THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2006 Volume 5, Issue 58

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO
4 7 10 16 17
Meganumber: 24
Jackpot: $77 Million

FANTASY 5
12 24 28 30 36

DAILY 3
Daytime: 7 2 2
Evening: 1 7 1

DAILY DERBY
1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 09 Winning Spirit
3rd: 04 Big Ben

RACE TIME: **1:44.49**

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site: http://www.calottery.com



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In December, according to police in Jersey City, N.J., Roselean Walker, 36, sat at one screen in a movie cineplex with her boyfriend while her 11-year-old son watched the longer Harry Potter film at another screen, but after her movie ended, she tired of waiting for the son and went home with the boyfriend to New York City. When police called her the next morning to come pick up the boy, she demanded that they drive him home. After officers ordered her immediately to the station, she showed up in a bad mood, threatening a lawsuit for the inconvenience, and wound up being charged with assaulting an officer (in addition to endangering a child's welfare).

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 19th day of 2006. There are 346 days left in the year.

On Jan. 19, 1966, Indira Gandhi was elected prime minister of India.
In 1736, James Watt, inventor of the steam engine, was born in Scotland.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When liberty is taken away by force it can be restored by force. When it is relinquished voluntarily by default it can never be recovered."

DOROTHY THOMPSON
AMERICAN NEWSPAPER COLUMNIST

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Pen names o' plenty



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Artist Li Qi Zhang paints a customer's name on a souvenir wooden placard along the Santa Monica Pier.

Westside homeless roll call at 7,000

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE — Service needs to house the Westside's homeless and help them get back on their feet may become clearer with the release of first-time ever demographic information concerning them.

Census data collected a year ago in efforts to address the regional homeless problem was revealed during a press conference last week. The 198-page report contains detailed demographic information about the county's homeless population, which policymakers are expected to use to tailor social service programming in the region and in Santa Monica.

Included in the report is a breakdown of the Westside's down and out, a geographic region that borders south at LAX Airport; along the furthest eastern border of Westminister, Culver City and Beverly Hills; north along the county line and west from the beaches of Playa del Rey all the way through Malibu.

The total homeless population counted in this particular region is 6,860, with a projected annual number of 14,886 individuals who are homeless at some time in the year within this region.

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority — the group charged with addressing homeless issues for the county — conducted its homeless head count last January with the assistance of 1,000 volunteers and paid homeless workers. The count was conducted, in large part, so the county could access an estimated $60 million in grant funding from the federal department of Housing and Urban Development for homeless programs and mental health services.

See HOMELESS COUNT, page 10

Revision riles up volunteers

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — The attempts by elected school officials to clarify what roles citizen groups play within the district may have backfired, with many volunteers now questioning what kind of impact they can really make.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District board of education revised its policies earlier this month regarding the role of District Advisory Committees — groups of citizens who inform and make suggestions to the board regarding issues related to local schools.

There are several committees specializing in such areas as child care, health and safety, special education and fine arts.

In the overall school district's policy, school board members have voted to remove the line: "The functions of the DAC is to assist in the overall planning of the educational program and of budget resources."

It remains unclear why the phrase was removed and has caused concern among some DAC members, who question what the revision means for the DACs.

District Advisory Committee members, many of whom are parents participating in the groups to affect change within the district, are now left questioning how much impact their involvement will have in light of the line's removal.

It remains unclear why the phrase was removed and has caused concern among some DAC members.

Santa Monica resident Zina Josephs — who heads the fine arts committee and may be speaking with others about the issue at today's school board meeting to be held at City Hall — said she has not yet drawn any conclusions by

See DAC, page 11

STATE

Tenants having to pay to stay in West cities

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Apartment rents rose throughout most of the West last year in the latest sign that landlords are slowly regaining some pricing leverage, according to a report to be released Thursday.

All but two of the 20 major Western markets surveyed by real estate research firm RealFacts Inc. ended 2005 with higher apartment rents than the previous year.

The biggest increases were concentrated in southern California and southern Nevada, where the regional economies generally have been stronger than other parts of the West.

Apartment rents in the bustling inland area of Riverside and San Bernardino counties climbed 7.3 percent during 2005 to an average of $1,086.

Even though that was the

See RAISING THE ROOF, page 12



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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)
★★★ Others rule the roost, whether you like it or not. Simply settle down and do what you need to do. Information you receive could trigger a strong reaction. Don't go with it. Go to the source to get your information. Tonight: Accept an invitation out

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Use your intellect while others react and use their emotions. A partner or associate could blow you away with his or her reactionary attitude. Use diversity of opinion to strengthen an idea. Ingenuity flourishes. Tonight: Early to bed

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Remain grounded and avoid a strong reaction. Others could get into a power play and challenge you. For now, you cannot win for losing. Listen to feedback from others. Refuse to get into a situation like this. Tonight: Put on your dancing shoes

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You speak your mind, but you could find that you say the wrong words to someone in your daily life. You might have to retract your words and do something totally different. You will gain if you remain sensitive to others' moods. Tonight: Get some sleep

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You might want to revise your thinking, especially regarding your spending habits. Think positively, and you'll gain as a result. Your ability to move forward could be encumbered by a risk. Don't let that happen. Tonight: Chat with friends

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might be put out by a family member or domestic situation. Knowing when to bail out could be important. Control your life, but don't try to impact others. Your personality helps others come in close. Tonight: Your treat.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Move slowly, and you will gain through observation and listening. What you say could be irrelevant right now. Get the facts first. You will come out ahead ultimately. Make plans from solid information. Tonight: Nap first. You will perk up

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Use the day for key projects involving others. Refuse to get your finances entangled in others' ideas. You will be much happier as a result. Think positively, and a meeting will run smoothly. You don't always have to play devil's advocate. Tonight: Get some extra sleep

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Those in charge act like they know everything. You could react, or you could go the other way. The smart move is to not get triggered. You will see a situation quite differently later on. Take greater responsibility. Tonight: A must appearance

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Read between the lines. What might not be said could trigger you. Stay in control and detach. You will know later which way to go with this situation. Investigate new possibilities more openly. Tonight: Others seek you out.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Sometimes you might not be able to do what you want. Bend to those who are in charge for the moment. You might find a meeting more of an irritant than a pleasure. Carefully listen to what someone has to share. Tonight: Listen to music, wherever you are

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Pressure from those in charge could be quite irritating, if not difficult. You might want to think in terms of gain and not problems. If you go along with others right now, you will be happier. Schedule a key meeting. Tonight: Add more warmth to a relationship.

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Women doing it for themselves for 100 years

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Bay women's club is marking its 100th year.

The club was founded on Dec. 11, 1905 by Elmira T. Stephens with 88 members. The club was formed to enable women to meet and discuss world affairs, promote cultural activities and volunteer their time to address worthy causes in the community. Among the early club founders was Mrs. John P. Jones, wife of the city of Santa Monica co-founder, Senator J. P. Jones.

The clubhouse, designed by local architect Henry Hollwedel, was inaugurated on Oct. 5, 1914. The purchase of the lot at 1210 Fourth St. was made possible by a donation of Senora Arcadia Bandini de Baker, wife of city founder Col. Robert de Baker. The building is an example of the classical revival style. During the period of construction, the club's members held many fundraisers so that the building was completely furnished when it opened. The original mortgage was paid off in June 1922. On Apr. 8, 1991, the club building was designated as a Santa Monica landmark.

Through the years, club members were featured prominently in community life providing public services such as Red Cross classes, feeding the needy during the depression years, opening its doors to entertain service personnel of both world wars; a baby clinic; needlework guild; scholarship funds; helping the veterans and many other community projects. The club held programs for continued education with reading programs, study courses of legislation, citizenship and conservation, lectures in history, Indian affairs, health and mental health, as well as musical performances, art and creative writing. Today, the membership continues to give scholarships to Santa Monica High School seniors, and to raise money for a number of other charities.

The Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the California Federation of Women's Clubs and of the Marina District No. 18. The club's original membership of 88 ladies rose to almost 700 in the 1950s but afterwards kept decreasing as more and more women joined the workforce. A membership drive this fall enlisted almost two dozen ladies who want to provide community service through fun and fellowship. Monday afternoons are devoted to raising money for scholarships by playing social bridge, canasta and other games. Lessons for bridge, canasta, knitting and tatting are offered and a book group is set up to meet in the club's lounge. The club holds two annual parking lot sales and several fundraiser luncheons.

A centennial birthday party is scheduled for Jan. 29, followed by a dance/concert series of music from the 1920s and other major centennial events during the year.

SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	12"-12"	8:00am - 4:00pm	12	9/12

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Wind Blown

JUNE MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
6"	96" - 120"	8:30am - 4:00pm	35	6/6

CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
12"	120" - 144"	8:30 am - 4:00 pm	50	7/28

CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

MOUNTAIN HIGH

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	12"-12"	8:00 am - 10:00 pm	12	8/16

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed, Hard Packed

MT. BALDY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	6"-12"	8:00 am - 4:30 pm	4	2/4

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made

SNOW SUMMIT

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	12"-12"	8:00 am - 4:30 pm	12	9/13

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed

SNOW VALLEY

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

CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

CONDITIONS WATER TEMP: 58°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (5-13 FT)

Thursday the 19th this NW swell's strong, 16-second period energy will be hitting the coast with full impact with size running 3-feet overhead at most west-facing breaks with top sets running DOH. Note that due to the long-period nature of this swell there will be variation in size between west facing breaks depending on the bathymetry of each surf spot, and its corresponding shoaling and refraction properties.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

Smaller NW 22nd to 23rd...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

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

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

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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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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Who's crazy now?

Editor:

About 220,000 homeless now reside in Los Angeles County as of 2005, and 20 percent of those are children under the age of 18. And the victims of the hurricanes which ravaged the Gulf Coast have yet to fall through the cracks and/or wind up out here. This is a shame. This is something which should outrage the citizens of this country.

Meanwhile, real-estate developers like AIMCO evict tenants in a 700-plus low-income apartment complex to build luxury condos, and property owners here in Santa Monica purposely let low-income housing fall apart so they can rebuild and further delete the supply of lower income housing, and there are 220,000 homeless in LA county.

Most jobs which provided livable income have been either outsourced or in-sourced to illegal aliens, in order to provide higher profit margins and pay higher dividends on the stock market, and there are 220,000 homeless in LA County.

The federal government refuses to raise the minimum wage and is making huge slashes in the safety net which would most likely keep people off the streets. To fund this war and keep their no- bid contract Haliburton in the money, and there are 220,000 homeless in LA County.

Some of you want to make it tough on the homeless by enacting more laws, well let's make some laws to stop the creation of poverty and homelessness.

Let's make it illegal to not keep up your affordable and rent controlled properties so they can dilapidate and you can demolish it and build luxury condos. Oh wait, I forgot that is illegal, it's called being a slumlord.

Let's make it illegal to hire any non citizen over an equally qualified citizen of this country. Oh wait, that's illegal, too, under the federal immigration laws.

Let's make it illegal to give your buddies no-bid contracts and start wars and lie to the citizens to keep the fervor for the war going. Oh wait, isn't that like the Tammy Hall scandal under the Taft administration? That's illegal too.

Let's make it illegal to take away someone's civil rights because we don't want to see the negative aspects of the greed which has proliferated the housing and stock markets. Oh wait, that's against the Constitution of the United States, but that's OK because that's going to change anyway. We are willing to take the rights from a few and expect it not to ripple through our little bubbles and affect us.

Years ago I wrote about this happening in my columns to this newspaper and you called me crazy and on drugs. Well who is crazy and on drugs now?

Charles Springer
Homeless in Santa Monica

The low down on DACs

Editor:

On behalf of the Board of Education for the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District, we are writing to clarify some misinformation in a recent article regarding our policy on District Advisory Committees (DACs) (Santa Monica Mirror, Jan. 11-17). Recognizing that we are accountable to the public in providing excellence in education for all students, and that public opinion is essential in our decision-making process, the board remains firmly committed to soliciting input from the public and respecting the extraordinary value of our DACs. Our philosophy has not changed in any way. We realize that without a collaborative process with our community members, it would not be possible for us to achieve the level of excellence in education that we are so proud of in our district.

At our Dec. 8 meeting, the Board of Education discussed our policy for District Advisory Committees. In our discussion, the board attempted to clarify and state the responsibilities for our District Advisory Committees in general. Additionally, we discussed the role and responsibilities of our district staff in an attempt to define the differences. Our revised DAC policy clearly indicates that the advice and input from our DACs is invaluable and helps to leverage and improve the board's decision-making process. We took action on this policy at our meeting on Jan. 5. We further discussed, but have not taken action on, charges for each specific District Advisory Committee. Specific charges for each DAC are identified and outlined on an annual basis, working collaboratively with each DAC and district staff. Contrary to the opinions expressed in the Mirror article, in many of the specific DAC charges we do seek advice and counsel on issues that have programmatic and/or budgetary implications for the board to consider.

It is our hope that we will continue to build consensus within the community and create a forum for public input by effectively utilizing the expertise of our DAC members. Public input and diversity of opinions are sacrosanct to good government and our democracy. On behalf of the board, we would like to publicly thank all DAC members for their extraordinary work and commitment on behalf of our students. We look forward to a strong and collaborative partnership in the future.

Julia Brownley,
President, SMMUSD Board of Education
Kathy Wisnicki,
Vice President, SMMUSD Board of Education

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



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What's really on tap?



ICONOCLAST BLAST

BY SETH BARNES

Since the New York Times reported on a high-level governmental wiretapping program in mid-December, the media has gleefully spouted off across the airwaves and in print with blustery, sanctimonious hand wringing about the legality of these actions. Is there any place in a democracy for covert surveillance? Have we come to the point in the War on Terror where citizens have no choice but to forfeit a certain amount of personal privacy? What is the full extent of this classified monitoring program?

These questions are certainly weighty. And most importantly, any private citizen should be given pause at the thought of the likes of Dick Cheney and Stephen Hadley strapping headphones on, sitting around the office munching on beer and Doritos, and listening to the conversations of everyday Americans.

But an important question remains: Just how many of our private conversations and communications are really significant enough that we should be worried about some government flunky listening in? In the course of a day, what percentage of your phone calls rise above the level of idle chitchat or meaningless prattle? Unfortunately, I think the percentage is pretty low. Admit it. Most of your conversations are fairly worthless affairs, and you'd probably be better off if you just stopped droning on and on and kept to yourself a little bit more.

It's fairly obvious where the average American's insistence on jabbering away on the phone for several hours each day come from — a highly competitive cellular phone market means that all of us have hundreds of free minutes at our disposal.

Of course, I'm not exempting myself from this. Not one bit. In fact, I came upon this realization by analyzing and tracking my own phone calls over the course of a normal Sunday last weekend. And if any special agent of the United States government was listening in … let's just say, I hope he had a soft pillow nearby so he could catch a few winks.

Let me fill you in on the details from my riveting day on the phone.

8:07 a.m. — Call to automated weather service (I'm going on a hike later in the day, so I want to see if I'll need to bring a windbreaker). The prediction? Sunny, in the 70s for the entire day ... of course I could have figured this out had I simply stepped outside.

9:30 a.m. — Call to my friend to talk about the upcoming NFL games. I need to set my fantasy football lineup and I more than happy to flap my gums for upwards of an hour pretending that I'm a general manager in the National Football League.

10:35 a.m. — Frantic call to my girlfriend. She's out running some errands and has promised to stop by Starbucks on they way back. At the last minute (and thank God I caught her in time) I've decided I want a grande coffee instead of a tall. And of course, leave room for cream, please.

12:30 p.m. — The suggestions I garnered from my friend about my fantasy football team aren't working … my team is performing poorly, so I'm forced to call him to read him the riot act. I really let him have it, it's clear he has no right advising me on my fictitious, make-believe football team.

2:45 p.m. — I'm getting bored, so I call my sister back on the East Coast. She's having a much more exciting afternoon, as she's been spending the day lounging on her couch randomly calling names in her address book for no apparent reason.

4 p.m. — A television commercial reminds me of a friend, so I call him. I get his voice mail, and start leaving a message to explain myself, and realize I sound borderline incoherent.

4:30 p.m. — The day's been flying by, and I still haven't been on my hike yet. Looks like I'm going to have to call it off … but a man still needs to eat, so I order up a large pepperoni pizza and a tub of buffalo wings.

As you can see, even if an FBI or CIA agent was snooping in on me, I didn't really reveal any wildly personal secrets or revelations. Not one thing I said over the course of the day put my personal privacy at risk. That doesn't make me an exceptionally boring or uninteresting individual. It just makes me an average American.

(Seth Barnes is a writer living in Ocean Park.)

COMMENTARY

GUEST COMMENTARY **BY JOHN W. WHITEHEAD**

Spying on MLK leaves lessons for today

At the 1996 Southern Christian Leadership Conference celebrating the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., guest speaker Mumia Abu-Jamal exclaimed, "Any celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s magnificence would not be complete without reference to the intrusive and relentless campaign waged against him by the U.S. government, through its agencies like the FBI, to dilute the influence, and destroy his effectiveness."

In light of the recent revelation that President Bush secretly ordered the National Security Agency to spy on Americans, Abu-Jamal's account of the U.S. government's treatment of Dr. King is also relevant today. There are countless descriptions of the torment that King faced by the American government, especially the FBI. In the 1960s, during the height of the civil rights movement, the FBI created what was termed a "Racial Matter" category, whereby agents wiretapped King's office, home and hotel rooms and listened to his conversations with close associates.

According to one account, "King's file in the bureau's headquarters contained thousands upon thousands of pages, augmented by dispatches from field agents stationed virtually everywhere he traveled." In fact, one "bug" hidden at the Willard Hotel during King's stay yielded 19 reels of tape that allegedly picked up information about his extramarital affairs.

Beyond the appalling spying tactics implored by the FBI, the government used the information acquired to try to emotionally destroy King. Agents wrote letters, posing as African American citizens, criticizing King for his alleged adultery and hypocritical Christianity. Through many of these letters, they even tried to convince King to commit suicide. According to David Garrow in his Pulitzer Prize-winning book on Martin Luther King, Bearing the Cross, one of these letters to King stated, "KING … You are a complete fraud and a great liability to all of us Negroes. You have turned out to be not a leader but a dissolute, abnormal moral imbecile…You are finished."

Using the information acquired by their spying, the letter continued, "King, there is only one thing left for you to do. You know what that is. There is but one way out for you. You better take it before your filthy, abnormal fraudulent self is bared to the nation." And although King was strong enough to survive this and other similar threats — at least strong enough to avoid taking his own life, the incidents inflicted lasting emotional scars. Indeed, those close to King stated that he dealt with severe depression.

King became a government target because he represented a threat to the establishment. J. Edgar Hoover, then director of the FBI, referred to King as "an instrument in the hands of subversive forces seeking to undermine our nation." And the notion that King was "dangerous" was shared by many powerful white-elites of the time; so much so that they often labeled King and his associates as Communists.

Hoover even had a personal vendetta against King. Of King's alleged unfaithfulness to his wife, Hoover said, "This is positively nauseating coming from a degenerate like King." However, to say that Hoover's statement about King is hypocritical is an understatement. After all, Hoover's biographers have divulged that the late paranoid FBI director secretly wore wigs and dresses and even covertly bore the name "Mary."

In 1978, Congress passed the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) in response to domestic spying on activists and war protesters of the 1960s and 1970s. FISA was also in large part a response to the uncovering of the domestic spying and tactics implored by the FBI against King. FISA, in fact, is the very law that President Bush circumvented by his recent spying orders.

Today, we have come full circle. Once again, the American government is spying on peaceful activist groups and ordinary Americans who have done nothing wrong, except perhaps align themselves with an unpopular cause.

If we are to celebrate anything about Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life, it is the fact that our Constitution and now our laws protect us against the threats and degrading treatment King had to endure at the hands of the U.S. government. Let us be vigilant in holding our government accountable in order to make certain that it never happens again.

(Constitutional attorney and author John W. Whitehead is founder and president of The Rutherford Institute. He can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org.)

How to Avoid 9 Common Buyer Traps BEFORE Buying a Home

SANTA MONICA – Buying a home is a major investment no matter which way you look at it. But for many homebuyers, it's an even more expensive process than it needs to be because many fall prey to at least a few of many common and costly mistakes which trap them into either paying too much for the home they want, or losing their dream home to another buyer or, worse, buying the wrong home for their needs.

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To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report, call 1-800-282-0185. You can call anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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STATE BRIEFS

Not so fast: Judge halts preparations for recall

By The Associated Press

ROSEMEAD — A judge halted preparations for the Feb. 7 recall election of Mayor Jay Imperial and Councilman Gary Taylor. A preliminary injunction requested by Imperial, contending recall petitions were invalid because they were only circulated in English, was granted Tuesday by U.S. District Judge R. Gary Klausner in Los Angeles.

The order stops all election preparations by the city clerk. Still, recall proponents plan to challenge the preliminary injunction, said Larry Bevington, head of the anti-Wal-Mart group Save Our Community.

Imperial filed suit Dec. 27 claiming the English-only petitions violated the federal Voting Rights Act because the petitions weren't multilingual. Eighty percent of Rosemead's residents speak a language other than English at home, according to Census records.

"This ruling shows that justice can prevail despite repeated attempts to manipulate the facts and the use of shady tactics," Imperial campaign spokesman Sam Yue said.

Recall proponents want Imperial and Taylor ousted because they supported a Wal-Mart Supercenter under construction in the city.

Teenager arrested for igniting a bomb scare

By The Associated Press

GARDEN GROVE — An 11th grader was arrested after he allegedly downloaded an aerial photograph of Garden Grove High School and marked it "bomb destination."

The 17-year-old student showed the photo to friends on Friday night and rumors of a bomb threat circulated during the three-day Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, police Lt. Mike Handfield said.

"There were several students who saw the laptop, but nobody said anything at the time," Handfield said.

The rumors were circulated on www.MySpace.com, a Web site popular with young people, and about 100 parents called school officials or police by Monday morning, Handfield said. The teenager was found at his brother's house Monday night and he was arrested.

Investigators found no evidence the youth was making a bomb, the lieutenant said.

The teenager was being held at Orange County Juvenile Hall in Orange.

Teacher ordered to stand trial for touching those she taught

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A teacher was ordered to stand trial for allegedly fondling three former students at Gulf Avenue Elementary School in Wilmington.

But Superior Court Judge Joseph Di Loreto ruled Tuesday there wasn't enough evidence to pursue charges alleging James Marlo Duffin Jr., 52, inappropriately touched a girl at Eshelman Avenue Elementary in Lomita and two girls at Middleton Elementary in Huntington Park.

In dismissing those three counts, Di Loreto noted that a prosecutor investigating the Middleton case in 2001 had found the children to be unreliable and did not file charges. Duffin's contact with an 11-year-old girl at Eshelman in 2002 "looked like a friendly hug," according to an officer who testified at the two-day preliminary hearing in Long Beach.

Defense attorney Daniel Davis said all the charges involved hugs and touches.

"This is a touchy-feely case," Davis said. "This is not an egregious kind of physical contact."

But Deputy District Attorney Julian Recana said he would use testimony from the preliminary hearing to show that Duffin had a pattern, established over years, of getting a little too close to children.

"Our position is that what at one point appeared innocent no longer does, because of the later counts," the prosecutor said.

Duffin was arrested in October 2004 after a 10-year-old Wilmington girl in his Gulf Avenue Elementary school classroom complained that the teacher had touched her upper chest, shoulder, back and buttocks.

After Duffin was arrested, two other girls from his classroom came forward with allegations of inappropriate touching.

Man convicted of killing child in his charge sentenced

By The Associated Press

VICTORVILLE — A man convicted of murder and child abuse in the death of a 2-year-old girl placed in his home by San Bernardino County officials was sentenced to 29 years to life in prison.

Charles Ross, 20, who was receiving about $1,000 a month from the county to look after the girl, was sentenced Tuesday by Superior Court Judge John M. Tomberlin. Jurors convicted him Dec. 15.

"He's going to serve a majority of that time before he's eligible for parole," Deputy District Attorney Mary Ashley said.

Ross was caring for the little girl and her two sisters through a county program. Ross was living with the girls' mother Winter Tripp, the prosecutor said, adding it was unclear if the county was aware that the couple was living together.

On Feb. 4, Ross called Tripp at work and told her that her youngest child was unconscious and that he could not revive her, the prosecution said. Tripp returned to the couple's apartment and the two took the child to Victor Valley Community Hospital.

The girl died 10 days later. Ross said he had dropped the child on her head while playing with her, but doctors determined the child died from a blow to the face that caused her head to hit a hard surface, Ashley said.

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STATE

Study: Rape, assaults are rare behind bars

BY KIM CURTIS
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A bitterly disputed, government-sponsored study has concluded that rape and sexual assault behind bars may be rampant in movies and books but are rare in real life.

When inmates have sex, it is usually by choice, and often engaged in as a way to win protection or privileges, said Mark Fleisher, a cultural anthropologist who specializes in prisons and crime at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

He said inmates who cry rape are usually lying and looking for a transfer, money or publicity.

"Inmates say it may happen, but the conditions under which it happens are rare," Fleisher said. "It is unlikely all the stars are going to align properly for this to happen, particularly in prisons today. You're going to get caught."

The two-year study, commissioned by the U.S. Justice Department for $939,233, has come under withering attack from other experts. The department has not endorsed the study, saying Fleisher has yet to turn over his data for closer examination.

"To take the position that it's not a problem and prisons are safe places is asinine," said Reggie B. Walton, a federal judge and chairman of the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission, set up under a 2003 federal law. He said Fleisher's conclusions are "totally inconsistent" with what he has learned during 30 years in the criminal justice system.

Cindy Struckman-Johnson, professor of psychology at the University of South Dakota and one of nine commission members, said Fleisher's 155-page study is not in scientific form. She said there is no literature review, no raw data, and no in-depth explanation of his subjects or research methods.

Fleisher said he spent more than 700 hours interviewing 564 randomly chosen inmates at dozens of institutions across the country. He said he never met anyone who claimed to be a victim of sexual violence.

He said his findings were no surprise to him, though he admitted his conclusion "flies in the face of what everyone believes."

Fleisher said he found that inmates' sexual activity is not "routinely or overwhelmingly violent or aggressive" and sex is "engaged in by men and women who choose it." In his report, he suggested that what outsiders see as rape is regarded differently by inmates.

"Prison rape worldview doesn't interpret sexual pressure as coercion," he wrote. "Rather, sexual pressure ushers, guides or shepherds the process of sexual awakening."

Justice Department spokeswoman Catherine Sanders said Fleisher's report is being peer-reviewed and is not considered finished. However, Fleisher co-wrote an article about it in The Criminologist, the American Society of Criminology's newsletter.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a Justice Department official familiar with the findings said that the department is trying to determine whether the conclusions are supported by the data, but that Fleisher has not shown his evidence to anyone.

Lovisa Stannow, co-director of Los Angeles-based advocacy group Stop Prisoner Rape, called Fleisher's conclusions offensive.

"We communicate with survivors literally every single day," she said. "He takes issue with the use of the term rape. Because it wasn't used by the prisoners he interviewed doesn't mean rape didn't happen. There is an objective truth to sexual violence regardless of what it's called."

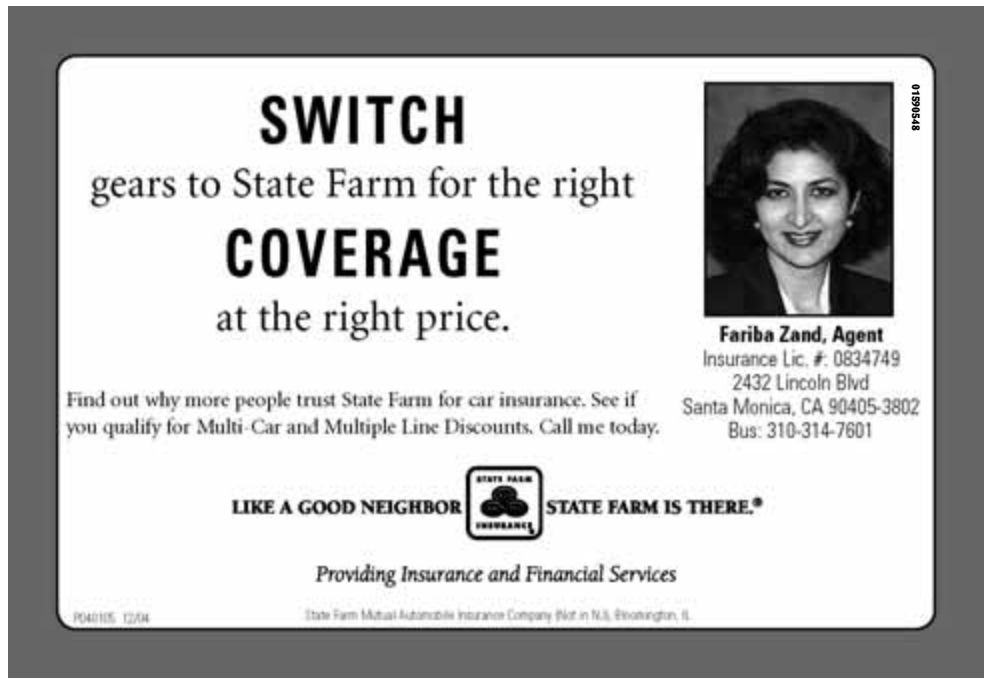
The Prison Rape Elimination Act, signed into law by President Bush to create the investigatory commission and establish a national zero-tolerance policy for sexual assaults behind bars, called prison rape an epidemic that largely goes unacknowledged and unreported. The law said experts have conservatively estimated that at least 13 percent of U.S. prison inmates have been sexually assaulted, and the total number in the past 20 years is probably more than 1 million.

In July, the Bureau of Justice Statistics said there were 3.15 inmate complaints of sexual violence per 1,000 prisoners in 2004.

The commission held public hearings to take testimony from lawmakers, prison officials and former inmates who offered graphic descriptions of abuse.

T.J. Parsell, 45, said he was sent to a Michigan prison for armed robbery at 17. On his first day, he said, his drink was spiked and he was raped by four inmates.

"When they were done, they flipped a coin to see which one I belonged to," said Parsell, board president for Stop Prisoner Rape. He said the corrections industry "would like nothing more than for the problem to get minimized so it can get put away for another 50 years."









Business



SANTA MONICA BUSINESS BRIEFS

Local firm recovers $30 million from workers' accident

By Daily Press staff

A Santa Monica law firm helped recover $30 million from four companies to 12 plaintiffs who sued after they were hurt on the job.

A Los Angeles Superior Court last week jury awarded the money to 12 plaintiffs in a negligence lawsuit in which Harsco Corp. and DYK, Inc. were both found liable for an October 2001 Carson, Calif. roof collapse construction accident. In the accident, some plaintiffs plunged six-stories into a tank filled with rebar, metal and wet concrete. Other plaintiffs were left clinging to rebar, suspended 50 feet above the ground until they were rescued.

The damages phase of the trial began on Sept. 15, 2005 and the case went to the jury on Nov. 18, 2005. LA Superior Court Judge Rose Hom presided over both the liability phase and damages phase of the trial.

Plaintiffs Martin and Irma Garcia recovered $16.1 million and were represented by Irvine-based attorney Orlando J. CastaZo, Jr. and Browne Greene, with the Santa Monica law firm of Greene, Broillet and Wheeler, LLP.

Independently, CastaZo and Franklin Casco, Jr. represented Ignacio and Anelica Tejada, who recovered $1.35 million, and Alex Morales, who recovered $550,000.

On Oct. 4, 2001, Martin Garcia was employed as a laborer by Kiewit Pacific and was among more than 40 people pouring concrete on the roof of tank No. 19 on the job site at the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant in Carson. He was standing on the plywood deck supported by aluminum shoring almost six stories above the floor of the tank. At 8:30 a.m., after about 60-70 percent of the roof had been poured, the shoring gave way and the roof collapsed, causing Martin Garcia and more than seven workers to fall six stories into the bottom of tank No. 19. Garcia sustained injuries to his head and brain among other severe and permanent injuries.

Plaintiffs filed suit on Jun. 13, 2002, alleging negligence, products liability negligence, among other claims. The trial was bifurcated, with the liability phase of the trial starting on June 20, 2005 and going to the jury on Aug. 12, 2005. On Aug. 17, 2005, the jury rendered its verdict and found that all of the defendants were negligent. In particular, the jury determined that Harsco provided the shoring material used on tank No. 19, and further found the shoring material to be damaged and inadequate, and that there were defective and cracked welds on many of the shoring frames. The jury apportioned responsibility for defendants' liability as follows:

- Seventy-five percent to Harsco Corporation of Camp Hill, Penn.
- Fifteen percent to DYK, Inc. of El Cajon, Calif.
- Seven percent to Quality Shoring and Scaffold, Inc. (now owned by DYK, Inc.)
- Three percent to Dave Gowers Engineering, LLC of Selma, Ore.

Prior to the start of the damages phase of the trial, the lawsuits brought by Gonzalo Castillo and Ruben Gutierrez were both settled for confidential amounts by their attorney, Geoffrey S. Wells with Greene, Broillet & Wheeler, LLP.

Check portfolio through the year



MIND YOUR BUSINESS

BY KIRK G. AGUER

Some investors like to make a list of the stocks that have met expectations and another of those that have been disappointments.

Evaluating your portfolio's performance on a regular basis is an important step toward reaching your investment goals. While many investors wait until year-end to assess their stock portfolios, it is important to review your investment strategy throughout the year to be sure it remains in line with your objectives. In fact, many financial advisors suggest that their clients examine their equity holdings every quarter to get a clear picture of how their stocks are performing.

If you haven't done so in a while, now may be a good time to take a fresh look at your holdings. Some investors like to make a list of the stocks that have met expectations and another of those that have been disappointments. This initiates the portfolio grooming process, allowing you to consider whether some stocks should be sold and begin to evaluate new stocks or new sectors that may help your portfolio.

Since diversification can help reduce volatility, you can consider selling stocks from sectors in which your portfolio is over weighted and buying stocks in areas where your portfolio lacks exposure. A good rule of thumb is to adjust your portfolio as your objectives change and not when the market fluctuates. Your financial advisor can make recommendations that may help you decide which stocks to add to, or delete from, your portfolio. You can also seek guidance from your tax and/or legal advisors.

STAY FOCUSED ON THE LONG TERM

The most important thing to do as you evaluate your portfolio is stay focused on your long-term goals. With a long-term approach, you have the potential to reach your long-term financial objectives. However, a regular portfolio review can help ensure that your portfolio is positioned to take advantage of changing markets and economic conditions that complement your long-term objectives.

(Kirk Aguer is a financial advisor at Morgan Stanley. To reach him, call (310) 319-5220 or e-mail kirk.aguer@morganstanley.com.)

Even Greenspan knows dollar's days numbered



THE WEEKLY RECKONING

BY BILL BONNER

Monday was a holiday in the United States. But here at the mobile headquarters of The Daily Reckoning, we reckon anyway.

What we are reckoning with is the price of gold, which shot up again at the end of last week. It doesn't seem to want to go down. Maybe it knows something. Or it is just toying with us.

That gold has a sense of humor is beyond question. We hear it laughing every time Alan Greenspan opens his mouth. You'll recall that Greenspan was once a close friend of gold. The two were practically bosom buddies. Greenspan wrote that gold was indispensable to an honest money system. Of course, that was before he came to head up the largest and most cocksure central bank in history. Since then, he's hardly had time for his old pal. He has new friends in very high places.

A cynic would scowl and say that Greenspan merely did what he had to do — running a central bank is a government job. The idea is to keep the economy as stable as possible, while you debase the currency. That way, the voters never catch on or complain. Greenspan only did what his employers asked.

But a poet or an artist might smile. He could draw out a deeper meaning from Greenspan's career, and see in it an almost divine elegance — like the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel or Shakespeare's sonnets. Or, more modestly, he might see it as a short story with a twist at the end.

In the latest reported week, more than $25 billion was added to the nation's money supply. If this were to continue, it would add more new money in 18 months than the present value of all the gold ever mined. Of course, that is only a small part of the picture. While Greenspan has been on watch, the amount of money, credit, and debts have soared. By almost every measure, more purchasing power has been added since he has held his post at the Fed than under all the U.S. Treasury secretaries, Fed chiefs, and presidents that preceded him, combined.

Gold chuckles.

What gold knows is that it is one thing to create money and credit. It is quite another to create real wealth. The first is as easy as running a printing press. The second is hard. You can inspire people to consume wealth by spreading around some spending money. You can even inspire people to make more of the things they consume. Before you know it, you'll have what looks like a boom. But if you could get rich by printing up extra currency, or by borrowing and spending, everybody would do it.

What gold also knows is that the more money and credit you make available, the less each unit of it is really worth. And if you order up enough of it, you can destroy the currency itself.

Gold chuckles knowingly again.

"The Greenspan era will not end on Jan. 31," said this week's Economist Magazine. "Instead, his legacy will linger in the shape of the biggest economic imbalances in American history; a negative household saving rate and a record current-account deficit … Until these imbalances unwind — a process that could prove painful — it is too soon to applaud Mr. Greenspan's record."

Oh no it's not. We applaud him right now. He is doing for central banking what the Titanic did for ocean cruises and George Armstrong Custer did for the cavalry. With a little luck, soon people won't want anything to do with it.

For the first part of his career, Greenspan argued that paper money, unbacked by gold, was doomed to failure. For the last 18 years, he has worked to prove it. Not by logic or argument, but by demonstration. He has blown up the biggest bubble in money and credit the world has ever seen. When it pops, Americans will turn to gold. Gold will sell for thousands of dollars an ounce, before the dollar is replaced. And Americans will trust neither "paper" money, nor central bankers for at least the next three generations. We just hope Greenspan lives long enough to see it.

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

Do you have business briefs? Submit news releases to: editor@smdp.com or fax (310) 576-9913

Getting down with new rules for tax returns

(Editor's note: This is one of several articles in a series that details the tax season. Articles will appear in the Daily Press each Thursday.)

BY EILEEN PUTMAN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — New rules for donating that old car, tax breaks for hurricane victims and people who helped them, and bigger incentives to save for retirement are among changes Americans will see this tax-filing season.

Other new wrinkles include: High gasoline prices lifted the standard mileage rate allowed for business use of vehicles. And a new definition of "qualifying child" affects tax benefits for certain filers — the technical details of which might make your eyes glaze over.

But if the fine print is too much to take, take heart: This year, the Internal Revenue Service has made it easier to procrastinate. The filing deadline is April 17, two days later than usual because the regular deadline, April 15, is a Saturday. And there's a new, automatic six-month extension anyone can get by simply filing a form.

Also, the IRS Web site features new online tools for figuring qualification for two complex tax items — the alternative minimum tax and earned income tax credit — as the agency continues to prod taxpayers toward electronic tax preparation and filing.

"Electronic filing is a quick, easy, smart way to file your taxes and get your refund faster," said Richard Morgante, commissioner of IRS' wage and investment division, which handles taxes filed by individuals.

Last year, 68.5 million individual returns were filed electronically — more than half, and an 11.3 percent increase from the previous year. Many were e-filed by tax professionals, but about 17 million came directly from home computers. Safeguards ensure e-filing is secure, the IRS says.

Those still resisting that route should know this: Taxpayers who e-file and have refunds deposited directly into their bank accounts get the money in as few as 10 days, compared with six to eight weeks to get a refund check when paper tax forms are filed by mail.

Congress added several temporary tax breaks for victims of the devastating hurricanes Katrina, Wilma and Rita. Some highlights:

■ Suspension of limits on writing off personal casualty losses; normally, such losses must be reduced by a $100 deductible and by 10 percent of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income.

■ Option to use 2004 income to figure the 2005 earned income credit and refundable child tax credit; for many hurricane victims, this will result in those credits being larger.

■ Waiver of 10 percent penalty for early withdrawals from Individual Retirement Accounts and other qualified 401(k)s for people whose principal residence was in the disaster area.

Tax breaks for people who helped hurricane victims include:

■ Increase in mileage deduction for vehicles used in volunteer work to help hurricane victims (29 cents a mile for vehicles used between Aug. 25-31, 34 cents a mile from Sept. 1-Dec. 31).

■ Additional $500 exemption ($2,000 household maximum) for taxpayers who housed hurricane victims for 60 continuous days.

■ Increased deduction for cash contributions to qualified charities — from 50 percent to 100 percent of adjusted gross income for donations made between Aug. 28 and Jan. 1. The money didn't have to be earmarked for hurricane aid.

Other changes for 2006 include new restrictions for charitable deductions of cars worth more than $500, a deduction long abused. Many taxpayers claimed the fair market value of the car based on used-car value guides available at banks and car dealers, even if the car was a non-running junker worthy only of the scrap heap.

Now, taxpayers can't deduct more than the charity collected by selling the vehicle, except when the charity sold the car to a needy individual or family at a steeply discounted price. A written acknowledgment from the qualified charity must be attached to the donor's tax return and it must say how much the car sold for.

There's also a new uniform definition for "qualifying child," which is used for the dependency exemption, head of household filing status, earned income tax credit for lower- and moderate-income working individuals and families, child tax credit, and credit for child and dependent care expenses.

This standardized definition was designed to reduce confusion that sometimes resulted in multiple taxpayers claiming credits and exemptions for the same child. The IRS has devised several "tests" that determine who gets to claim the child, based on the child's age, relationship to the taxpayer, length of time living with the taxpayer and amount of financial support the child provides. The tests vary with the tax benefit claimed.

Also for 2006, the IRS adjusted the standard mileage to reflect 2005's increases in the price of gasoline. For business use of vehicles from Jan. 1 to Aug. 31, 2005, the standard mileage rate is 40.5 cents per mile, compared with 37.5 cents a mile in 2004. Beginning on Sept. 1, 2005, the rate rose to 48.5 cents.

Ceilings for tax-deferred contributions to traditional IRAs have risen from $3,000 to $4,000 for most savers and from $3,500 to $4,500 for those age 50 and older, within certain income restrictions. Ceilings on Roth IRA contributions — which are taxed, although later distributions from the Roth aren't — also increased.

The IRS also made inflation adjustments for other credits, deductions and tax categories. For example: Each personal and dependency exemption rose to $3,200, up $100 from 2004. The standard deduction is $10,000 for married couples filing a joint return and qualifying widow(er)s, up $300; $5,000 for singles and married individuals filing separately, up $150; and $7,300 for heads of households, up $150.

And the IRS has streamlined state sales tax tables for itemizing taxpayers who choose to take the deduction for state and local sales taxes rather than the deduction for state and local income taxes.

At the IRS Web site, www.irs.gov, taxpayers can get answers to many tax questions, download and print tax forms, track refunds and find links for free electronic filing and hurricane-related tax assistance. The IRS tax information line is 1-800-829-1040 for individuals, 1-800-829-4933 for businesses, 1-866-562-5227 for hurricane victims

The taxman cometh

By The Associated Press

FILING DEADLINE: April 17, 2006 (because April 15 falls on a Saturday). In Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont and the District of Columbia, the deadline is April 18, because of the Patriot's Day holiday in Massachusetts, where the IRS has a processing facility.

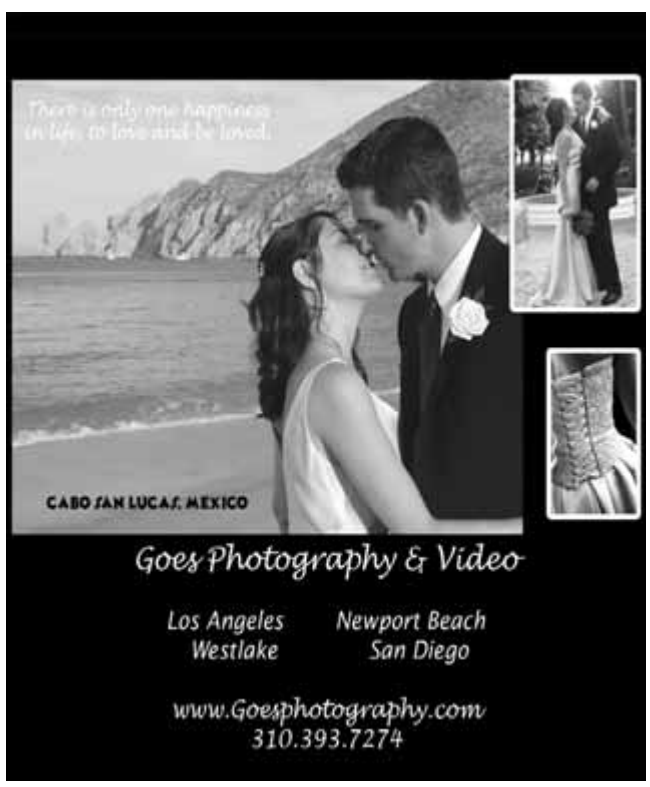
FILING EXTENSION: automatic six-month extension to Oct. 16, as long as Form 4868 is filed by April 17.

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Picking up good vibrations



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

A beachcomber looks for hidden treasure while meandering south on the shores of Santa Monica Beach.

Westside homeless tend to shun shelters

HOMELESS COUNT, from page 1

The LAHSA report shows the 6,860 who are homeless on the Westside account for 8 percent of the 82,291 individuals estimated to be homeless at any given time within the metropolitan area, 52 percent of whom are considered "chronically homeless" — which means they have been on the streets for a year or more, or have had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years. The "chronically homeless" also suffer from one or more disability, mental illness or substance abuse.

LAHSA's total head count excludes the cities of Glendale, Long Beach and Pasadena. The number of homeless in those cities totaled a combined 6,054 people in separate surveys. An additional 4,360 people were housed in hospitals, jails and rehabilitation facilities, but did not meet the federal government's guidelines for being homeless.

The Westside's unsheltered homeless continue to out-number by far those who are in shelters. Of the 6,860 homeless people living in the Westside, 5,889, or 86 percent, didn't have a roof over their head at the time the count was taken. The remaining 971 individuals (14 percent) had been granted access to a shelter.

Three-hundred-and-ninety homeless families were counted in the Westside last year, totaling 1,185 individuals, or 17 percent of the total local homeless population; and of them 747, or 63 percent, were youngsters.

The Westside's homeless are mostly men, who make up 4,316, or 62 percent of the total local population.

Nearly 50 percent of the total local homeless population is white; 28 percent is black and 10 percent is Latino. The rest, 878 individuals, or 12 percent, are multiracial.

In terms of age, 4,375 of the local homeless, or 64 percent, are between 25 and 55; 899 of them, or 13 percent, are under 18; 823 individuals, or 12 percent, are between 18 and 24; and 763 of them, or 11 percent, are older than 56.

Of the Westside's homeless population, 3,876 individuals, or 62 percent, consider themselves substance users; 2,531 of them, or nearly 37 percent, are mentally ill; and 1,852, or 27 percent, are veterans.

Meanwhile, general findings in the full report indicate that a significant portion of the county's homeless were once functioning members of society, but events in their lives led to their status.

As many as 24 percent of all the homeless counted last year indicated that loss of their job was the primary factor which led to life on the streets. Almost 35 percent were experiencing a physical disability, and 34 percent were experiencing a mental disability.

In terms of education, 38 percent of those counted had a high school diploma or GED, while 16 percent polled had taken some college courses.

Los Angeles has been attempting to bolster its homeless efforts in recent months.

The county's board of supervisors, which help fund LAHSA, gave the agency a $24.6 million budget boost for the next fiscal year.

Recently passed Proposition 63 will provide funding for the homeless in the region who are mentally ill.

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa has made a commitment on behalf of the city to provide $50 million in housing for homeless services, along with supporting a $1 billion bond measure to develop more affordable housing in the city.

Nearly half — 44 percent — said they weren't receiving any money from government sources, and 28 percent of those surveyed indicated they tried to access an emergency shelter within 30 days of being polled and were turned away.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 2!

Trying to find a balance



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Edgar Castellanos (left) and Armando Orozco, crew members for Dave the Window Washer, clean the north side of the Casa Del Mar.

DAC discussion expected to surface at board meeting

DAC, from page 1

the removal of the language, but has begun to ask some questions.

"How does (getting rid of this line) change the role of the DACs?" Josephs asked. "I'm hoping the board can explain that to us."

School officials said board member Kathy Wisnicki suggested the policy change be made in attempts to clarify the roles DACs have.

Wisnicki wasn't immediately available for comment. However, she wrote a letter to the editor (Opinion, page 4).

John Deasy, SMMUSD superintendent, said the removal of the line has no effect whatsoever on what role the DACs will play.

"The roles haven't changed one iota," Deasy said.

Deasy pointed out that instead of reporting once a year to the board and making suggestions to it at that time, DACs will actually report and make suggestions to the board twice a year.

Deasy said he was baffled by a recent article published in the Jan. 11-17 issue of the Santa Monica Mirror which said that "Henceforth, the DACs will have no role in the overall planning of the education budget and of budget resources."

Deasy, who believed the statement was a misprint, said he contacted the Mirror to request a clarification. He also said he furnished a letter to the editor to the Mirror to address the issue himself, but it was not published in this week's paper.

Peggy Clifford, the Mirror's editor, said that she had received two letters regarding the same topic from district representatives at deadline this past Tuesday. Clifford said she didn't run either letter because she didn't have editorial space.

Clifford, who wasn't convinced a clarification of the article was needed and stood by the quality of the reporting, said she would be willing to run one of the letters in next week's paper.

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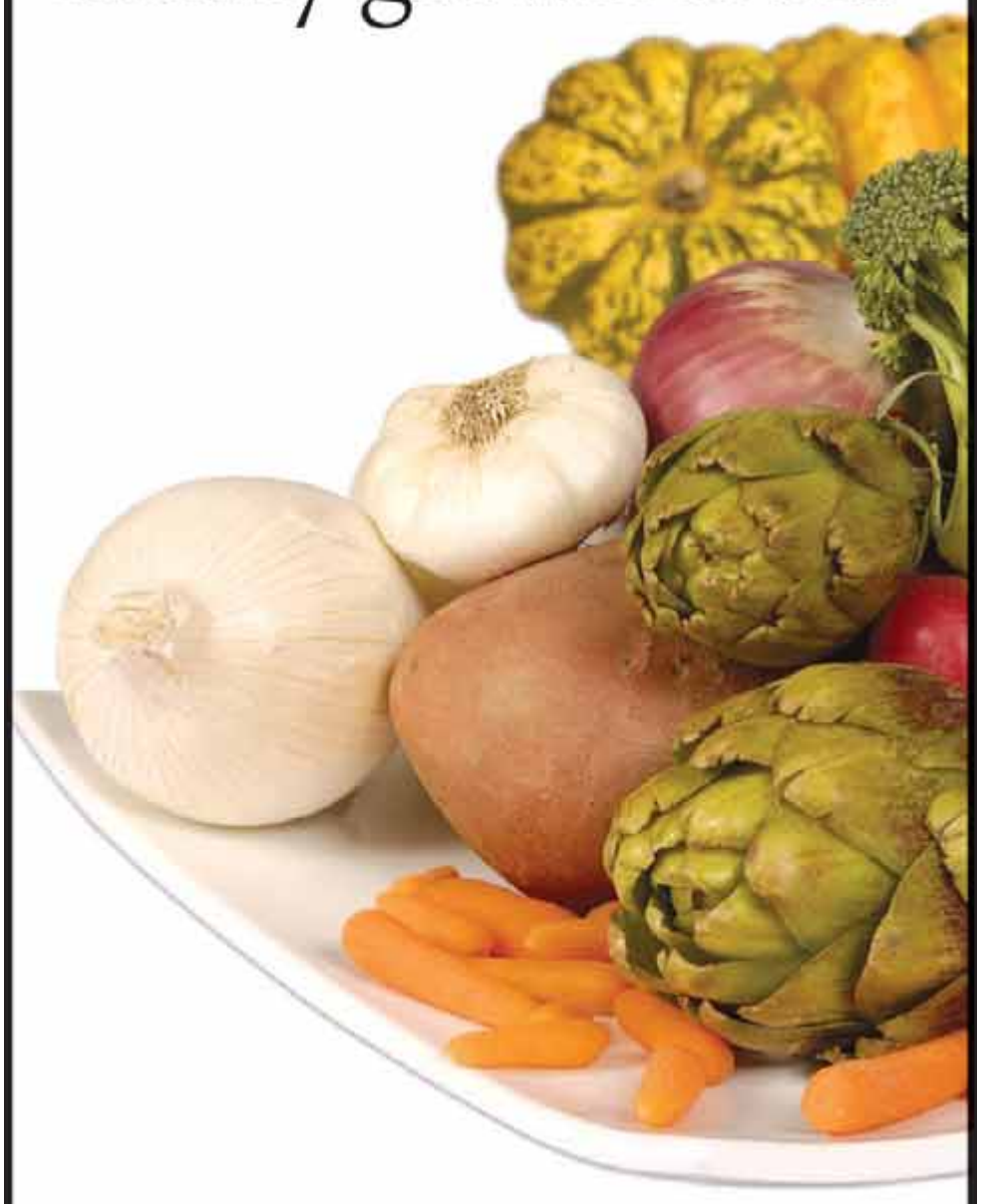
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NATIONAL

LA, Orange counties get even pricier

RAISING THE ROOF, from page 1

West's largest annual rent increase, a sign of weakness loomed in a region that fancies itself as the "Inland Empire." Average occupancy rates in the two-county region dropped from 95.3 percent in 2004 to 91.6 percent in 2005, a downturn that could force local landlords to back off the steady rent increases that have been imposed for several years.

The market spanning Los Angeles and Orange counties demanded the West's highest rents at $1,459, a 6.6 percent increase from 2004.

The West's next six most expensive apartment rents were also in California, RealFacts said. Outside that state, the Seattle market fetched the highest apartment rents with an average monthly price of $904, a 3 percent increase from 2004.

Tucson, Ariz., offered the least expensive apartments at an average of $616, down 1.4 percent from 2004. Colorado Springs, Colo., saw a similar decline, depressing average rent to $709. Those were the only two Western markets surveyed by RealFacts to show rent decreases.

Meanwhile, the San Francisco Bay area's apartment market began to rebound from four years of steep rent decreases triggered by a technology slump that prompted many renters to move away in search of new jobs. At the same time, many renters with secure jobs bought homes to take advantage of low interest rates.

The average apartment rent in the five-county San Francisco metropolitan market covered by RealFacts rose 3.7 percent to $1,359 at the end of 2005.

Average rents in major Western markets

By The Associated Press

Average rents in major Western markets:
Metropolitan area: average Dec. 31 rent, percent change from previous year.
Los Angeles/Orange counties: $1,459, +6.6 percent
Ventura County, Calif.: $1,363, +4.4 percent
San Francisco/Oakland: $1,359, +3.7 percent
San Jose, Calif.: $1,330, +3.5 percent
San Diego: $1,254, +3.3 percent
Solano County, Calif.: $1,092, +1.8 percent
San Bernardino/Riverside counties: $1,086, +7.3 percent
Sacramento, Calif.: $926, +1.4 percent
Seattle: $904, +3.0 percent
Denver: $852, +0.1 percent
Las Vegas: $824, +6.0 percent
Reno, Nev.: $821, +4.7 percent
Portland: $751, +1.5 percent
Phoenix: $758, +5.1 percent
Fresno County, Calif.: $743, +4.5 percent
Colorado Springs, Colo.: $709, -1.4 percent
Boise, Idaho: $706, +0.7 percent
Salt Lake City: $680, +1.6 percent
Albuquerque, N.M.: $666, +2.5 percent
Tucson, Ariz.: $616, -1.4 percent

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Lawmakers want to punish illegal employers

BY JACQUES BILLEAUD
Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — Two Arizona lawmakers have proposed punishments on businesses that contribute to the state's vast immigration problems by hiring foreign workers who sneak across the border to find jobs.

Even though federal law already outlaws the hiring of illegal immigrants, the lawmakers say the federal government has done a poor job of holding businesses accountable for turning to illicit workers to fill construction, agricultural and service industry jobs.

Among the three employer punishment proposals now in the Arizona Legislature, one would make it a state crime for businesses to knowingly hire illegal immigrants.

Another would require employers to check the employment eligibility of job prospects by running their names through federal databases _ systems that are now used on a voluntary basis.

Both bills would carry civil fines of up to $5,000 for each violation.

A third bill would let businesses fire workers who have invalid Social Security numbers and would strip violators of their state-issued business licenses and certifications. It also would give legal workers the right to sue companies that fire them while keeping illegal immigrants on the payroll.

"I'm going after (illegal hirings) because it's wrong," said Republican Rep. Russell Pearce of Mesa, the Legislature's most vocal proponent for restricting immigration, who is sponsoring of one of the bills.

Illegal immigrants account for 10 percent of all Arizona workers and more than 4 percent of all workers in the U.S. economy, the Pew Hispanic Center estimates.

Arizona, the busiest illegal entry point along the country's porous southern border, serves as a hub for smugglers who transport illegal workers across the country.

Even though immigrants provide the economy with cheap labor, Arizona and other border states shoulder huge health care and education costs for illegal workers and their families.

Public pressure is mounting for state politicians who face re-election races this year to confront the problem, even though immigration has long been considered the sole province of the federal government.

Employer-sanction proposals have failed at the Legislature over the last two years in the face of opposition from the business lobby.

Farrell Quinlan, spokesman for the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the federal government's employment eligibility system isn't advanced enough to handle the demands of tens of thousands of businesses checking up on their workers.

"It would shut down hiring," Quinlan said.

Instead, the business group will likely seek state-provided incentives to encourage employers to receive training on meeting the government's employment eligibility requirements, Quinlan said.

The lawmakers pushing the employer sanctions have different motivations.

Democratic Sen. Bill Brotherton of Phoenix said the movement for the state to crack down on illegal immigration has focused on denying illegal border-crossers government benefits and done nothing to confront employers who turn to illegal labor.

"I don't think it's appropriate for us to turn a blind eye to those businesses and keep pounding away at the immigrants," Brotherton said.

Pearce said the jobs given to illegal immigrants contribute to a strain on taxpayer resources, because the workers and their families use government services that they don't pay for.

Pearce said Arizona doesn't have to rely on the federal government to enforce the ban on hiring illegal workers and that the state's Registrar of Contractors could check on employers.

Brotherton said he plans to seek $500,000 for the Arizona attorney general's office to enforce his proposed ban on illegal hirings.

"There would be a great deal of dependence on honest reporting," said Attorney General Terry Goddard, a fellow Democrat who supports Brotherton's proposals. "There is not enough in the $500,000 that Sen. Brotherton has proposed to inspect every work site."

Republican Rep. Bill Konopnicki of Safford, a restaurant and radio station owner who opposes employer sanctions, said businesses struggle to find workers to fill jobs and do their best to comply with the government's deeply flawed employment eligibility rules.

Business people aren't experts in scrutinizing records presented by new employees to show employment eligibility, Konopnicki said. Anti-discrimination laws also limit the way that businesses can question prospective employees.

The proposed punishments could cripple Arizona's economy if proponents of employer sanctions succeed, Konopnicki said.

"They don't know what they are playing with," Konopnicki said.

Migration dominates Mexico campaign

BY WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY — Mexico's presidential campaign is focusing on the millions who leave for better-paying jobs in the United States, with candidates promising to create better opportunities at home while railing against American immigration policies.

Illegal migration should again seize the spotlight Thursday, when the three major presidential hopefuls begin official campaigning after a Christmas break mandated by the country's electoral body.

Although they disagree on almost everything else, the top candidates for the July 2 election have all pledged to bolster the economy and attract international investment to make Mexican jobs attractive enough to keep people from heading north.

President Vicente Fox, who cannot run for re-election, made the same promises before his 2000 election, but migration continued unabated.

Fox had said he would expand the economy by 7 percent a year. When economic doldrums struck worldwide after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, however, the president was forced to downgrade his domestic growth forecasts.

The current administration also struggled for a migration accord with Washington that would grant legal status to many of the estimated 6 million undocumented Mexicans in the United States.

But no agreement is likely before Fox leaves office on Dec. 1. He is limited by the constitution to a single six-year term.

Mexican politicians have been promising for decades to reduce migration to the United States, but simply creating new jobs isn't enough, political analyst Jose Antonio Crespo said.

"Many illegal (migrants) are now more educated and have opportunities in Mexico but prefer jobs in the United States," he said. "Even with illegal jobs, the pay is higher."

The migration issue will be most visible Thursday when presidential candidate Roberto Madrazo holds a rally in Izucar de Matamoros, referred to by some as a ghost town because much of its population has left for the United States.

Madrazo, whose Institutional Revolutionary Party controlled Mexico's presidency from its founding in 1929 until losing to Fox, says he is serious about keeping would-be migrants from leaving Mexico in a way the current administration _ and seven decades of governments controlled by his party _ were not.

For months, the race's front-runner has been Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who resigned as Mexico City's mayor to run for president with the leftist Democratic Revolution Party.

His lead has diminished in recent months, however.

A poll published Wednesday by the Mexico City daily Milenio had the former mayor ahead with 37 percent compared to 31 percent for Felipe Calderon of Fox's National Action Party. Madrazo was one point behind Calderon. The newspaper interviewed 1,000 adults from across Mexico between Jan. 12 and 16. The margin of error was 3.2 percentage points.

Lopez Obrador is opening his campaign in Metlatonoc, a southern town with the lowest standard of living in Mexico as measured by a 2004 U.N. report.

Lopez Obrador says it pains him to see Mexicans risk their lives sneaking across the U.S. border. He says economic reform is not about ideology but necessity.

Mexicans have condemned a bill passed by the U.S. House that would build 700 miles of additional border fence in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. The proposal also would make illegal entry a felony and enlist military and local police to help stop undocumented migrants.

"It has intensified the issue, and anti-American sentiment is growing," Crespo said. "A wall is very symbolic and sends a message."

Calderon has said that "instead of labor going to where the capital is, we will make it so investment comes here to where our people are."

That is good news to Samuel Chavez, a Mexico City engineer who has two uncles and four cousins living illegally in California.

"Fox said the right things but we need a candidate who can bring home a migration agreement," he said. "Mexico needs results, not good intentions."

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NATIONAL

FBI spy-catching procedures didn't raise alarms in Filipino case

BY TED BRIDIS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The FBI's discovery of suspicious activities by one of its intelligence analysts was a stroke of luck, a tip by another federal agency that the FBI employee was behaving oddly.

By the time the FBI arrested its analyst on spying charges, investigators said he had rummaged for months through government computers for sensitive intelligence reports unrelated to his work and then e-mailed the classified documents to opposition leaders in the Philippines.

Leandro Aragoncillo traveled more than a dozen times to the Asian country on personal business since 2000. And records show he carried debt of at least a half-million dollars — on Marine retirement pay and an entry-level FBI salary.

It wasn't supposed to work like this. After the FBI in 2001 arrested turncoat Robert Hanssen, who admitted spying for Moscow for cash and diamonds over two decades, it was instructed to adopt tough new spy-catching practices to quickly identify traitors on the inside. "We've moved to address that," assured FBI Director Robert Mueller in April 2002.

But despite eerie similarities to the Hanssen case, the new procedures to ensure loyalty among FBI agents and analysts — computer monitoring, financial checks, polygraph tests, rules over foreign travel — failed to trigger internal alarms over Aragoncillo, according to interviews and court papers reviewed by The Associated Press.

Those who helped the FBI after Hanssen's deadly betrayal to Russia are astonished that Aragoncillo appeared to exploit some of the same weaknesses that were supposed to have been fixed.

"I don't know why they had to wait until somebody turned him in," said former Attorney General Griffin B. Bell, a member of the panel that investigated FBI security after Hanssen. "They should have been policing their systems. The question is, how could he get by that long?"

Rep. Jane Harman, D-Calif., whose House Intelligence Committee received a classified briefing on Aragoncillo, agreed. "Bells and whistles should have gone on some place, and they didn't," she said.

The FBI acknowledged it did not suspect Aragoncillo until the tipoff from Customs but said it eventually would have detected its analyst's behavior.

"I'm confident our security procedures would have picked this up," said Leslie Wiser Jr., head of the FBI's New Jersey office and a lead investigator in the 1994 spy case against CIA officer Aldrich Ames. "I'm glad we didn't have to wait for that; we'll take it any way we can."

It took a stroke of luck — U.S. customs officials separately developed suspicions about Aragoncillo — to alert the FBI about Aragoncillo's alleged theft of classified reports.

One such document, obtained by the AP, described Filipino President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, a U.S. ally in the war on terror, as "a weak reactive leader" with an "overbearing personal style." The report was labeled an "informal assessment by a senior USG (U.S. government) policy-maker." Arroyo has demanded an explanation from the U.S. Embassy.

The Justice Department inspector general has told Congress he was reviewing the adequacy of the FBI's spy-catching techniques even before Aragoncillo's arrest. That probe is continuing.

Meanwhile, Aragoncillo's lawyers and prosecutors are trying to wrap up a plea deal that would secure a guilty plea and his cooperation. Prosecutors have said Aragoncillo has "essentially admitted" to taking classified documents.

The 47-year-old was born in the Philippines and became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1991. He served 21 years in the Marines, ultimately as a gunnery sergeant. He worked at the White House on the security detail for Vice Presidents Al Gore and Dick Cheney between 1999 and 2002 before joining the FBI as a civilian intelligence analyst at Fort Monmouth, N.J.

He is not charged with espionage, which carries a maximum penalty of capital punishment, as plea discussions continue. Instead, he's charged in court papers with conspiring to reveal government secrets, acting as a foreign agent and improperly using FBI computers. Those charges carry a maximum of 25 years.

Aragoncillo declined on three occasions through his lawyer, U.S. public defender Chester Keller, to speak with the AP.

Prosecutors have not identified a motive for Aragoncillo, except to say that he was deeply in debt and appeared loyal to former Philippines President Joseph Estrada. In one e-mail message cited in court records, Aragoncillo allegedly wrote to the former president, "I would rather you take over, if the constitution would suggest."

By the time FBI agents arrested him, Aragoncillo had downloaded at least 101 classified documents related to the Philippines, officials said.

Chronology in FBI espionage case

By The Associated Press

A timeline in the case against FBI employee Leandro Aragoncillo, according to court documents, public records and interviews:

■ July 7, 2001: Michael Ray Aquino, former deputy director of the Philippine National Police, enters the United States on a tourist visa.

■ July 2004: After 21 years in the Marines, Aragoncillo is hired by the FBI as an intelligence analyst in the Fort Monmouth Information Technology Center in New Jersey. He is granted "top secret" clearance and allowed to use the FBI's Automated Case Support computer system.

■ September 2004: Aragoncillo begins improperly accessing classified FBI documents about the Philippines, according to the FBI.

■ Jan. 2, 2005: Aquino allegedly sends e-mail to Filipino Sen. Panfilo Lacson telling him that Aragoncillo "wants to talk to you and give you some updates on the political situation in the country." Aquino signs his message, "Ninoy."

■ Jan. 18: Aragoncillo allegedly sends e-mail to Lacson that contains 10 classified documents. "Please read the attached information for your personal consumption. As previously requested, protect the source," writes Aragoncillo. Lacson replies quickly, "I find all the information that you are sending me very useful. I hope you will continue sending more."

■ Feb. 24: Aragoncillo allegedly sends e-mail to Lacson containing a document with information from six classified "secret" documents.

■ March 3: Aragoncillo allegedly sends e-mail to Lacson with a document marked "sensitive but unclassified" plus comments that the U.S. government is concerned about a particular defense treaty.

■ March 7: Aquino, living in New York City, is arrested by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, accused of overstaying his visa.

■ March 8: Aragoncillo visits immigration agents in New York, identifies himself as an FBI employee and tells them Aquino is a personal friend. He later calls immigration agents and asks about the status of their investigation. Suspicious immigration agents notify the FBI within weeks.

■ April 2005: The FBI begins auditing Aragoncillo's use of its ACS computer system. The agency later says that between May and mid-August, Aragoncillo printed or downloaded 101 classified documents about the Philippines, including 37 marked "secret," though he was not assigned to do any research about the country.

■ April 6: Aragoncillo allegedly sends e-mail to former Philippine president Joseph Estrada that contains a "confidential" document from an unspecified U.S. agency.

■ May 27: Aragoncillo allegedly sends e-mail to a person identified only as a "current high-level national public official" that contains two U.S. documents. "The attached documents ... are classified as highly sensitive. Please protect accordingly," he writes. The official writes back: "You can count on me. Your document is accurately perfect. If there are confidential matters that you wish to share, dont hesitate because I was fully trained in this endeavor."

■ June 10: Aragoncillo allegedly e-mails Lacson a document classified "secret," along with the message, "From today's executive briefing."

■ June 12: Aragoncillo arrives in the Philippines, according to records from the Philippine immigration bureau. He leaves for the United States on July 3.

■ July 5: Aragoncillo allegedly sends e-mail to an account linked to Estrada that contains information the U.S. government has classified as "secret." The message includes the note, "The attached information are combination of those we've missed while I was in the Philippines," and it concludes with the warning, "Please protect the source."

■ Late July 2005: The FBI opens a formal espionage investigation of Aragoncillo.

■ July 25-26: The FBI says Aragoncillo downloads several documents related to the Philippines, including one marked "secret," using his FBI computer.

■ July 26: Aragoncillo allegedly sends e-mail to an account linked to Estrada that contains the "secret" document he is accused of downloading earlier that day. Also, Aragoncillo allegedly sends another e-mail to Lacson with the same classified document.

■ Aug. 5: With the FBI watching with a hidden camera, Aragoncillo downloads a document marked "secret" using his FBI computer in his work cubicle. The FBI followed him driving to his home in Woodbury, N.J. From home, Aragoncillo allegedly e-mails the "secret" document to an account linked to Estrada.

Excerpts from e-mails, documents in spy case

By The Associated Press

Some quotes in the case against an FBI intelligence analyst, Leandro Aragoncillo, 47, of Woodbury, N.J.:

■ "Sir, the other day Leandro 'Lean' Aragoncillo called me. ... He wants to talk to you and give you some updates on the political situation in the country." — E-mail allegedly sent in January 2005 by Michael Ray Aquino, a former senior Philippines police official, to Filipino opposition Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, Aquino's former boss.

■ "I find all the information that you are sending me very useful. I hope you will continue sending more." — E-mail allegedly sent in January 2005 from Lacson to Aragoncillo.

■ "By no means would you show this information. ... I will be affected severely. Again, please protect the source — Me." E-mail allegedly sent in August 2005 from Aragoncillo to former Philippines President Joseph Estrada.

■ "There is significant risk of disappearance because of the significant penalties faced if convicted of the offenses charged, the strength of the existence of the commission of these very serious offenses involving the misappropriate (sic) and theft of classified information, frequent travel and ties outside the United States, the existence of significant debt and questionable employment status. All of these facts show the defendant has the motive, means and wherewithal to flee and not appear at future proceedings." — U.S. Magistrate Judge Patty Shwartz.

■ "While Estrada espouses a champion of the poor image, he is no choirboy. Another fact of his character is his 'machismo' persona, that of a heavy drinking, pugilist and playboy. ... He has been openly ridiculed for scandalous behavior, including siring seven illegitimate children." Estrada "remains an influential wildcard in Philippine politics." — From a four-page classified U.S. government report dated August 2005.

■ Filipino President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo "is a weak reactive leader whose technocratic leanings, oligarchical upbringing, overbearing personal style and inability to connect with ordinary Filipinos have kept her popularity ratings low in a country that reveres warm and outgoing personalities." Her election "was tainted by credible rumors of corruption and vote-buying, leaving her legitimacy once again in question following her rise to power." — From a three-page classified U.S. government report dated July 2005.

■ Arroyo's vice president, Noli de Castro, "fumbled expressions and some mistakes in grammar. .... We inquired about the biography of Rudy Giuliani sitting atop a small stack of books on de Castro's desk and he said that it was a gift and he hadn't read it. ... There is no indication de Castro has much knowledge or interest in foreign policy issues. ... On Iraq, however, he said he didn't understand 'what was behind it."' — From a five-page classified FBI Intelligence Assessment dated July 2005.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Neverland animals good to go

By The Associated Press

LOS OLIVOS, Calif. — The giraffes and other exotic animals Michael Jackson has kept at his Neverland Ranch are not being mistreated, federal officials have concluded.

The Department of Agriculture sent an inspector to the 2,600-acre ranch in Central California last month in response to a complaint from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. PETA based its complaint on European tabloid reports that animals were being kept in substandard conditions.

"I'm unaware of any violations of the Animal Welfare Act at Neverland," Darby Holladay, a spokesman with the USDA in Washington, said Tuesday.

Along with giraffes, Jackson's ranch has been home to elephants, snakes, orangutans, tigers and a crocodile.

Jackson, 47, has been living in the Persian Gulf nation of Bahrain. He was acquitted of child molestation charges in California last year.

Brian Oxman, a lawyer for the pop star, welcomed the USDA's determination. "That's very nice and we appreciate it," he said.

Lisa Wathne, PETA's specialist on captive exotic animals, said the group plans to file a similar complaint with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service because African elephants and orangutans are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act.

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SHOWTIMES FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2006

Broadway Loews Cineplex
1441 Third St.
(310) 458-6232

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
2:200M 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
Good Night, and Good Luck
1pm 3:15pm 5:30pm 7:50pm 10:10pm
Pride and Prejudice
1:30pm 4:25pm 7:20pm 10:10pm

Questions or comments? Email calendar@smdp.com

MORE TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1807, Robert E. Lee, the commander-in-chief of the Confederate armies, was born in Stratford, Va.
In 1809, author Edgar Allan Poe was born in Boston.
In 1853, Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Il Trovatore" premiered in Rome.
In 1861, Georgia seceded from the Union.
In 1937, millionaire Howard Hughes set a transcontinental air record by flying his monoplane from Los Angeles to Newark, N.J., in seven hours, 28 minutes and 25 seconds.
In 1944, the federal government relinquished control of the nation's railroads following settlement of a wage dispute.
In 1955, a presidential news conference was filmed for television for the first time, with the permission of President Eisenhower.
In 1970, President Nixon nominated G. Harrold Carswell to the Supreme Court; however, the nomination was defeated because of controversy over Carswell's past racial views.
In 1981, the United States and Iran signed an agreement paving the way for the release of 52 Americans held hostage for more than 14 months.
Ten years ago: The Bosnian peace agreement suffered its first setback as a planned nationwide prisoner release fell far short of its goal.

COMICS

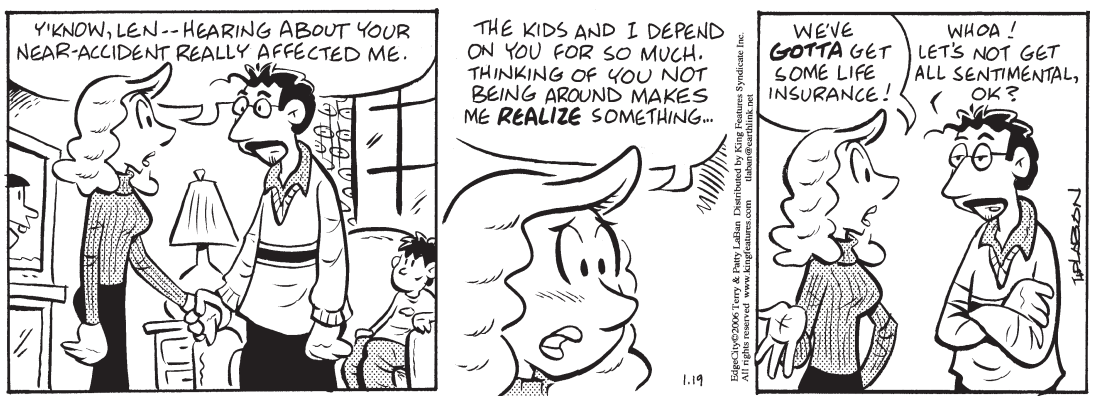
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



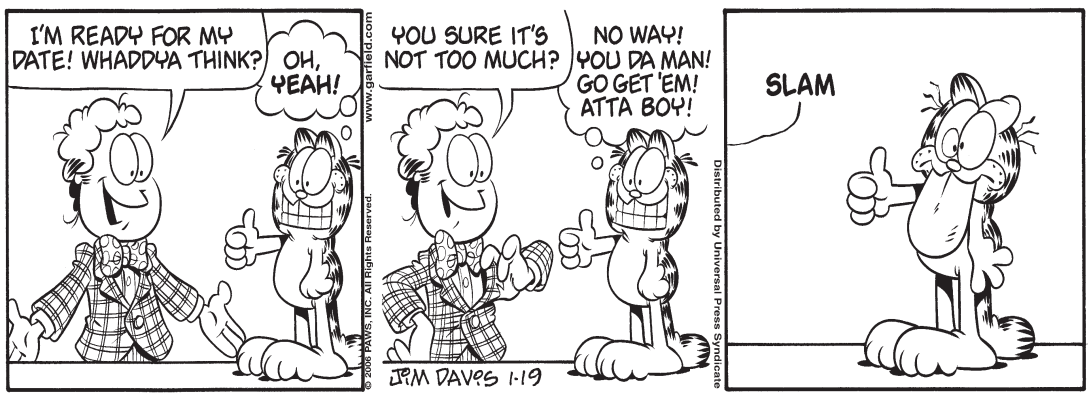
Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



edge City by Terry & Patty LaBan



Garfield® By Jim Davis



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By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Greeted the opposing team
6 Deadly
11 As — (generally)
12 Recital bit
13 Take — (try)
14 Man of steel
15 Freeway entrance
17 Politico Landon
19 Clock numeral
20 Mine matter
23 One of Santa's team
25 Violinist Leopold
26 Askew
28 Make ready
29 Smitten
30 Spout
31 Next-to-last letter
32 Bureau worker
33 Tends the turkey
35 Spoof
38 Pastoral poem
41 Wow
42 Year, in France
43 Seasonal song
44 Added liquor to

DOWN

1 Flock sound
2 Hosp. areas
3 Not fitting in
4 Flair
5 Question after a mission
6 Physicist Enrico
7 On the roof of
8 Old boat
9 Uproar
10 Hire
16 Hollywood greeting
17 Take on
18 Gene Tierney film
20 Badly matched
21 "Superman" star
22 Goofed
24 Old dance
25 Maximum amount
27 First
31 Discussion group
33 Doofus
34 Writer Buchanan
35 Lobbying org.
36 Thurman of "Kill Bill"
37 Cigarette component
39 Spike of film
40 Was in front

R	I	F	F	S	■	■	A	C	I	D
U	N	L	I	T	■	F	R	O	D	O
S	T	A	G	Y	■	A	T	L	A	S
T	E	N	S	■	S	C	Y	T	H	E
I	A	N	■	R	A	T	■	S	O	S
C	R	E	D	I	T	O	R	■	■	■
■	S	L	O	P	■	I	B	E	T	■
■	■	■	C	O	E	D	I	T	O	R
N	A	B	■	S	R	S	■	H	O	E
E	R	R	A	T	A	■	T	I	L	E
P	E	A	C	E	■	L	O	C	A	L
A	N	T	E	S	■	I	R	A	T	E
L	A	S	S	■	■	T	Y	L	E	R

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Notices

NOTICE OF SALE OF ABANDONED PROPERTY

Please take notice that a public auction will take place at 924 Colorado Avenue, Santa Monica, California on the 2nd day of February, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.

The following property will be sold:

wooden desk, wooden chairs, leather chairs, food storage container, electric
heater, wall pictures, black metal desk, white boards, cork boards, conference
table, wooden cabinet, TV holder, blinds, stool, fake plant, telephones, TV stands,
DVD player, CD players, monitor with keyboard and mouse, small TV, sticker
printer, black metal box for money, lettering system, portable keyboard, fan, large
trash bins, small trash bins, clock, desk tops, file cabinets, paper shredder, metal
holders, internet router with cables, mirrors, cable boxes with remote, red board,
surfboard, wall speakers, black stands, battery charger, exercise ball, yoga mats,
exercising steps, bookshelves, exercise mats, ladder, hammer, plastic storage box,
exercising equipment, orange cones, stand with exercising positions, curtains,
vacuum, brooms, wooden pole, and fire extinguisher.

The property being sold was owned or held on behalf of former tenant, Adventure Training Consultants, LLC, located at 2461 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica, California 90404.

The terms of the sale are: cash in lawful money of the United States, with sale going to the highest bidder in competitive bidding. The property must be paid for and removed by the purchase at the time of sale.

Dated: January 17, 2006

Santa Monica Daily Press
CN746919 2-2-06 Jan 19,26, 2006

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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 05 2938643 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as First Look Sonogram, Al #/ON 200524210069, 10657 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90064. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Virces, LLC, 10657 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90064 This Business is being conducted by, a limited liability. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: Virces, LLC, President, Eumea Yun
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/1/2005. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/29/2005, 1/5/2006, 1/12/2006, 1/19/2006



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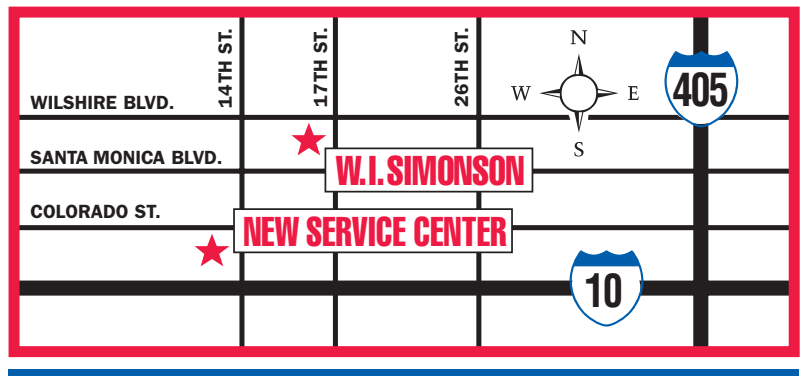
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