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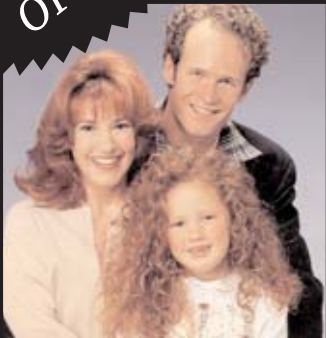
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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ What is only a dream or wishful thinking could happen if you harness your energy. Recognize that you have the capability to make what you want a reality, if you express that practical part of your personality. Tonight: Hang with friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ A boss, parent or an authority figure comes up with a very wild idea, at least in your mind. You could be surprised by what happens if you use your Taurean practicality here. You can help make this inspiration real. Tonight: Work as late as necessary.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You might have been playing with an idea for a while but now feel as if it might not be possible. Tap into someone you find unusually practical. You will like the net results. You could be inspired by news from a distance. Tonight: Think outside of the box.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ You are able to understand an associate, friend or partner if you express your dreams more often. In fact, one special person helps you turn these wishes into realities. A loved one demonstrates his or her caring. Tonight: Share with a loved one.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ An associate presents a point of view that could have you shaking your head. You might try working with it, and you might be taken aback by how dynamic this suggestion is. Be careful with new people you meet today; they might not be all they seem to be. Tonight: Say "yes."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ New age and herbal types of healthy eating and medicine could attract you more than ever. Still, nothing can replace a doctor. You might want to balance the two. Use some of your creativity with a project. Tonight: If possible, be near water.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You certainly put a loved one or a child on a pedestal. The problem with that type of perception is that this person can only fall off. Recognize what you are doing rather than blaming the other party if this tumble occurs. Tonight: Be with a special loved one.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Clearly you might not know all that is going on at home. Could someone be keeping a secret from you? Possibly, you might be refusing to see what is happening as well. You might want to buy a table fountain in the near future to relax by. Tonight: Mosey on home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Follow your intuition right now, as you seem to sense people and events before they occur or appear. If you're thinking of someone in the family at a distance, pick up the phone and call him or her. You could be far more in tune with this person than you realize. Tonight: Be where music is.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Be cautious with spending and risking, as money could literally slip through your hands. Investigate a new purchase. Think "money," but don't commit or spend right now. Be careful with your wallet as well. You could lose it. Tonight: Buy a new CD.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Working with a loved one might draw a strong reaction, as you could be unusually vague. Also, at work you might have difficulty putting your ideas into words. Recognize how very imaginative and creative you are. Tonight: Surround yourself with friends and music.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ You could be a bit off-kilter right now. How you see someone you really care about could be slightly askew. Taking your time works, but you might wisely choose to keep your own counsel. Take a walk by yourself to relax. Tonight: Play it low-key.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Wanted: Ideas on homelessness

By Daily Press staff

Officials want Santa Monicans to weigh in on how to end homelessness in 10 years. The city of Santa Monica, in partnership with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, will be hosting a Bring LA Home community meeting and discussion on Monday, Jan. 26, at 6:30 p.m. in the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, 1855 Main St.

Initiated by the Department of Health and Human Services, the Bring LA Home partnership is a focused countywide effort with the goal of ending homelessness in LA County by 2013. Convened by a panel of public officials, leaders from business, civic and faith-based organizations, and people who have experienced homelessness in Los Angeles, the partnership will strive to create a comprehensive and realistic 10-year strategic plan.

Santa Monica's Mayor Richard Bloom, a member of the Bring LA Home Blue Ribbon Panel, in coordination with other panel members, will guide the partnership by hosting 14 community meetings throughout LA County. Monday's meeting is an opportunity for community members to learn about the latest research and data on homelessness, and to offer advice and opinions on how to best address the problem of homelessness.

For further details on Bring LA Home and its Blue Ribbon Panel, visit www.bringLAhome.org.

Samohi conductor honored

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica's high school orchestra conductor has been recognized as a top music educator of the year in California.

Joni Swenson, director of orchestras at Santa Monica High School, has been honored with the "2004 California Music Educators Association Leblanc Orchestra Educator of the Year Award." She was nominated for the award by fellow music educators from around the state and was selected as the winner by the CMEA State Board. She will be accepting her award in Sacramento on March 19.

Swenson came to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District in September 2002, where she served as orchestra director for 10 years at Lincoln High School in San Jose. While teaching at Lincoln High, she brought her groups to London and Carnegie Hall. Swenson is often called upon to adjudicate and conduct student groups at festivals all over the state. She served as the vice president of the California Orchestra Directors Association and on the board of the CMEA's Bay and Capital sections.

In 2001, San Francisco-based classical radio station KDFC awarded Swenson the "Music Educator of the Year" award.

This year Swenson will be traveling to Prague to lead the Santa Monica High School Symphony Orchestra in a performance.

It's the oldest art around

By Daily Press staff

The Los Angeles Assemblage Group will celebrate its 10th anniversary at the "Robert's Art Gallery" at Santa Monica High School through Feb. 26. The opening reception is scheduled today from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Robert's Art Gallery, 601 Pico Blvd., is the oldest continuously operating art gallery in Los Angeles County — 67 years. The gallery has been dedicated to two purposes throughout its life: To bring art to the community, but also to introduce students to some of the fascinating variation in the art field.

LAAG was founded in 1994 by Annemarie Rawlinson. She invited a few fellow artists to join her monthly meetings, both to improve their artwork and to increase interest in the art of assemblage. The result was the Los Angeles Assemblage Group. The small circle immediately attracted other artists, resulting now in a membership of male and female artists with a broad range of ages and nationalities working in assemblage and three-dimensional collage. All of the artists have exhibited regionally, nationally and internationally either in group or solo shows. The group itself has shown extensively throughout Southern California. While each member's work is very different in content, all express themselves through collecting and reworking found objects.

surf report

Expect another slow start today as we try and push through another super-high tide. Since we will have some new WNW swell in the water, expect better surf than what we saw early on Wednesday — but still on the weak side, all things considered.

OUTLOOK: This swell will continue to fill in, holding a little more size and consistency as we move into Friday, putting many breaks in the 4-5' range, while best breaks see bigger sets.

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

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	LOW ONE	LOW TWO	HIGH ONE	HIGH TWO
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MONDAY	5:32 AM	6:23 PM	12:43 AM	11:21 AM
TUESDAY	6:49 AM	7:06 PM	1:24 AM	12:15 PM
WEDNESDAY	8:31 AM	7:48 PM	2:07 AM	1:41 PM
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The Q Line

Resident complaints have been trickling in to the Daily Press newsroom for months about dog owners' blatant disregard for their neighborhood and the environment. The crime they are apparently committing is that they fail to pick up their pet's poop.

The problem is especially foul smelling for resident north of Wilshire Boulevard, where people are tip toeing around piles while taking their afternoon strolls.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know: "What can be done about the poop problem here? If pet owners aren't going to pick it up how should City Hall deal with it?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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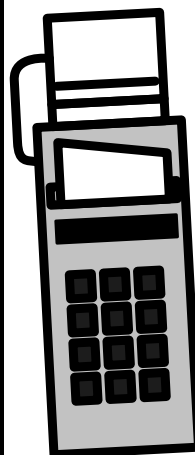
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Pico violence still a focus despite low crime levels

CRIME, from page 1

fell only two years in a row on three occasions. In the last 47 years, crime has decreased only in 19 years.

Santa Monica's decrease in crime is particularly noteworthy given that crime rose statewide by 2.3 percent for the first nine months of 2003, Butts said. He added that the state saw a property crime increase of 4.7 percent in the first nine months of 2003, yet Santa Monica's property crimes continue to drop. Property crime here reached 1950s levels, falling 58 percent from their 1993 high of 9,446 incidents to 3,946 incidents in 2003.

The overall crime today in Santa Monica has fallen 59 percent in the last decade. The most substantial drop was a 75 percent decrease in homicides — there was only one last year, compared to eight the year before. But compared with 1956, it has dropped 78 percent. The lowest six years of homicides on record have occurred between 1996 and 2003. Prior to 1996, the least number of murders committed in a year in Santa Monica was six, with the record being 17 in 1980.

Violent crime in Santa Monica has dropped 62 percent since 1993. Incidences of robberies are down 66 percent and rape is down 57 percent. Property crimes are down 58 percent collectively — led by auto theft, which is down 74 percent and larcenies down 56 percent.

Burglaries are down 47 percent and seven of the lowest eight years on record for burglary have been recorded consecutively in the last seven years. The eighth lowest year occurred in 1956 — however from 1998 to 2001 burglary was lower than 1956 (see chart).

Butts said he's amazed that crime has reached levels from four decades ago, especially because there were less than half the amount of people living here then — let alone visiting here. Tourist and other visitations are currently at record levels, with as many as 300,000 people coming to Santa Monica in one day.

"The reality is that we serve a population large enough to be considered a metropolis," Butts said. But Santa Monica, which has close to 90,000 residents, isn't considered a major city because it doesn't reach the mandated population of 100,000. As a result, Santa Monica isn't included in major city crime comparisons.

Butts attributes the low crime rates to several factors, but particularly because the SMPD rid the city of rampant drug dealing in Palisades Park in the early to mid-1990s, when he became police chief.

"It's no coincidence that when we had high crime there was an open air drug market in Palisades Park," Butts said,

adding cities that are predisposed to drug activity have more criminals in them.

Butts also suggested that because the SMPD has what are called "community livability" goals that are identified every year, crime in those areas are reduced. One year, auto thefts had increased, so the SMPD focused on reducing that crime, and it was successful. The goals are based on quality of life issues for residents.

This past year, the goals were robbery suppression with an emphasis on street robberies; pursuing parolees with an emphasis on tracking and supervision; traffic safety with an emphasis on pedestrian safety and instituting a new "neighborhood-centered policing" program that puts high-ranking officers directly in touch with residents, said SMPD Lt. and spokesman Frank Fabrega.

Technology and establishing a better tie with the community is what has helped drive down crime levels, Butts said.

"It's the closeness of the community with residents and police, and computer technology that can help us pinpoint crime, analyze trends and mobilize effectively," he said. "Before, information was contained in the station but now police units are mobile offices."

He added that the SMPD has made great strides in reaching out to the community, which is proven by the record low of citizen complaints against the police department this year — 43, compared to more than 100 in 1992, when Butts changed the policy on how complaints were logged. At the time, the watch commander, who works closely with officers, had the discretion of whether to log the complaint. But Butts changed that so all complaints go directly to the internal affairs department.

"The message that has been sent by this community and this police department is that we intend to make Santa Monica one of the safest communities in the United States and we are on our way," Butts said.

And despite the fact that incidents of drive-by shootings and stray bullets were commonplace last year in the Pico neighborhood — located on the eastside of town and the site of the year's only homicide — crime is still down there. Police responded to close to a dozen shots fired calls, most believed to be gang related. In some cases, people were struck by bullets, but no one was seriously injured.

"Historically, violence in Pico is down over the last 10 to 12 years," Butts said, adding that the eight square blocks the neighborhood encompasses is the most patrolled in the city. "We are steadily making inroads in getting people engaged in anti-social behavior off the streets."

Do you have community news?



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Santa Monica Daily Press

BUSINESS

Is your nest egg enough to handle your retirement?



IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

By John Kim

More than 50 percent of the population living in the U.S. is expected to need some form of long-term care, either home or institutional care, at some point in their lives. Although you may have spent years carefully working and planning so that you have sufficient income for a comfortable retirement, have you ever considered what might happen if you or your spouse required long-term care?

With a little foresight, you can help protect your savings, retirement nest egg, and family wealth against the potential risk of long-term care expenses so that you can enjoy the retirement you've planned. You may be able to purchase a long-term care insurance policy with an annual premium

The key features of long-term care insurance include a daily benefit amount, benefit period, elimination period, and home-care coverage.

for less than the cost of one month's care.

There are many misunderstandings about long-term care insurance. Many people believe Medicare or Medicaid coverage will provide for long-term care. Medicare offers limited help. Medicare covers skilled nursing care, but only for a short time after a hospitalization. Medicare pays nothing for simple long-term custodial care (services given by a trained, non-medical person to assist in routine activities such as bathing or eating). As for Medicaid, the rules vary by state. Medicaid's nursing home and home care coverage is generally limited to people with low incomes and few assets.

Long-term care policies are more inclusive than they use to be. Most routinely cover "functional" infirmities (such as needing substantial help to dress), physical impairment (such as a stroke) and severe cognitive impairment (such as Alzheimer's disease).

The key features of long-term care insurance include a daily benefit amount, benefit period, elimination period, and home-care coverage. Daily benefit amount is the maximum benefit you will receive for any one day of care. The benefit period provides benefits for a fixed number of years. If you want to reduce your risk, a lifetime benefit period pro-

vides longer coverage. The elimination period is the amount of time you are willing to pay for long-term care expenses out of pocket before benefits begin. Common choices are 20 to 100 days. Finally, with more than 90 percent of seniors responding that they have no intention of leaving the comfort of their homes or communities to enter a nursing home, you should consider a policy that offers complete home-care coverage.

(John S. Kim is a financial consultant with Smith Barney in Beverly Hills. Call (310) 205-4939 or visit www.fc.smithbarney.com/jkim for more information.)

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LETTERS

Hair color is beside the point

Editor:

Professor Edwin Locke in his Martin Luther King Day "tribute" (SMDP, Jan. 19, page 7) goes a long way to make a statement abhorring racism and equating affirmative action as synonymous. His views and justifications are as transparent as the "glass ceiling" affirmative action is designed to remove.

I can only assume that professor Locke is a European-American over the age of, say, 50. His credentials are noteworthy and his analysis is balanced, but horribly unrealistic. The professor emeritus uses, for example, a fictional case history in which a company whose time line is squarely within the lifespan of my grandparents and parents (nearly 70 years ago) discriminates on the basis of hair color. Hair color, the most superficial of all inherent human traits is easily alterable and often is. Especially if doing so affords one a preferred quality of life hence the phrase, "blondes have more fun."

His argument most certainly would have carried more credibility if the qualifier were height, or language, or even weight — a trait many of us no matter what creed would argue has never been as easily alterable as we would like.

As a Spanish-speaking African American, I find it quite insulting (to my intelligence, for starters) that someone with a preferred citizen status as a birth right finds fault with a system that provides it to those who've been denied the same systematically for nearly half a millennium. To go further and equate the stigmatic and unalterable trait (unless you're a musical icon with mega-wealth) of skin color and origin with something as superficial as hair color — which in the 21st century is as changeable as clothing — is preposterous.

And to do so on this day which honors a man, whose fight for equal rights for all people cost him his life, is equally distasteful.

I'd like to mention, ironically, that I have a niece who is in her senior year at the University of Maryland at College Park where Professor Locke was tenured. She is a brilliant young lady on the Dean's list, pre-law, and will graduate with honors this spring — the pride of our family in my hometown of Baltimore. She is the product of both affirmative action and my sister's hard earned tuition dollars. The Law Schools of Harvard or Yale would be privileged to enroll such a promising graduate student, "hair color" notwithstanding.

The long-term effects of centuries old institutionalized racism didn't and will not disappear with 40 years of legislation (affirmative action), but it's a start. Racism begins and ends with power — those who have it versus those who don't.

The National Football League, whose 31 franchises/teams are comprised of an ownership group which is at least 99 percent white, has instituted a policy by which any

team with a head coaching vacancy is to interview at least two minority candidates. Is this a quota system? Yes it is. Is it warranted in a major sport where the body of athletes is 78 percent black? Of course it is. And as a result, this fall will see the highest number of active African American head coaches in League history (five). Two of the five coaches have been instrumental in winning a Super Bowl in the last five years. At least three have led a team to the playoffs in the last ten years either as a head coach or a coordinator (I've done my homework professor). Is that progress? Absolutely. And for all of the ills of professional sports, this is a step in the right direction.

Professor Locke, if you can continue to question the validity or the necessity to level the playing field to allow the qualified of all races to compete fairly, not only do I question your logic, but I take offense to your over-simplification of the greatest crisis facing the country I've served in peace-time and war. Your misinformed position is only redeemed by the fact that you are unmistakably not listed as a professor of history because then I would be forced to challenge (to quote Dr. Martin Luther King) "the content of your character."

Scott D. Allen
Santa Monica

Homeowner should've done homework

Editor:

Who died and made Stephen Meadows so important that he has the audacity to buy a house along the beach and then demand that the city make changes because he doesn't like having volleyball nets so close to his property? (SMDP, Jan. 19, page 1). Does he mean to suggest that the nets and poles weren't up when he looked at the property initially, or that he couldn't foresee those as being an attractive "nuisance?" Here's a news flash sir, the same thing that attracted you and your family to live along our beachfront is the same thing that attracts millions of tourists every year! Unless you were willing to share your little patch of "paradise" with thousands of other people you shouldn't have moved there in the first place.

This issue also scratches at a larger issue facing our society, the lack of personal responsibility. It seems to be that Mr. Meadows now realizes he made a bad decision when he bought this expensive piece of property and now he wants the city to clean up the problem he created himself. Mr. Meadows would appear to be the same type of person that would look at a house across the street from a school in the middle of July and then be amazed in September when kids and parents began descending on

See LETTERS, page 7

What's bubbling beneath surface of state of the union

NEWS
on the
EDGE

By Ron Scott Smith



MAD Magazine used to do this bit where somebody in the news would be saying one thing — with the words printed inside one of those little cartoon bubbles that points to his mouth — while what he's really thinking appears right next to it, in a little "thought" bubble. While watching the president's state of the union address Tuesday night, I saw some of those little "thought" bubbles floating out of his mouth as he spoke, I swear I did.

■ The president said — as they all say in these annual chest-thumpings: "The state of our union is confident and strong."

The president thought: "Damn if I've ever seen a more bitterly divided or insecure union than the one I stand in front of tonight."

■ The president said — in claiming the spoils of victory halfway around the world: "The people of Iraq are free."

The president thought: "Free to strike against my young volunteers in deadly, daily guerilla actions; and if they're really going to take me seriously about this 'democracy' thing that I promised them,

then they're free to elect their very own radical fundamentalist anti-American regime any day now."

■ The president said — of the ever-threatening yet ever-elusive Weapons of Mass Destruction that gave reason for his rush to war: "We refuse to live in the shadow of this ultimate terror."

The president thought: "Our own mountains of state-of-the-art WMD's cast a dark shadow upon every other country on the planet — but they don't count — they're ours. Don't worry fellow earthlings, we're the good guys, remember?"

■ The president said — to the rest of the kids in the hall, as only the biggest kid in the hall could: "America will never seek a permission slip to defend the security of our country."

The president thought: "I give out the permission slips around here. North Korea and Iran — report to the office immediately and turn in your slips."

■ The president said — in explaining why America needs no permission slip: "The cause we serve is right because it is the cause of all mankind that we serve."

The president thought: "Remember that Twilight Zone episode where the superior aliens served all of mankind — medium rare, on a silver platter? Well, that's not the kind of serving I mean."

■ The president said — lobbying for renewal of the Ashcroft Doctrine and reminding us all, that our freedoms, cherished as they may be, are negotiable:

"Key provisions of the Patriot Act are set to expire next year. The terrorist threat will not expire on that schedule."

The president thought: "At least not until the election's over. This leader-of-the-free-world thing is addictive. A couple days of Terror Alert Color Code Level Blood-Red in mid-October would just about seal the deal for four more years of it."

■ The president said — of his signature tax cut that has turned two-Lexus families into three-Lexus families quicker than he could wink his eye at them: "The tax relief you passed is working."

The president thought: "That stupid thing about the largest surplus in American history turning into the largest deficit in American history in my three years has nothing to do with the tax cut, get it?"

■ The president said, extolling the industriousness of Americans: "We are proving once again to be the hardest working people in the world."

The president thought: "All except for the six million or so who have no jobs to work hard at ... and it's got nothing to do with the tax cut, get it?"

■ The president said — in handing out his best fatherly advice: "Abstinence for young people is the only certain way to avoid sexually transmitted diseases."

The president thought: "Uh, hold on to your Trojans there, kids. I have a feeling you won't really be abstaining from that wild thing anytime soon. Or anytime ever."

■ The president said — in calling for federal money for faith-based charities: "It is important to strengthen our communities by unleashing the compassion of America's religious institutions."

The president thought: "Along with the money, maybe we better assign an extra security detail to the Catholic institutions, where children have been unleashing the passions of priests for decades."

■ The president said — of a transformed post 9/11 America: "In the last three years, by our actions, we've shown what kind of nation we are."

The president thought: "I know what they're thinking over there in France ... in the last three years we've shown that we're scared, bullying, imperialistic, greedy. But they're wrong. We're not scared."

■ The president said — in concluding, as always: "May God continue to bless America."

There was no "thought" bubble that came with that. All I could think of was a moment at a local park recently, when someone in a good mood about something, blurted out, "God bless America," to no one in particular, and a young grade-schooler nearby who overheard, was quick to reply, "No, God bless the whole world," he said, and that kid is not likely to ever become president.

(Ron Scott Smith is on edge after that union address. E-mail him at EdgeoftheWest@aol.com.)

OPINION

LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 6

his neighborhood five days out of the week. Perhaps you should consider a suit against the realtor or former owner for failing to disclose to you the fact that (surprise) people played volleyball there.

Shaun Smith
Santa Monica

You can't relocate history

Editor:

Once again, it is unfortunate that another home buyer is trying to change our history of Santa Monica because he feels that his oceanfront property is more valuable (SMDP, Jan. 19, page 1). The historical volleyball courts have provided recreation to a number of Santa Monica residents for 40 years, how is it that a few residents can relocate history? Mr. Meadows should have done his research prior to buying the property, therefore his selfish goals would not impact others. What's next, telling the late-night couple taking a midnight stroll on the bike path to stop kissing in the name of "proper social behavior?" It is unjust that Mr. Meadows presumes that deep pockets can buy his own piece of "paradise" in Santa Monica. Mr. Meadows, do you mind paying for the relocation of the homeless gentleman that urinates in my carport every morning?

Max Subin
Santa Monica

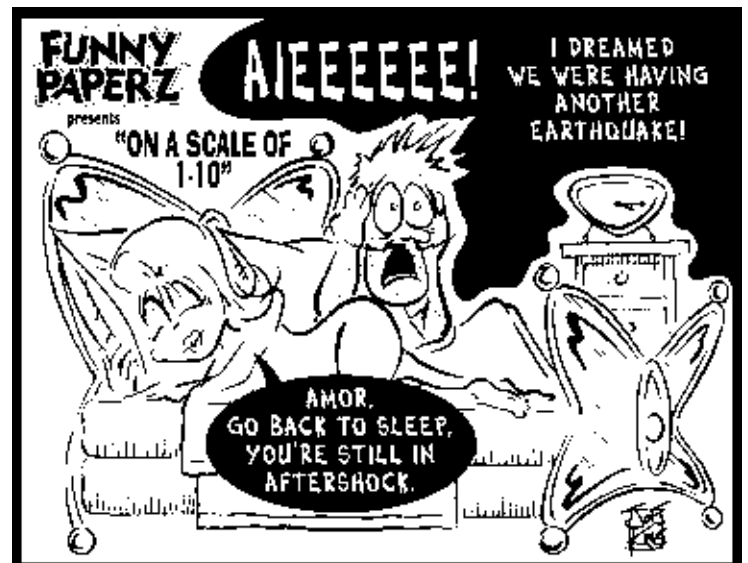
Jesus is the 'true prophet'

Editor:

Ed Silverstein's point regarding "faith-based initiatives," (SMDP, Jan. 21, page 4) is well-taken.

However, one of the parts of his "parable" to make that point appears inaccurate.

He has the son of a devoutly Christian mother report that the Muslim teacher at his daycare center tells him: "Jesus is a false prophet." While I am neither Muslim nor an



Member: AACC # , NCS #22, SCS #22

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expert on the beliefs of those who are, I believe Islam honors Jesus as a true prophet, just not as "THE Prophet," nor as the Messiah. Granted, it's a small point in the context of Silverstein's piece, but the extent to which we are willing to understand the beliefs of "the other" may be the extent to which we are willing to not demonize them.

Mark A. Humphrey
Santa Monica

The guest from hell will be invited back anyway

Tell me. Will there ever be a time when we don't look forward to saying good-bye to a guest as much as we look forward to saying hello?

By now all of your holiday season guests have left. They've said "thank you" and walked out your front door, their packed suitcases in hand, their guest bed sheets and towels in a pile on the guestroom floor ready for you to clean.

If you can't bring yourself to say it, let me. What a relief!

It's confusing, I know. With the exception of the few people we host every second year (out of obligation) we excitedly invite family and friends to stay with us and we plan the visit for weeks with eager anticipation.

We e-mail friends with links to the top restaurants and bars where we want to take them. We call mom to see if she'll cook her spaghetti for old-times' sake. We book tee times, buy concert tickets and print out maps for getting to the local museums and art galleries. We dust off the 12-set dinnerware and flatware that's as old as the marriage.

As the arrival date draws near, we whistle while stocking the wine rack with red for Dad. We put the Zinfandel in the fridge to chill for the friend who breaks

out into a rash from all other alcohol. We check to make sure the box of Raisin Bran in the cupboard is still fresh from mom's last visit and the milk won't expire over the course of her stay.

Then your guests arrive. You open a bottle of wine, perhaps champagne, and propose a toast to a wonderful and memorable time together. Our home is their home, you say. Then you watch as they place their drinks on the antique table, ignoring the coasters, and you suddenly find yourself wishing you hadn't used the crystal vase for the fresh flowers you put in their room.

The visit that is the most precarious is when your own parents come. Of course they will have used the coasters. Why else would you? Instead, you come home from work to find they've hung a strange object on your wall, bought you an obscure gift like a shower squeegee or rearranged your kitchen cupboards and put tacky tinfoil covers on your stove burners.

There is also the guest — an old university buddy of your husbands — who gets drunk from the liquor he brought you as a gift and without fail spills it all

over your new cream-colored sofa. But you dreaded his visit from the start and when he leaves you feel something close to euphoria.

So why is it that as you watch any anticipated guest make themselves comfortable in your home — like you told them to — you turn into an evil person who at every chance whispers to your husband: "When do they leave?"

Is it really a big deal that a guest doesn't return a CD back on the shelf where she pulled it from? Does it really matter if your guest offers to wash the dinner dishes but he doesn't actually get to them until morning — when you're trying to cook breakfast?

The answer is yes.

From high school friends to old neighbors and from siblings to in-laws (especially the in-laws), we expect them all to behave the same way we would as guests and to do everything the same way we would ... and to have fun in the process.

It's unfair I know. It's impossible as well. But unfortunately it's the expectations we set while preparing for the visit. "There's nothing like the feeling of

anticipation," my uncle once said to me. I was staying with him and my aunt while studying for my university exams. I had told him I wanted time to speed up so that my exams would be over and I could be on my flight home for Christmas. I couldn't wait to see my family and friends and most importantly to be reunited with my boyfriend. "Enjoy this time leading up to those moments," he had said.

My boyfriend picked me up at the airport only to break up with me while driving home. All I did was fight with my mother who tried imposing my old curfew, after I had spent more than a year away from home living on my own. And my friends hadn't changed.

Spending time with one another in each other's environments is what life is about. We just need to realize up front that the guest you thought about when you bought the house with the extra bedroom, and decorated it more lavishly than your own, could turn out to be the same guest who walks through your house with their dirty shoes on.

Either way, you'll invite them back next year ... and the year after that.

(Amy Perritt is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica).

Guest Commentary

By Amy Perritt

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LOCAL

Videotape raises questions about SM city yards

TRASH, from page 1

How trash is dealt with in Santa Monica could impact everything from rates residents and businesses pay for collection to land use issues, environmental policies and bottom line revenue for City Hall. No date has been set for the matter to return to the City Council.

Farming out the work to a contractor would likely be less expensive at first, while freeing up space at the city yards for other uses. Keeping it under government control would likely be more expensive at first, but would allow City Hall more control in establishing progressive environmental policies.

As part of its action, the council directed city workers to do a comparative analysis of those two options, as well as look at a public-private partnership and a fourth scenario — joining a consortium of cities that deal with their trash collectively. For each option, analysts were asked to examine service quality, land use efficiency, environmental implications, cost and fairness to city workers.

Craig Perkins, the city's director of environmental and public works management, said a new garbage and recycling transfer station, constructed and operated by City Hall, would cost \$605,771 a year for the next 20 years. He said there wouldn't be a fee hike and added that the proposed 136,000-square-foot facility — called "Santa Monica Active Recycling Recovery Transfer Station" — would have added room to sort out recyclables. It also would have nearly five times the maneuvering space for trucks, which currently clog the adjacent roadways.

But officials from Southern California Disposal, which for years has lobbied City Hall to take over some of the trash processing work, said they can do the same

job at a lower cost, saving City Hall — and area residents and businesses — a substantial amount of money.

City Councilman Ken Genser showed a videotape he said was given to him by workers at SCD. The tape appeared to show city workers at the yards mixing green waste with construction debris, among other actions that seemed to be counterproductive and sloppy. Gus Guzzetti, the city's materials recovery superintendent, maintained that city employees were doing their work in an appropriate manner and said the film only showed part of what was really going on.

**"The presentation is lovely,
it's nice — it doesn't do much
for me tonight."**

— HERB KATZ
City Councilman

Genser later said Guzzetti seemed credible.

"Clearly, things we're being mixed ... When I saw it initially, I thought it showed a lot of things that shouldn't have happened," Genser said. "We'll keep discussing it and keep understanding it. There may be explanations for some things — and there may not be."

In the end, the council voted 6-1 to send the matter

back for more analysis, with all members but City Councilman Mike Feinstein saying they needed a more thorough understanding of the financial implications. City Manager Susan McCarthy defended the work done by her staff.

"We're not wedded to any position, but ... we feel that there's a bright path and that's what you pay us to ferret out," McCarthy told council members. "You've given us some new cards to look at, and we're going to toss them up in the air and see where they land."

Rehab to cost \$9M

CAMPUS, from page 1

plumbing, and installing landscaping and outdoor lighting, said Greg Brown, director of facilities planning for SMC.

Though SMC bought 10.5 acres at the airport in 2001, this project marks the first time classes will move there. SMC also owns two other properties on the site, one of which likely will be demolished. Officials hope to raise money by renting out the second.

Until May of last year, the airport land was leased to BAE Systems, a company that designs, manufactures, and supports military aircraft, surface ships, submarines, space systems, radar, avionics, electronic systems, guided weapons and other defense products, according to its Web site.

The \$30 million property was bought using funds from Measure U, which was passed in March 2002 and will provide an estimated \$160 million in funding for SMC facilities. There are more than 20 projects at the college that Measure U funds are expected to be used for, including earthquake-damaged buildings, classroom improvements and a part of the emeritus college on Second Street. The last bond measure passed by area voters for SMC was in 1992 for \$22 million.

— John Wood

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STATE

Schwarzenegger launches \$15 billion bond measure campaign

BY BRIAN SKOLOFF
Associated Press Writer

FRESNO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger launched his campaign Tuesday to persuade voters to approve his \$15 billion bond measure to get the state out of debt, saying a “yes” vote is the only way to avoid enormous public service cuts.

Even as recent polls suggest voters are skeptical of Schwarzenegger's plan to sell \$15 billion in bonds to pay off California's debt, the governor appeared optimistic voters will eventually understand the alternative would mean definite cuts to services — and possibly higher taxes.

“I call them Armageddon cuts,” he told a crowd of about 150 invited guests at Duncan Enterprises, a Fresno ceramics plant. “We have the \$15 billion economic recovery bond. We consolidate the inherited debt and refinance it, which is exactly what a financial adviser would say ... Then we are out of the hole. We are on our way to recovery.”

Schwarzenegger stressed the bipartisan nature of the campaign, as Democratic state Controller Steve Westly joined him to call the measure “the most important vote most of you will cast in your lifetime.”

The bonds, which will go before voters as Proposition 57 on the March 2 ballot, would pay off short-term notes that come due in June, when Westly says the state would run out of money.

Without the bonds, Schwarzenegger says he will likely have little choice but to cut spending dramatically. However, the governor avoided questions about whether tax hikes he has promised not to enact would be inevitable without the bond measure, instead leaving Westly, the state's CFO, to deliver the bad news.

“Is it a perfect solution? No,” Westly said. “I hate to tell you but there are no perfect solutions in Sacramento. But compared to the draconian cuts in services or huge tax increases, this is the best option. We're the world's sixth-largest economy. There's much more at stake here than people realize.”

“In this next budget, there are going to be cuts across the board, including in education,” Westly added. “What we are trying to avoid here is a jolt on top of that.”

With the vote just six weeks away, Schwarzenegger is expected to make at least two campaign stops a week throughout the state to sell the bond measure. He is also

“In this next budget, there are going to be cuts across the board, including in education.”

— STEVE WESTLY
Democratic state Controller

raising money for a statewide television ad campaign that is likely to start in mid-February. Aides say they have budgeted \$8-12 million for the campaign, though so far he's raised just a fraction of that amount, according to recent finance reports.

A Field Poll released last week reported that just one-third of 648 likely voters surveyed supported Proposition 57, while 40 percent were opposed and 27 percent were undecided. The margin of error was 3.5 percentage points.

The current budget includes \$10.7 billion worth of bonds to pay off past deficit spending. Those bonds, however, are on hold pending a lawsuit by anti-tax groups that say such bonds are illegal unless approved by voters. If the \$15 billion deal fails, the governor can fall back on the smaller bond deal and fight opponents in court.

As bipartisan as Schwarzenegger would like the “Californians for a Balanced Budget” campaign to appear, two of the campaign's biggest opponents come from both sides of the aisle.

State Treasurer Phil Angelides, a Democrat, and many conservative Republicans — including Sen. Tom McClintock of Northridge — oppose the idea of borrowing to reduce debt.

At the state Democratic convention last weekend, Angelides urged activists to oppose the bond measure and said it was up to Schwarzenegger to develop other options for solving the state's fiscal crisis in the event voters turn the measure down.

Angelides said in an interview Tuesday that Schwarzenegger “needs to put in place a plan B if the voters have a different judgment. The last thing he ought to be doing is threatening the voters with ‘my way or the highway.’”

McClintock, who ran against Schwarzenegger in the recall election, said California's budget problems would be fixed without borrowing and without drastic cuts to services by “streamlining state bureaucracies, contracting out of state services and ending free services for illegal immigrants — that alone is \$4 billion right there.”

“Bottom line is this, California is suffering a spending problem,” McClintock said, “and the obvious solution is to reduce spending, not to borrow more so we can spend more.”

Shaun Bowler, a political science professor at University of California, Riverside said Schwarzenegger's “doom and gloom” prophecies of service cuts and tax hikes without the bond measure could work.

“You can frighten people into passing it if it looks like they're not coming around,” Bowler said. “He's real good at spin.”

Metro Briefs

WESTSIDE/CENTRAL

More Service Metro Bus

Coming February 1 to a neighborhood near you — Metro Bus is adding service on 11 lines, extending the routes of three others and introducing two new lines. For details on specific service improvements, visit metro.net

Crenshaw Boulevard Gets Rapid

Making fewer stops and running up to 25% faster than local lines, the efficient red Metro Rapid buses begin service on Crenshaw Boulevard February 2. New Metro Rapid Line 710 will run on Crenshaw between Hollywood and the South Bay.

Metro Service Meeting Set For Feb. 5

Want to find out what's going on with bus service in Metro Westside/Central? Attend their governance council meeting Thursday, February 5, starting at 2 p.m. at the La Cienega Tennis Center, 325 S. La Cienega Boulevard, Los Angeles.

Metro Job Fair On February 7

Get a job as a Metro Bus operator or mechanic. Metro is holding a bus operator recruitment job fair on Saturday, February 7, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at its headquarters at the intersection of Vignes Street and Cesar E. Chavez Avenue in downtown Los Angeles. Call 213-922-DRIVE.

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George Bush sees safer world under his leadership

BY GEORGE GEDDA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The war on terrorism has been President Bush's strong suit since the Sept. 11 attacks, and he still sees that issue as a political winner.

In his State of the Union address Tuesday night, Bush made more than 20 references to terrorism in defending his policies against those who would bring harm to America again.

At the same time, Bush had less to say about issues where he faces criticism: the failure to find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and mounting U.S. casualties in the difficult postwar transition in that country.

Time and again, Bush voiced confidence not only in the U.S. ability to confront enemies but also to build a safer, freer world.

"By our will and courage, this danger will be defeated," Bush said.

The death toll of U.S. troops in Iraq, which passed the 500-mark in recent days, has prompted demands by some for an end to the American commitment there. Bush acknowledged the dangers but described this as a surmountable problem.

"We are dealing with these thugs in Iraq, just as surely as we dealt with Saddam Hussein's evil regime," he said.

On perhaps no issue is the administration more vulnerable than its claims that Iraq's possession of weapons of mass destruction justified the war against that country.

In the 10 months since the war started, no forbidden weapons have been found but Bush was unequivocal in insisting that Saddam posed a threat. Bush contended that Pentagon inspectors have identified "dozens of weapons of mass destruction-related program activities and significant amounts of equipment that Iraq concealed from the United Nations."

"Had we failed to act, the dictator's weapons of mass destruction programs would continue to this day," he said.

The statement is not likely to placate Democrats who have been insisting that the United States went to war under false pretenses.

One recurring Democratic theme has been the administration's perceived lack of readiness to deal with post-war reconstruction in Iraq.

The president made only a passing reference to the

administration's intense effort to enlist the support of the United Nations to help smooth the transition in Iraq from an American occupation to Iraqi sovereignty by midyear.

With sweeping rhetoric, Bush said that "we will finish the historic work of democracy in Afghanistan and Iraq ... and help transform a troubled part of the world."

"America is a nation with a mission," Bush added. "Our aim is a democratic peace."

He seemed proud that with the help of diplomacy backed by force, Libya decided last month to dispose of its unconventional weapons.

It was an achievement that, with British help, took

only nine months of negotiations, Bush said.

In contrast, he said, Iraq's Saddam Hussein was able to ignore 12 years of international sanctions. There was a look of satisfaction on Bush's face when he took note of Saddam's fate: "The once all-powerful ruler of Iraq was found in a hole, and now sits in a prison cell."

Bush routinely says his No. 1 responsibility as president is to defend the nation from attack. Opinion polls show he achieves the highest marks for his handling of the fight against terrorism, with his job approval among voters in an AP-Ipsos poll early this month at 56 percent, a relatively strong position at this stage of a re-election campaign.

Supreme Court rules EPA can overrule state in anti-pollution case

BY ANNE GEARAN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that the federal Environmental Protection Agency can override state officials and order some anti-pollution measures that may be more costly.

The 5-4 decision, a victory for environmentalists, found the EPA did not go too far when it overruled a decision by Alaska regulators, who wanted to let the operators of a zinc and lead mine use cheaper anti-pollution technology for power generation.

The four justices who dissented said the ruling undercut the states' power to control their environmental policies.

The Alaska case was the first of eight environmental cases on the court's docket this term, an unusually high number. The fight was over whether the Red Dog Mine must use

equipment that would reduce pollution from a new generator by 90 percent. The state wanted to allow the mine operator, a major employer in a particularly rural area of Alaska, to use equipment that would only reduce pollution by 30 percent.

The Clean Air Act allows state officials to make some decisions involving facilities within their borders, but still gives the EPA wide authority to enforce the anti-pollution law passed by Congress in 1970.

"We fail to see why Congress, having expressly endorsed an expansive surveillance role for EPA," elsewhere in the law, "would then implicitly preclude the agency from verifying substantive compliance," with the portion of the law at issue in this case, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote for the majority.

Ginsburg's usual allies on the court's ideological left joined her in the ruling: Justices John Paul

Stevens, David H. Souter and Stephen Breyer. The crucial fifth vote came from Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who usually votes with the court conservatives in states' rights cases.

The four dissenters argued that the decision undercuts states' power to control their environmental policies.

"This is a great step backward in Congress' design to grant states a significant stake in developing and enforcing national environmental objectives," wrote Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, joined by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, and Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas.

"After today's decision, however, a state agency can no longer represent itself as the real governing body. No matter how much time was spent in consultation and negotiations, a single federal administrator can in the end set all aside by a unilateral order," Kennedy wrote.



WORLD BRIEFLY

Israeli charged with bribing Sharon

By The Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — An Israeli businessman was indicted Wednesday on charges of bribing Ariel Sharon with hundreds of thousands of dollars, further complicating the prime minister's clouded legal situation.

Analysts said the indictment against real-estate developer David Appel increases the chances that Sharon himself may face charges, which would compel him to leave office.

Sharon was not charged Wednesday, but opposition lawmakers urged him to resign.

Appel was indicted in the Tel Aviv Magistrates court for giving Sharon hundreds of thousands of dollars to promote an ambitious real-estate project in Greece when Sharon was foreign minister in 1999 and to help rezone urban land near Tel Aviv before and during Sharon's term as prime minister.

Appel's lawyer, Moshe Israel, denied the charges.

There was no immediate reaction from the prime minister.

In order for Ariel Sharon to be charged, prosecutors must be convinced that a bribe was accepted with criminal intent.

Elections in Iraq on horizon

By The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations is close to backing an American and Iraqi request to deploy experts who would assess whether Iraq could hold elections by May for a transitional government, U.N. diplo-

rats told The Associated Press.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan received the request during a Monday meeting with leaders of the U.S.-picked Iraqi Governing Council and the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority. He said he supported the idea but reiterated that security for such a team was a key concern.

On Tuesday, one U.N. diplomat said approval for an election team could come by week's end. Another agreed that was a possibility, but said the decision might not be announced until a few days later.

The team would head to Iraq soon after that, the diplomats said on condition of anonymity.

Iraqi leaders and the Coalition Provisional Authority want the U.N. team to investigate whether elections can be held for a transitional legislature set to take power by June 30. Iraq's most prominent Shiite leader, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani, has demanded direct elections to choose a provisional government.

But the coalition wants to adhere to a handover plan agreed to on Nov. 15 that calls for caucuses to choose a provisional assembly.

In search of jurors for Stewart trial

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — One by one, New Yorkers from all walks of life took a seat across from Martha Stewart and answered questions from lawyers trying to decide which 12 will decide the fate of the multimillionaire domestic style maven.

About a dozen of the potential jurors interviewed Tuesday were given the green light by the judge to pro-

ceed to the next round of selection, a source close to the case told The Associated Press.

The judge hopes to have about 50 jurors in that next round, the source said. Lawyers will then be allowed to select which of those jurors to eliminate, narrowing the pool to 12 jurors and six alternates for trial, the source said.

The judge barred reporters from the session but ordered a transcript of the first day's questioning to be released Wednesday. The in-person questions were designed as follow-ups to questionnaires filled out by hundreds of potential jurors. Opening statements are expected next week.

Stewart is accused of lying to investigators about why she sold nearly 4,000 shares of ImClone Systems Inc. stock Dec. 27, 2001. The next day, the government issued a negative report on an experimental ImClone drug, sending the stock plummeting.

Prisoners still have hostages

By The Associated Press

BUCKEYE, Ariz. — Negotiators trying to resolve a four-day prison hostage crisis caught their first glimpse of the two corrections officers being held inside a guard tower and said they appeared to be physically unharmed.

"Both of them appeared to move without discomfort. They're moving by themselves," Cam Hunter, a spokeswoman for the Department of Corrections, said Tuesday.

The sighting of the officers helped reassure both their family members and prison officials while negotiations continue, Hunter said.

No deadline has been set to end discussions, she said.

Hunter said that the inmates made some minor demands on Monday for coffee and water, which they received.

The standoff began Sunday morning after an inmate at Arizona State Prison Complex-Lewis attacked a guard in the prison kitchen. The prisoner and another inmate then got into an observation tower where the two guards, one male and one female, were stationed.

COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection®

By Russ Wallace



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Eric Roberts's sister
6 Board holder
11 "Of thee —"
12 Pay tribute to
13 New Zealand native
14 Irritate
15 Irritate
17 Univ., e.g.
19 Bible boat
20 Quick jump
23 Think
25 LePew of cartoons
26 1996 Dennis Quaid film
28 Folktales
29 Attack, in a way
30 CPR giver
31 Big snake
32 Belonging to thee
33 Oxonian's rival
35 Croc's cousin
38 Congress half
41 Postulate
42 Sign up
43 Energetic
44 Doesn't own

DOWN

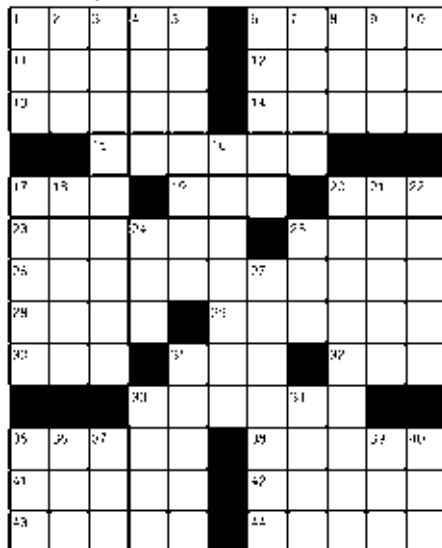
- 1 Huck's friend
2 "Born in the —"
3 1990 Joan-Claude Van Damme film
4 About
5 Hurriedly in music
6 Black-board
7 Single
8 — Arbor
9 Pasture sound
10 Use a crowbar
16 New Jersey city
17 Move like a crab
18 Software holder
20 1986 Meryl Streep film
21 Big name in TV talk
22 Trifling
24 Epoch
25 Pod bit



Yesterday's answer

- 17 Move like a crab
18 Software holder
20 1986 Meryl Streep film
21 Big name in TV talk
22 Trifling
24 Epoch
25 Pod bit
27 "Brigadoon" flowers
31 Foolish
33 Hen holder
34 Top-notch
35 Mountain pass
36 Chopper
37 Pointer
39 Drunkard
40 Golf's Ernie

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1-22

edge by KEVIN & PATSY LEBLANC



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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Victoria Gotti named top editor of 'Red Carpet'

By The Associated Press

■ NEW YORK —

is going to be busy. American Media Inc., publisher of Star magazine, has named Gotti editor in chief of its new publication, Red Carpet.

She'll also star in her own reality show for the A&E network, which will chronicle her personal and private life.

"Red Carpet will present a smart, refreshing look at the world of celebrities — one which will provide intimate details and insight into their luxurious lifestyles," Gotti said in a statement last week.

Both Red Carpet and her new TV show, not yet titled, will launch in April.

Gotti, executive editor at large at Star magazine, is the author of the novels "The Senator's Daughter," "I'll Be Watching You" and "Superstar."

■ ASPEN, Colo. —

Diane Keaton will receive the AFI Star Award and playwright August Wilson will be given the Freedom of Speech Award at the 10th annual U.S. Comedy Arts Festival next month.

Keaton, winner of an Academy Award for best actress for 1977's "Annie Hall," has been nominated for a Golden Globe Award for her latest film, "Something's Gotta Give."

Wilson, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award, is the author of "Fences" and "The Piano Lesson," which documents the experience of black Americans.

Previous winners of the AFI Star Award include Steve Martin, Mike Myers, Rob Reiner and Billy Crystal. Past recipients of the Freedom of Speech Award include Michael Moore and the Smothers Brothers.

The 10th annual comedy festival, sponsored by HBO, runs March 3-7.

■ NEW YORK —

Matthew Perry, "the epitome of a hot Cosmo male," has been named Cosmopolitan magazine's Fun Fearless Male for 2004.

In a recent statement, Editor-in-Chief Kate White also described Perry, star of NBC's "Friends," as "handsome, charming and incredibly talented. Plus, he's retained his optimism and sense of humor through difficult personal relationships."

Alicia Silverstone, star of the 1995 film "Clueless" and NBC's "Miss Match," is the magazine's Fun Fearless Female of the year.

White described the 27-year-old Silverstone as gutsy and talented and said she lives life with a vengeance. "I really respect how committed she is to her beliefs and how she works to improve the world around her."

■ NEW YORK —

The Natural Resources Defense Council will honor actor Robert Redford and restaurateur Alice Waters for their leadership in environmental protection at a gala in New York City on March 29.

Redford has been a member of NRDC's board of trustees for 28 years. His films include "Barefoot in the Park," "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," "The Sting" and "All the President's Men."

Waters, owner of Chez Panisse in Berkeley, Calif., is a strong advocate for farmer's markets and for sound and sustainable agriculture.

Past recipients of the Forces for Nature award include Harrison Ford, James Taylor, Ted Turner, Jann Wenner and Ed Begley Jr.

The sixth annual event will be held at Cipriani 42nd Street in New York City, the NDRC announced last week.

■ NEW YORK —

Director Alfonso Cuaron says the moment he read J.K. Rowling's third "Harry Potter" book, he was hooked.

"It's a myth for our times," Cuaron tells Entertainment Weekly magazine in its Jan. 23 issue. "You read about Fudge and the Ministry of Magic — that's Tony Blair! And Guantanamo is not that different from Azkaban. There are Dementors there, too."

Cuaron, director of "Y Tu Mama Tambien," was hired by Warner Bros. to follow Chris Columbus, who directed the first two "Harry Potter" films.

When asked how Rowling reacted to some cosmetic changes he's made to her world, Cuaron replied: "Really cool. She actually encouraged me: 'Please don't be literal.' At the same time, we wrote a scene where there was this organ, and tiny people were jumping on the keyboards. She said, 'Nope, no tiny people at Hogwarts.'"

■ PHOENIX —

Michael Jackson's classic Bentley, which is featured in one of his music videos, will be sold at the Barrett-Jackson classic car auction this weekend unless company executives hear from the pop singer himself.

Craig Jackson, president of Barrett-Jackson, said his firm entered into a contract to sell the vehicle in October — before child molestation charges were leveled against the singer — but are unsure whether he still wants to sell it.

"We just want to do what he wants us to do and we don't know what that is," Jackson said.

Jackson, who's not related to the singer, told The Associated Press that company leaders have had "numerous discussions about the status of the car with several representatives of Michael Jackson's management team."

Because the singer signed the original documents, Jackson said his company needs to hear from the singer by noon Saturday if he no longer wants to sell it.

"Despite our repeated attempts to gain clarification, we have not had any verifiable direction," Jackson said.

The four-day Barrett-Jackson event is expected to draw about 400,000 people to Scottsdale where classic and antique vehicles are sold for prices that often reach more than \$100,000.

Jackson, the auction president, said the vehicle itself is valued at \$150,000 but with its customization and celebrity status, will likely sell for much more.

"It could bring a half a million dollars," Jackson said.

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