotes Neg Am

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