



FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

January 22-23, 2005

A newspaper with issues

Volume 4, Issue 61

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

2 9 27 30 45
Meganumber: 13
Jackpot: \$7 Million

FANTASY 5

2 13 27 30 39

DAILY 3

Daytime: 8 1 5
Evening: 5 4 6

DAILY DERBY

1st: 07 Eureka
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1:49.15

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Adding to the list of stories that were formerly weird but which now occur with such frequency that they must be retired from circulation: (71) The dedicated or sanctimonious drunk-driving counselor or prosecutor who himself gets ticketed or arrested for drunk-driving, such as the aggressive supervising DUI prosecutor Lydia Wardell of Clearwater, Fla. (November). (72) Anyone who advertises goods (now limited only by the imagination) on Internet auction houses, such as Chris Doyle of Sydney, Australia, who, inspired by the recent \$28,000 sale of a 10-year-old grilled-cheese sandwich with toast marks resembling a visage of the Virgin Mary, listed a grain of unnamed breakfast cereal that resembles the movie alien E.T. (and was offered about US \$800) (November).

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1957, suspected "Mad Bomber" George P. Metesky, accused of planting more than 30 explosive devices in the New York City area since 1940, was arrested in Waterbury, Conn. (He was later found mentally ill and committed to a mental hospital; he was released in 1973, and died in 1994 at age 90.)

INDEX

Horoscopes

Feed your mind, Scorpio 2

Surf Report

Water Temperature: 60° 3

Recreation

It's all in the jeans 5

Opinion

Word on the street 6

State

Gotta represent 8

National

Udderly upset 10

Comics

Laugh it up 12

People in the News

Banner day for Green Day 16

Office park



John Wood/Daily Press

Hundreds of scrapped desks, chairs and filing cabinets from the old RAND Corp. headquarters were stockpiled in an empty parking lot on Ocean Avenue Friday. A RAND spokeswoman said furniture not being recycled or hauled away will go to area charities and schools.

Residents to help map out future of Santa Monica

Meeting this weekend will kick off what should be a lengthy planning process

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

SUNSET PARK — The arduous task of crafting a document to govern the future growth and use of Santa Monica begins this weekend with a public meeting at John Adams Middle School.

Officials hope in the coming months to amass as much input as possible from residents about how

they think Santa Monica should evolve over the next two decades. At stake is everything from building heights and neighborhood zoning to issues surrounding open space and historic preservation.

Mayor Pam O'Connor will attend Saturday's workshop, scheduled from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the school's cafeteria, as will City Councilmen Herb Katz and Kevin McKeown.

"This is kind of the kickoff meeting," O'Connor said Friday. "The big community kickoff meeting, but it's just one of many

See LAND USE, page 4

Source of deadly oil spill remains mystery

Local officials estimate that more than 100 affected birds were plucked from Santa Monica beaches

By staff and wire reports

LOS ANGELES — Investigators are testing oil wiped from the slick bodies of birds in an attempt to determine the origin of a mysterious oil spill last week somewhere between Venice and Santa Barbara County.

More than 1,400 birds have since been brought to the Los Angeles Oiled Bird Care and

Education Center in San Pedro, and a sea lion was taken to a nearby marine mammal center.

The Oiled Bird treatment facility has recorded 41 affected birds as washed up on Santa Monica beaches, but that figure did not include animals found on the first couple days of the spill, according to Center spokeswoman Sylvia Wright.

County lifeguards, city staff from animal control and volun-

teers from the Whale Rescue Team lead the initial efforts, before the California Fish and Game Department could assemble and dispatch its rescue cues. They estimate the actual total is likely in excess of 100, said Peter Wallerstein of Whale Rescue.

"It got so crazy the first day, we were using boxes from all over," Wallerstein said. "There was no way to keep count. A few are still coming in, here and there, but the worst is behind us."

Possible sources of the spill include pipes broken in mudslides,

natural seepage exacerbated by seismic activity, or even cars and trucks submerged in floods, officials said.

"We've done several overflights," said Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer Lance Jones. "We haven't been able to find any source at all."

Finding a source is especially difficult because there doesn't seem to be one spot in the water with a high concentration of oil. State wildlife officials were only

See OIL SPILL, page 4

Democrats trying to figure out how West was won

BY BETH FOUHY

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Western Democrats gather here on Saturday with two major tasks: interview candidates for head of the Democratic National Committee, and chart a course to improve the party's prospects in the nation's

fastest-growing region.

The West, with its booming population and growing number of Hispanic voters, could offer the party its best chance to re-establish itself as a national force. While Rocky Mountain and Sunbelt states went for President Bush in November, Democrats have gained there in state and

local offices.

Western states' electoral clout has grown with their population. Taken together, the electoral votes of California, Oregon, Washington and the so-called swing states of Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and Colorado add up to 98, or more than a third of the total needed to win the presidency.

To succeed in the region, western Democratic activists said the party must better understand the area's pressing local concerns, including land use, water and sprawl. They also must frame traditional Democratic issues such as education and health care in language that speaks

See WILD WEST, page 9

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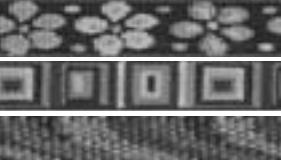
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LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Whether you are up for it or not, you're in the limelight. Take your bows and understand that someone might care a lot more than you do. A family member squawks; he or she could chat you to death. You better listen (ultimately, for your sake!). Tonight: You smile your way through a hassle.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Visualize and create much more of what you want out of life. Share your desires with a loved one or a resourceful pal. You might be surprised at how easy it could be to make a hope a reality. Let ideas tumble right out. Tonight: Play Scrabble or Monopoly — just feed your mind.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You don't have to make an overture. Curb a tendency to spend too much in order to entertain yourself or keep up with the Joneses. A partner has a solid, grounded approach. Do go along with his or her suggestions. Tonight: Quality time.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Don't be contrary, my dear Goat. Don't say "no" just for the sake of expressing your ideas. Right now, let others have the whirlwind of living and decision-making. Take a break. Put your feet up. It is the weekend. Tonight: Out for dinner.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Your mind could be working over-time. If you notice a tendency to worry or not relax, go for some physical activity. Chill out. A massage, drive or walk could work well if you don't know what to do. Detach from a situation rather than get uptight. Tonight: Order in.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Your imagination could energize an old relationship and put a smile on the face of everyone. On the other hand, if you are single and fancy free, magic could develop between you and someone special. Just don't jump in, OK? Tonight: Let romance flourish.



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Emphasize security. Your sixth sense helps you build a stronger and more secure bond with your family, roommate or a loved one. Others continue to be sources of endless information. Listen to a boss or parent. Tonight: Whatever feels right.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You ask, and others respond. You could be in demand, as you have unusual insight right now and know which way to point in order to succeed. Work might be demanding but also rewarding, especially if you are willing to accept "different." Tonight: Visit over munchies and a drink.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ You say "yes," and another person might question your decisions, especially regarding finances. Keep your professional status in mind when resolving questions. Your sense of humor emerges with a child or loved one. Tonight: Let your hair down.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Go on cruise control. Accept the unexpected and work with it. A family member cannot thank you enough for your efforts. Laughter provides a welcome release from tension. Be the happy Moon Child. Tonight: Be spontaneous.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Close up shop — figuratively, if not literally. Indulge and take a day off. A partner could surprise you with an intimate or unexpected gesture. Stay positive. Calls come in left and right. Don't let yourself do anything you don't want to do. Tonight: Curl up at home.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Friends mean well. Actually, you flourish in nearly every social setting you tumble into. Whether with groups, friends, loved ones or your sweetie — the good news is that others finally bend like putty in your direction. Now that's more like it. Tonight: Set the stage for a party, then walk in.



Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday

Phone: (310) 458-PRESS (7737) • Fax: (310) 576-9913

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NAACP goes 'Cuckoo' over Civic Light production

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Civic Light Opera's production of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" has received eight nominations for the NAACP Theatre Awards, marking a significant milestone in the organization's evolution.

SMCLO's "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," staged last summer, earned NAACP Theatre Award nominations for outstanding production, direction, ensemble, playwright, set, costumes, lighting and sound.

Nominations were made public earlier this month at a Los Angeles press conference called by the civil rights organization. NAACP Award winners will be announced at ceremonies at the Vision Theatre in Los Angeles on Feb. 21.

"We wanted to challenge the audience, and I guess we succeeded," said Dr. Frank X. Ford, SMCLO artistic director, who also directed "Cuckoo's Nest."

SMCLO nominees include Dr. Ford, for best direction; Jo Oppenheimer Davis, for best costume design; Mike Goode, for best set design; Chuck Schuman, for best lighting design; Sean Phillips, for best sound design; and Dale Wasserman, for best playwright. The entire "Cuckoo's Nest" acting company was acknowledged with a nomination for "Best Ensemble."

"We've always believed that we put on some very special productions," said Brett Fisher, SMCLO producer and managing director, "and we're gratified that the NAACP has honored us with this recognition."

Dr. Ford said he was pleased that Tessa Thompson — a Samohi alumna, SMCLO performer and former student of his — was nominated by the NAACP for best leading actress for her role as Juliet in "Romeo and Juliet" at the theatre at Boston Court.

The NAACP Award nominations were an occasion for Dr. Ford to reflect on his decades as a director. "From the day I started 36 years ago, I always believed in non-traditional casting," he said. "I think a play happens in the imagination of the audience, in the communication between storytellers and audience members, and it has nothing to do with 'looking' like the part is allegedly supposed to look. A good actor can make us believe anything."

The Santa Monica Civic Light Opera, a sponsored activity of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, serves as the educational partner to Samohi's Theatre Arts Program, enhancing the student experience through mentoring by alumni and theatre professionals, as well as developing productions for the Humanities Center and Barnum Hall stages.

Meredith Wilson's "The Music Man," the next SMCLO-Samohi show, will play with a production ensemble including full orchestra, chorale and marching band. Performances are March 3-12, 2005, at the newly restored Barnum Hall, which has recently undergone an \$8.1 million renovation on the Samohi campus. Tickets are \$20.

The SMCLO/Samohi season also includes bonus productions of Edward Albee's searing drama, "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf," playing May 19-28, and the selected One-Act comedies of David Ives, playing June 3-4, both in the Humanities Center Theater. Tickets are \$10-15.

"My Fair Lady" will be the season's grand musical finale — an SMCLO production featuring alumni, working professionals, and accomplished high school students. "My Fair Lady" runs July 14-30. Tickets are \$15-30.

Tickets for all remaining 2005 productions are available at the SMCLO box office in the Humanities Center Theater, by phone at (310) 458-5939, or on the web at www.smclo.org. Group discounts are available.

For more information about the Santa Monica Civic Light Opera, call (310) 458-5939.



SURF REPORT

On Saturday, look for fading surf, as our WNW swell (270-300) tapers down. For the better exposed spots, look for waves in the chest-shoulder high range. Good spots hit head high, but not in Santa Monica. A 5.8' high tide around 7 a.m., will keep things on the soft side for the early morning session.

The surf will continue to wind down and drop in period on Sunday. Most spots are down in the waist-high range. Look for smaller surf on Monday.

Conditions: Look for mostly light and variable winds for clean conditions in the mornings through the weekend. Afternoon winds turn light onshore out of the W in the 5-10 knot range.

Today the water is:

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	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	12:51	2.6	2:33	-0.6	7:02	5.6	9:18	3.6
SUNDAY	1:28	2.5	3:02	-0.8	7:37	5.8	9:40	3.6
MONDAY	2:01	2.3	3:29	-0.7	N/A	N/A	10:03	3.7
TUESDAY	2:33	2.2	3:56	-0.7	8:42	5.9	10:27	3.8
WEDNESDAY	3:05	2.1	4:22	-0.6	9:13	5.8	10:51	3.8
THURSDAY	3:40	2.0	4:47	-0.4	9:43	5.6	11:17	3.7
FRIDAY	3:40	2.0	4:47	-0.4	9:43	5.6	11:17	3.7

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CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S Q-LINE RESPONSES ON PAGE 7.



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City wants help drawing up new land use guide

LAND USE, from page 1

ways in which people will be able to be involved and have input into the process.”

Invitations to the meeting were mailed out this week to all Santa Monica residents. According to the fliers, the meeting will consist of interactive group sessions where participants will find common themes and identify key planning issues. In an effort to encourage participation from families with youngsters, the city has arranged an art activity for elementary-aged children.

At issue is what’s referred to as the “land use element,” a policy document that lays out the vision for Santa Monica’s built environment, governing everything from specific development projects to how particular neighborhoods and transportation lines should grow and be used.

The land use element is part of the

city’s general plan, which last underwent a thorough update in 1984. The process beginning this weekend is expected to take at least two-and-a-half years.

City Hall’s zoning ordinance, which is the practical implementation of its policies, also will be re-written in the process of updating the land use element. The goal is to produce “a clear, accessible and easily administered zoning ordinance that can be understood by all,” according to city documents.

Katz, an architect who regularly works with City Hall, said that was desperately needed.

“It’s the most complicated, convoluted mess I have ever read,” Katz said Friday. “We formed it in ’84 and it wasn’t as complex, but what has happened is councils over the years have added things and, rather than keep it simple, they’ve made it very complex.

“Doing a house in Sunset Park, I’m going nuts,” Katz added. “The laws we have passed drive you crazy.”

Even physically navigating through the documents is difficult, according to Katz, who added that it’s not just property owners and architects who have problems; city planners don’t really understand them either, he said.

“We don’t have a decent index to our current zoning ordinance,” Katz added. “Everything in that book is harder than hell to find and I am probably one of the most experienced users. It has to be better.”

O’Connor said those who don’t make it to the meeting should chime in on the process through one of several other available channels. In addition to soliciting comments on the Internet and at City Hall, city planners will be meeting with various civic, religious, neighborhood and other groups throughout Santa Monica.

“While this is a very important meeting, and it’s a kickoff meeting ... it’s not the only path. It’s one path,” O’Connor said. “What it will hopefully provide is a framework for people to take a few moments to think a little bit about what’s good about Santa Monica, what it should be in the future.”

Without public input, the document won’t realize its potential, Katz added.

“If we don’t get public input from day one, then the public is going to come screaming at us at the finish,” he said. “Plus, if we do get the public input from the beginning, regularly, then they’ll understand where we’re coming from and why, and we’ll get ourselves some goals and some real feeling for what the public wants.

“It belongs to the citizens,” Katz added. “We seven people (on the City Council) think we know what’s good, but sometimes we don’t.”

Fish and Game perplexed by oil spill in the bay

OIL SPILL, from page 1

tipped off to the problem when oil-coated birds were found on shore.

“Unlike a lot of spills, there isn’t a big oil slick out in the bay,” said Dana Michaels, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Fish and Game’s Office of Spill Prevention and Response. “This is a real mystery.”

Of the 1,162 live birds taken to the center in San Pedro, 562 died or were

humanely euthanized, said Michaels.

The center also received 260 dead birds, all of which were “visibly oiled,” said Wright. Of the survivors, 78 have been rereleased into the wild.

At the center’s cleaning stations, volunteers patiently wash them with soap and scrub them clean with toothbrushes.

Most of the birds at the center are Western grebes, which are hard to clean because they are sensitive to being handled. Grebes, which live entirely on the

water and build nests out of floating debris, are slender black-and-white birds, usually about 2 feet long, with long necks and long, pointed bills.

Rescuers have also found 13 endangered brown pelicans — large, stocky diving birds that measure about 4 feet in length. They were to be taken to Sea World in San Diego for further treatment.

Investigators are intrigued by the timing of the spill, which coincided with

heavy rains and mudslides.

“It could just be from the heavy runoff that washed dirt down and maybe old oil that was spilled from production sites or some really old wells,” Michaels said.

A mudslide in Ventura County broke a pipeline and released an estimated 1,050 gallons of oil, said Michaels, who noted that early estimates are often wrong in oil spills. The company that runs the pipeline shut it down, but that rendered its sensors incapable of detecting any other spills.

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RECREATION



Confessions of a gear guy: Better safe than sorry



**EXERCISE
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BY THADDEUS REICHLEY

LA is arguably the fashion capital of the universe. If it is hip, cool, trendy, uncomfortable, or outrageously expensive, chances are that you will see someone wearing it on your next trip to the market.

People here take fashion seriously, and keeping up with the latest trends is tough. I have done my share of endurance events. I also have been a tag-along on a number of fashion expeditions. Let me just say, I'll take the marathon over shoe shopping any day. It's not that I have anything against fashion. I just don't get it. My wardrobe has not changed significantly in the last 15 years. Sure, there was that "Wham" phase I went through in the '80s, and a few years during college when I thought I was a hippie, but through it all, I have always been a pretty basic jeans and T-shirt kind of guy. Having been engaged now for a little while, I am making more of an effort. But I'll be honest, I am pretty hopeless. I'm really OK with this, and I have nothing against those who are more fashion savvy than I. However, there are some times when I have a problem with fashion. I don't agree with any fashion that is too expensive, completely impractical, or downright dangerous.

Let me just say from the beginning that

when it comes to money, I have a double standard. I will easily drop two months pay on a new bike, but if new jeans cost more than \$20, I get annoyed. I guess it's all about priorities. Some people spend money on clothes while others spend it on gear. I am a gear guy and if all of my T-shirts come from races I have done, then that is just more money I can spend on running shoes. Still, even when it comes to gear I am pretty thrifty. I like to stick to what I know and have never really been one to get caught up in all of the sporty trends out there. I have been wearing the same brand of running shoe since I was in junior high, and will wear a pair of biking shorts until they become obscene. I apologize to those of you who have been riding behind me when my shorts have crossed over this line. My theory is that there is no substitute for hard work and that any expensive new gimmick that promises to make you a better athlete is really not worth my time. If you want to spend your money on something that will make you look better without the work, buy the expensive jeans. If you really want to improve your fitness, any old running shoes will do the trick.

Practicality and fashion don't often go together. You will never see an article in Vogue magazine on, "What's hot in practical footwear." Fashion has no regard for seasons or comfort and if you want to look good, chances are you will be uncomfortable. Down jackets are not practical in the summer, skirts don't keep you warm in the snow, and heels ... don't even get me started. Still, people wear it if it is "in." In ath-

LA is arguably the fashion capital of the universe.

If it is hip, cool, trendy, uncomfortable, or outrageously expensive, chances are you will see someone wearing it on your next trip to the market.

letics, this is simply not the case. Function almost always takes precedence over fashion. Most bikers don't wear lycra because it looks good, and if you do, wake up. Working out and staying in shape is uncomfortable enough without having to worry about your cute little shorts causing you some nasty chafing. I am not saying that you have to look bad to be comfortable, but you should never compromise function for fashion when it comes to your health.

Warning: I am about to get on my soapbox. Fashion trends should never be followed if they are dangerous. I have seen women wearing platform sandals that would make circus performers take notice. But risking a sprained ankle is not what I am talking about. Recently, I have seen a growing trend among bikers in this area that is rather alarming. More and more people are out there biking around without helmets. Apparently, there are some of you out there who don't have anything up there that you are worried about protecting. I barely take a shower without putting on a helmet, and wouldn't be caught dead biking on PCH without one. Actually, there is a good chance I would be caught dead on PCH if I didn't

have a helmet. It doesn't matter how skilled you are on your bike, or how short your ride is going to be, it only takes a second for an accident to occur and chances are it won't be caused by something you did. A helmet is no guarantee but it's better than nothing. If you want to look cool or European, wear black and drink espresso. Don't cruise around on your "Colnago" bike without a little protection on your lid.

I am not trying to say that fashion and fitness are mutually exclusive. It's absolutely fine to look good while you work out, just try to keep everything in perspective. Keep your activities safe, comfortable, and affordable and you will be fine. And remember, most of us work out so that the stuff underneath all of that expensive and binding clothing looks good. I would personally rather look good in the shower than I would in the latest suit. But it's a little tough to look good when you are wet, naked and wearing a helmet.

(Thaddeus Reichley is a pro-triathlete and middle school teacher in Santa Monica).

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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Privilege has its costs

Editor:

As I watched the homeless people sift through the garbage cans in the alley, pan-handle on the beach and boardwalk, beg on street corners and in front of the market, library and other public places, and just considered all the people starving in the streets, I found myself on this Thursday hoping George and Laura Bush were having a lovely coronation.

Peter Davison
Santa Monica

World poised to pass us by



I have read recently where ol' king George will cut social services, and add to the military and homeland defense. I smiled as I read this because in an earlier issue of the paper there was an article of how a family in Pennsylvania lost everything they had due to a series of unfortunate events. Starting with a lay-off, and then escalating to an illness, finally the person who was laid off was unable to find a job. This family lost their house and a few things, which are taken for granted in our society today. In a more recent issue of the New York Times, there was the story of a woman who was laid off and has been looking for work for six months. She may lose her house and have to move in with family at the age of fortysomething because her unemployment has run out.

I find it quite amazing that in this once-rich nation in which we live, a person has to be unemployed for more than the time in which their unemployment lasts, and that we give work to those who are not citizens of this country legally. Bush plans to cut spending even more to social programs which would help the economy by stimulating spending and keeping more people from becoming homeless.

Have we as a nation grown so blind as to not be able to see what is happening? How can this economy rebound if there are no jobs for people, thereby stimulating manufacturing and sales jobs here on our soil? And if this trend continues, how long will it be before the booming real estate market goes pop and the dollar becomes worth nothing but the cloth it is printed upon? And if you think there are homeless now, wait for the next six months to a year and you will see more and more homeless as the jobs leave and the wages continue to go down.

Soon this country will be no more than a third world country and Europe, China, Japan and Korea will be the economic leaders, leaving this once proud nation in the dust.

I find it quite amazing how blind we are to the whole situation our country is in, how we turn a blind eye to the growing situation of homelessness and its causes as they unfold before our eyes, and the divide between rich and poor becomes not a crack but a chasm. This is how it was when I was in China and how it is in most other countries where our so called American corporations send our manufacturing jobs. Is this how we want our country to be remembered, as a country where its own citizens are thrown away like litter and made slaves for profit? Is this what we want to give our children and our grandchildren, a nation of debt and homelessness?

This is what I see in the trends we have set up for ourselves in the last few decades. I see this nation becoming a third world nation, and our children and grandchildren working for pennies, or sent off to fight and die in a Vietnam-style war. I see homelessness increasing and even those who think themselves secure will see the streets as home soon as the real estate bubble finally deflates due to the growing unemployment and lack of benefits to tide them over. I see our elderly dying more rapidly due to the cuts in Medicare and Medicaid, and the mentally ill becoming more numerous for the same reason.

You who might think "not me" or "not my family" may find yourselves in the same food lines you want to abolish in Santa Monica. This is the final result of decades of our nation having short-term memory loss, and being worried about self over our fellow American citizens. And the funny thing about it is when we put ourselves above our fellow citizens, we forget that we are all American citizens and what affects one of us sooner or later affects us all — as a nation.

(Charles Springer is a semi-homeless American citizen, freelance artist and writer. Charles can be reached at Chaz_59@yahoo.com)

Pity the poor, let's party



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

My column last week was an open letter to President Bush. Considering the serious times we're living in, I asked him to suggest to the corporate sponsors of the inauguration that they consider toning down the festivities and think about donating at least some of the estimated \$50 million to worthwhile causes instead of just underwriting all the parties, balls and celebrations. Obviously, the great number of people who felt as I did didn't get him to change things. Here are some of the many responses that I got to the column.

One response was from a newspaper that asked my permission to reprint the column. The request came from the "Lone Star Iconoclast" of Crawford Texas, home of the Bush ranch.

Other responses from readers included: **MICHAEL:** "You have hit the nail squarely on the head. I hope your article reaches the president's desk, then his eyes, then his heart."

SHERRY: "I find it reprehensible that money is spent in such an extravagant manner when so many Americans are unemployed, uninsured, the Social Security program is in dire straits and the national debt is so out of control."

DOUG: "I wonder how you would feel if it was John Kerry's inauguration?"

DELORES: "... I agree some sort of celebration is warranted, but keep it low key."

PATRICK: "Let the winners of the election celebrate, have a good time, and spend as much in private money as they wish and let's not begrudge them it."

FRANCES: "I attended the inauguration four years ago because I'm a Republican, Texan, and a loyal friend and supporter of George and Laura and the Bush administration. I agree with and support your letter 100 percent and hope George will listen to what you wrote."

JERRY: "Such silliness! Your 'open letter' is a childish attempt to make poor Bush look bad."

ALLICIA: "That is an awesome idea. It truly would be an inauguration to never forget."

DAVE: "... I took your prompt and e-mailed the president, indicating that I concur with your view of the inauguration celebration. No wonder people outside of America think we are pigs with all of our ridiculous indulgence."

DICK: "Why can't more journalists offer constructive observations such as this? Thank you."

CINDY: "... As for your childish rant

about the Bush inauguration: This is the USA, not Communist China. We've got the God-given right to spend our money the way we want to."

CRYSTAL: "I used to admire President Bush, especially after the way he handled things after 9/11. But now, all he wants is the glitz. Shame on you President Bush!"

MARALYN: "Mr. President: ... What are you thinking? ... There are families that need help as they deal with senseless killings of their loved ones in the war. The tsunami victims need help and California mudslides are wiping out families. I'm sorry to say I'm ashamed to have you as our president."

GWEN: "... This inauguration in our United States is like crowning a king in another country ... We can do our part with the world's problems and still have an inauguration as a country that is proud of our ceremony and events."

KAREN: "I guarantee that had Mr. Bush lost and this was Mr. Kerry's inauguration, the article would not have been written. Who cares what other countries think of us? ... We should celebrate like true Americans when something good happens to our country."

JAMES: "As a member of the Republican Party who will be attending the Black-tie and Boots ball on Wednesday evening, ... I must tell you that I'm not the least bit ashamed of this celebration in light of what is happening in Indonesia ... Frankly, I'm sick and tired of Socialists trying to make Americans feel guilty for being successful."

PJM: "Dear President Bush: First, congratulations on being reelected; and best of luck and health in your second term. I was proud and honored to have served as one of your reelection campaign coordinators here in ... County. I feel that Lloyd Garver best states my exact thoughts, so please indulge me the opportunity to pass on his comments for your respectful consideration: '... If you convince these people to give their money to a worthy cause instead of just throwing a gala dedicated to excess, no one will ever forget this inauguration. Wouldn't that be a more appropriate way to celebrate America?'"

By the way, the president never got back to me. I guess he just didn't get the message.

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



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The Q Line

SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK: WHO SHOULD BE PILLAR?

This past week, Q-line asked:
Should it be left up to communities throughout California to fund their own school districts, or is it the state's responsibility?

Here are your responses:

© "All I know is that we need to cut the fat. Just check out the parking spaces in front of the Santa Monica-Malibu district headquarters on 16th Street and Olympic — all of the administration staff are driving Jags and BMWs."

© "Affluent communities like Malibu can well afford to support and subsidize their school districts. Such is not the case in all communities. Yes, the state and even the federal government should help out in these instances. We must have better educated children. If Bush can spend \$40 million on his inauguration, and finance nine inaugural balls, I should think he could find a few dollars so that — as he has claimed on many occasion — no child will be left behind. No more Bush phoniness and baloney."

© "The question about should the state help local communities in their schools is a good one, actually a very good one. My answer is that it should not, that the local schools could actually get by very well with the few needs they are: One, a simple schoolhouse; two, one principal; three, one secretary; four, dedicated, well-educated teachers commensurate with the number of students; five, textbooks that haven't been politicized; six, a good full curriculum and for supplies they should have papers, pencils, and a few balls for recess so the kids get exercise, and they should get that exercise. What they do not need is an over-stuffed bureaucracy. They should have reviews every year, there should be state requirements that they know things by the end of the year but they don't need all the zillions of bureaucrats that are in there now. And in conclusion, some of the most well educated people I've ever known have been schooled in one-room schoolhouses, private schools or at home. If they have extra money they can spend it on art and on music, which I think is important. But also, those can be done locally by other means."

© "I remember when our educational system was absolutely the best in the country. We were at the top. And did we need to spend more money then? I don't believe that the quality of our education is really dependent on more money. The focus needs to return to quality. Something seems to have gone awry here and I would say at this point: Less spending, more quality."

© "It would seem it's either local idiots running things or state idiots running things. Using the LAUSD as an example, there's no sense in letting these idiots run things in LA. As far as the state, when the lottery came in they said that it would bring all this money to the schools. So what did they do, they just probably cut all the funding that the lottery brought it, so they're back there to square one. Now that idiot governor

wants to cut even more money — as usual — they should stop wasting money on administrators and use it for the teachers and the classroom. And then they should get rid of all the illegal aliens in the school. They could save money by doing that, so make the federal government pay for it."

© "The school funding problem has to do mainly — or mostly — with the Los Angeles school district due to its size and the business of teaching children of a multi-cultural society and community. As for Santa Monica, I feel that all colleges should be the wards of the state, and the Malibu school district should have severed with Santa Monica years ago. We must keep in mind that school districts are bureaucracies ran by bureaucrats. All bureaucrats love larger departments: The larger the department, the larger the pay. The same old song and dance, more than enough is never enough, due to poor management."

© "No. Emphatically no, with an exclamation mark. In the old days property taxes were used to pay for schools, the police department, the fire department and street lights, etc. No hospitals were paid for with property taxes, in the old days. Private hospitals were bearing that responsibility. But, because of the heavy financial burden of today, with inflation, high salaries, etc. schools should no longer be financed with property taxes, or any part of the property taxes, rather, by the state and its funding apparatus. The state, when it needs assistance, should appeal to the U.S. government, the federal government, for any shortages. And the state should also remember that turning over financial responsibility to the local school districts will be like letting somebody jump into a sea or swamp of alligators. It will be impossible for local communities to finance their own school districts. And there's a situation where as far as the Deasys of the world are concerned this would eliminate the necessities of the Deasys of the world, trying to milk local citizenry for funds that he says he hasn't got to run his school district. The John Deasys are an anathema to fiscal responsibility."

© "Education is not the responsibility of the state, local school boards or Hillary's village. It is the parents responsibility. It's not up to us, who have elected to remain child free, to subsidize the spawn of biological clock-ticking bimbos and macho men. Subsidizing litters of rug rats leads to more people, more resource depletion, more pollution, more crime, and wars over resources. Don't breed 'em if you can't feed 'em, or can't educate them yourself."

© "Yes I think it's ideal for Santa Monica community to run their own school system."

GUEST COMMENTARY BY ALEX EPSTEIN

Put Social Security out of its misery

Throughout the nation, a fierce debate rages over Social Security. One side, led by President Bush, says the system is in crisis and must be saved via "partial privatization." The other side says the system is basically sound and can be saved with a little tinkering.

Both sides, however, agree on one absolute: Social Security should be saved. While it may have financial problems, they believe, some form of mandatory government-run retirement program is morally necessary.

But is it?

Social Security is commonly portrayed as benefiting most, if not all, Americans by providing them "risk-free" financial security in old age.

This is a fraud.

Under Social Security, lower- and middle-class individuals are forced to pay a significant portion of their income — approximately 12 percent — for the alleged purpose of securing their retirement. That money is not saved or invested, but transferred directly to the program's current beneficiaries — with the "promise" that when current taxpayers get old, the income of future taxpayers will be transferred to them. Since this scheme creates no wealth, any benefits one person receives in excess of his payments necessarily come at the expense of others.

Under Social Security, every aspect of the government's "promise" to provide financial security is at the mercy of political whim. The government can change how much of an individual's money it takes — it has increased the payroll tax 17 times since 1935. The government can spend his money on anything it wants — observe the long-time practice of spending any annual Social Security surplus on other entitlement programs. The government can change when (and therefore if) it chooses to pay him benefits and how much they consist of — witness the current proposals to raise the age cutoff or lower future benefits. Under Social Security, whether an individual gets twice as much from others as was taken from him, or half as much, or nothing at all, is entirely at the discretion of politicians. He cannot count on Social Security for anything — except a massive drain on his income.

If Social Security did not exist — if the individual were free to use that 12 percent of his income as he chose — his ability to better his future would be incomparably greater. He could save for his retirement with a diversified, long-term, productive investment in stocks or

bonds. Or he could reasonably choose not to devote all 12 percent to retirement. He might choose to work far past the age of 65. He might choose to live more comfortably when he is young and more modestly in old age. He might choose to invest in his own productivity through additional education or starting a business.

How much, when, and in what form one should provide for retirement is highly individual — and is properly left to the individual's free judgment and action. Social Security deprives the young of this freedom, and thus makes them less able to plan for the future, less able to provide for their retirements, less able to buy homes, less able to enjoy their most vital years, less able to invest in themselves.

And yet Social Security's advocates continue to push it as moral. Why?

The answer lies in the program's ideal of "universal coverage" — the idea that, as a recent New York Times editorial preached, "all old people must have the dignity of financial security" — regardless of how irresponsibly they have acted. On this premise, since some would not save adequately on their own, everyone must be forced into some sort of "guaranteed" collective plan — no matter how irrational. Observe that Social Security's wholesale harm to those who would use their income responsibly is justified in the name of those who would not. The rational and responsible are shackled and throttled for the sake of the irrational and irresponsible.

Those who wish to devote their wealth to saving the irresponsible from the consequences of their own actions should be free to do so through private charity, but to loot the savings of untold millions of innocent, responsible, hard-working young people in the name of such a goal is a monstrous injustice.

Social Security in any form is morally irredeemable. We should be debating, not how to save Social Security, but how to end it — how to phase it out so as to best protect both the rights of those who have paid into it, and those who are forced to pay for it today. This will be a painful task. But it will make possible a world in which Americans enjoy far greater freedom to secure their own futures.

(Alex Epstein is a writer for the Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine, Calif. The Institute promotes the philosophy of Ayn Rand, author of Atlas Shrugged and The Fountainhead.)



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STATE

House call: Legislator's widow to pursue seat

BY JIM WASSERMAN

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — When Doris Matsui announced plans last week to run for her late husband's seat in Congress, she chose the fastest and most historic route to Capitol Hill for women: being the widow of a man who was there already.

Since 1923, 44 women have gone to the House or Senate upon the death of a husband in office.

Matsui's husband, Rep. Robert T. Matsui, a Democrat who represented a Sacramento district for 26 years, died at 63 on Jan. 1 of a rare bone marrow disease. If Doris Matsui wins a special election this spring, she will join three other congressional widows on Capitol Hill, all of them in the House.

Matsui, a 60-year-old Washington lobbyist and former Clinton White House official, said her husband was among many who suggested she try to succeed him.

"It was a brief conversation during this very intense time. He said, 'You'd make a wonderful member of Congress.' But he also said you have to feel it and do it for the right reasons. I want to continue his legacy and what he's done," she said. "But I want to blaze my own trail, too."

Since 1923, when California Republican Mae Ella Nolan succeeded her late husband, John, in the House, deaths in Washington have propelled 36 widows to the House and eight to the Senate.

Though the phenomenon today accounts for only a few of the 79 women in Congress, it nonetheless remains one of the most assured, if woeful, paths to Capitol Hill.

"I tell people there are other ways you can be a member of Congress that's less painful," said Rep. Lois Capps, a California Democrat who in 1998 was elected to the seat of her late husband, Walter.

Matsui, like many congressional widows before her, came under immediate pressure to run for her husband's seat. She entered the race Jan. 12, asking "those who supported him to now support me."

The outpouring of public sympathy and quick, critical endorsements from members of her party, including House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi of California, cleared the field of major challengers.

"Very few spouses ever lose," said Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University in New Jersey. Politically, "there's a huge advantage to being the widow."

California provided one of the few exceptions in 1999, when voters rejected Marta Macias Brown, running for the San Bernardino-area seat that had been held by her husband, Rep. George Brown.

In addition to Capps, the other congressional widows now in office are Mary Bono, a California Republican whose husband, former pop star Sonny Bono, was killed in a 1998 skiing accident, and Jo Ann Emerson, a Missouri Republican and former lobbyist who won her husband's seat in 1996 after he died of cancer.

Emerson, for her part, quickly immersed herself in issues important to her rural district, especially agriculture, and voters have since re-elected her four times.

"I knew I would win the election because of the sympathy vote," Emerson said of her first campaign. "But I also knew I had two years to prove myself."

And Capps, a nurse, carved out a niche in public health issues and has been re-elected three times.

Matsui's recent predecessors also include Missouri's Jean Carnahan, a Democrat who went to the Senate in place of her husband, Mel Carnahan. He was posthumously elected to the Senate after a plane crash just before Election Day 2000.

While 26 widows served just one term, others have gone on to long careers.

After the 1973 deaths of their husbands, Democratic Reps. Corrine "Lindy" Boggs of Louisiana and Cardiss Collins of Illinois spent 17 and 23 years in the House respectively. Margaret Chase Smith of Maine, elected in 1940 after the death of her husband, Clyde, served 32 distinguished years in the House and Senate. She was the first senator to denounce Sen. Joseph McCarthy in 1950, and she ran for the GOP presidential nomination in 1964.

For now, Matsui said, she is thinking only about serving out her husband's term, which started this month.

"Let's see what happens," she said. "Every two years you decide, and that's what I'm going to be doing."



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STATE



Tired of seeing red, Democrats assemble to map out a strategy

WILD WEST, from page 1

broadly to western voters.

"I don't think Democrats can win without the West, so we need a DNC chairman to come out here and really understand the West," said Arizona Democratic Chairman Jim Pedersen. "Democrats have lost the South, so we have to look for another field to mine. And here is where the opportunity is."

It is also the challenge for the candidates running to succeed outgoing DNC Chairman Terry McAuliffe, most of whom are expected to come to Sacramento to make their pitch.

Candidates include former presidential candidate and Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, former Reps. Tim Roemer and Martin Frost, former Denver Mayor Wellington Webb, party field strategist Donnie Fowler, New Democratic Network President Simon Rosenberg and former Ohio Democratic Chairman David Leland.

"What we need in the DNC chair is somebody who has a strategy beyond the top-tier 18 states," said Utah Democratic Chairman Donald Dunn, referring to the states targeted by John Kerry in 2004. "And we need a message that works for westerners — on environmental issues, land use and the perception that Democrats want to take your guns away."

Even Utah, where President Bush won 71 percent of the vote in November, saw some important Democratic wins. Voters in populous Salt Lake County elected a Democratic mayor, Peter Corroon, and the state's sole Democratic congressman, Jim Matheson, was handily re-elected.

Democrats also enjoyed significant gains in Montana, where Bush defeated Kerry by 20 percentage points. The state elected its first Democratic governor in 20 years, Brian Schweitzer, and Democrats captured control of both the state Senate and House.

Montana Democratic Party executive director Brad Martin credited strong grassroots organizing and a concerted effort to frame "family values" in terms that play to Democratic strengths.

Seven up: Prominent Democrats vie for chair of National Committee

By The Associated Press

A brief look at the candidates competing to head the Democratic National Committee:

Howard Dean

Age: 56

Experience: Former presidential candidate; Vermont governor 1991-2003.

Donnie Fowler

Age: 37

Experience: Led the Kerry-Edwards campaign in Michigan in 2004.

Martin Frost

Age: 63

Experience: Texas congressman, 1978-2005.

David Leland

Age: 51

Experience: Ohio Democratic Party chairman, 1995-2002.

Tim Roemer

Age: 48

Experience: Indiana congressman, 1991-2003; member of the Sept. 11 Commission.

Simon Rosenberg

Age: 41

Experience: Founder and president, New Democratic Network.

Wellington Webb

Age: 63

Experience: Mayor of Denver, 1992-2004; current DNC vice chairman.

"It's a family value to have better wages, and it's a family value that people have health care," Martin said, noting Montana's poor economy and large number of uninsured residents. "We regularly organized with a values-based message."

Southwestern states, with their rapid population growth and large representation of Hispanic voters, may be Democrats' biggest target of opportunity.

Arizona and New Mexico have Democratic governors, while Democrats in Colorado in 2004 regained control of both houses of the Legislature and picked up a U.S. Senate and U.S. House seat previously held by Republicans. Nevada Sen. Harry Reid became Senate minority leader after South Dakota Sen. Tom Daschle lost his bid for re-election.

But all four of those states went for Bush in 2004, frustrating some activists who felt the national party did not realize the potential for success in that region.

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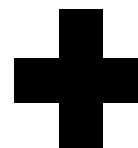
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NATIONAL

Ranchers urge more review of mad cow disease

BY JUDITH KOHLER

Associated Press Writer

DENVER — A new case of mad cow disease in Canada shows that much more needs to be learned about the prevalence of the ailment before the United States relaxes restrictions on beef imports from there, the head of a ranchers' group and experts said Thursday.

Economists joined Bill Bullard, chief executive of R-CALF United Stockgrowers of America, in urging a scientifically based risk assessment of allowing in more Canadian beef.

Starting March 7, the U.S. Department of Agriculture plans to ease the restrictions imposed in May 2003, when Canada reported its first case of mad cow disease.

Federal officials have said they still believe the safeguards Canada has in place will protect the U.S. cattle industry and consumers, but are sending a technical team to check the case confirmed Jan. 11.

That's not good enough, said Bullard, whose group is holding its national convention in Denver through Saturday. The Billings, Mont.-based group, made up of ranchers and feed lot owners, is suing to prevent the easing of restrictions on Canadian beef.

"We need to be restoring and rebuilding the consumer confidence that was lost and we certainly do not do that by increasing risk and lowering your health and safety import standards," Bullard said.

The lone U.S. case of BSE was found in a dairy cow in Washington state in December 2003, born in Alberta, Canada.

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease, attacks the animal's nervous system. Food contaminated with BSE can afflict people with usually fatal variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

The lone U.S. case of BSE was in a dairy cow in Washington state in December 2003 that was born in Alberta, Canada. All the cows diagnosed in Canada — the first in 2003, another one reported Jan. 2 and the most recent — were all from Alberta herds.

So far, Canada has tested about 32,000 cows since it stepped-up monitoring. Canada should test at least 50,000 cows to provide a better statistical analysis of the disease's prevalence, said Tony Cox, a risk analyst with Cox Associates Inc. in Denver.

He said he is worried that so many cases have been found with so few cattle tested. He disputed the USDA's assurances that Canada meets the World Organization for Animal Health criteria for being considered a minimal risk for the disease.

"I think a wait-and-see policy is a much more valuable policy than a don't-worry, be-happy policy," Cox said.

Bullard and John Van Sickle, a University of Florida economist, said Japan is less likely to lift its ban on U.S. beef if Canadian imports are increased. Japan, the largest foreign market for U.S. beef in 2003, accounting for \$1.7 billion in sales, imposed the ban after the Washington state cow was diagnosed.

The USDA has allowed Canada to import boneless meat from animals under 30 months. Younger animals are considered less risky because they were born after 1997, when both Canada and the United States banned grinding up cattle parts for cattle feed.

Feed containing parts from cattle and similar animals is suspected in a major outbreak of mad cow disease in Europe in the 1990s.

The USDA's new rule would allow Canada to import live cattle under 30 months and an expanded list of beef parts.

Before the trade ban, animals regularly crossed the border and Canada sold more than 70 percent of its live cattle to the United States. That market was worth \$1.5 billion in 2002.

Sen. Ken Salazar, D-Colo., said the

Senate Agriculture Committee has scheduled a Feb. 3 hearing to discuss whether the trade restrictions should be lifted.

"I think opening up the border to Canadian imports is a very serious question," said Salazar, a committee member and a fifth-generation rancher from the San Luis Valley in southern Colorado.

He said risks to the cattle industry and consumers have to be weighed.

The Denver-based National Cattlemen's Beef Association, which represents ranchers and meat packers, has expressed confidence in steps the Canadian and U.S. industries have taken. The latest case, however, has raised concerns among association members, said John Braley, a vice president with the organization.

Braley said his group wants the USDA to look into Canada's compliance with the feed ban and whether meat from older cattle should be imported. Members will tackle those issues during their national convention Feb. 2 in San Antonio, Texas.

Tom Connelley, who raises and sells cattle in Belle Fourche, S.D., said most people he talks to have made up their minds: keep the border closed. He said demand for his beef has increased because "people want to know it's U.S. grown."

Connelley said he thinks the large meat packing companies are pushing to allow Canadian imports.

"They don't seem to be concerned with whether ranching is profitable," he said.



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INTERNATIONAL



Mexican drug cartels do battle along U.S. border

BY OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press Writer

MATAMOROS, Mexico — Drug traffickers were behind the slayings of six Mexican prison employees, specifically picking them out at a roadblock, officials said Friday, detailing the latest killings in an increasingly bloody turf war that has bodies turning up almost daily along the border.

Federal prosecutor Marco Antonio Ramirez said a group of assassins, dressed in black, set up a roadblock on the dirt road leading from the prison in this town across from Brownsville, Texas. The assassins stopped only the victims' cars and let others pass.

It was unclear why the six were targeted as they got off their work shifts. The victims included a computer systems technician, two electrical technicians, a guard commander and two drivers.

The prison employees were handcuffed, blindfolded and then shot to death, Ramirez said. Four showed signs of torture and all were left in a white sport utility vehicle parked across the road from the prison, one of the country's three top federal facilities.

Officials were still searching for two other cars belonging to the victims, as well as two white vehicles believed to have been used by the attackers.

Federal officials have described the killings as a direct challenge to President Vicente Fox's crackdown on the drug trade. Fox pledged Thursday to "wage the mother of all battles against organized crime, drug trafficking, and now within the federal prisons."

The killings mirrored another recent attack, also in Tamaulipas state. On Monday, authorities found the bodies of Teodoro Herrera, 67, and two of his adult sons along a road 170 miles southwest of Brownsville.

Witnesses said a heavily armed gang dressed in black seized more than 20 people, many of them members of the Herrera family, on Saturday. In addition to the three dead, three others remain missing. The rest were released unharmed.

For months, bodies have turned up in the trunks of cars, abandoned lots and homes along the border, evidence of a growing war between the Juarez and Gulf car-

tels, two of Mexico's most powerful drug gangs.

The Gulf cartel, allegedly headed by Osiel Cardenas, is based in Tamaulipas state. Federal officials say Cardenas has continued to run his organization from a prison outside Mexico City since being arrested nearly two years ago in Matamoros. They suggested he was linked to Thursday's slayings.

Interior Secretary Santiago Creel said Friday that Cabinet members declared an "all-out battle" against drug traffickers and would continue efforts to clean up the federal prison system.

A special team of federal police last week were sent to run La Palma prison, just west of Mexico City, after reports that drug lords were planning escapes and running their cartels from jail cells.

At the Matamoros prison, a white, concrete structure surrounded by high walls and barbed wire in the middle of deserted farm fields, soldiers and federal police sealed off access roads to the facility Friday and refused to let anyone within about a mile.

"Nothing and no one will intimidate this institution," Ramirez said, adding that more federal agents were on their way to the scene.

Teresa Lopez — the wife of one of the victims, Jose Guadalupe Medrano Rodriguez, who worked as a driver at the prison — was waiting outside the morgue to recover her husband's remains.

"He never talked about problems or threats," she said.

Relatives of Adolfo Zapata, 29, said they did not believe he was in danger because he did not have direct contact with inmates. He reviewed and maintained the prison's computer network.

Zapata's father, Francisco, said he wanted officials to find his son's killers.

"I hope God gives me the chance to see their faces," he said.

Also, the federal attorney general's office said it arrested six officials accused of permitting a drug trafficker's escape from a Zacatecas state prison on Jan. 18. The suspects include the prison's director.

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5'2" HOURGLASS Figure offers full-body sensual massage. Very private, very discreet, 6am-9pm. Incall/Outcall special rate between 6am-9pm, Rachel (310) 339-6709

A -1Hour Vacation. Body, Mind & Spirit with a full-body therapeutic Swedish/Deep-tissue massage. Lora (310) 394-2923 (310) 569-0883.

AMBIANCE MASSAGE OFFERING a light touch therapy by Kevin. C.M.T out calls only (310) 894-2443

CHOCOLATE MASSEUSE. Foot Back-walk, Rocks, Stretch, Dance, Knead, Nurture Tentions (\$150-200). Dolly (310) 890-3531, Platonic out-calls.

EXQUISITE, INTUITIVE, strong and tender relaxing bodywork by mature European. Professional Lady Sonja (310) 397-0433.

FULL BODY Swedish to light fingertip massage by classy European therapist. Serious callers only. (310) 826-7271.

STRONG & NURTURING MASSAGE by Fitness Trainer. \$40/hr. No time limit. Paul (310) 741-1901.

THAI YOGA massage by Thai woman in West LA. pnthaiyogamassage.com (310) 645-2702

THERAPEUTIC RELAXING massage. Swedish, Thai, and Deep Tissue. Call Cynthia (310) 397-0199

Announcements

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SUPERFOOD SECRET: Featured of Oprah... “Be Healthy” “Get Wealthy” Start your business for \$39.95 (323) 467-3399

WORK FROM home or anywhere. Internet business, Health & Wellness. Excellent opportunity and training. (888) 249-7411 www.livingsecureforever.com

Yard Sales

GRANT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is having a children's clothing, books, and sports equipment yard sale on January 22, 2005, between 9am-1pm. All proceeds to benefit Tsunami relief efforts. 2368 Pearl St. in Santa Monica (25th Street & Pearl)

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Lost & Found

\$ MONEY FOUND \$
On Sunday January 16th in the afternoon money was found in the city of Santa Monica. To identify & claim please call (310) 452-0026.

Lost & Found

LOST PASSPORT on 1/15/05 on Main Street. Name Sorin Costache, please email any info to: sorin@ilfornocaffe.com

LOST: DIAMOND RING:
on Christmas Eve on 2nd Street @ Arizona in Santa Monica.
Reward for return.
Please contact
Lynne (310) 208-0028 or
Brenda @ Santa Monica Daily Press (310) 458-7737

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Talk to a Model 24hrs.

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818-264-1906

213-259-1902

949-722-2222

\$10/17 min.

ATM/CC/Checks by phone

www.USLove.com

SINGLE?
FASTDATER, LA's premier 3-minute speed dating company in hosting a party at El Guapo Cantina in Hollywood, February 1st. Don't miss out on the opportunity to meet 25-30 sexy singles! Parties sell out fast so don't hesitate & RSVP today @ fast-dater.com

Obituaries

EDWARD HOWARD LASH

Born: November 29, 1927 - Coffeyville Kansas

Died: December 22, 2004 - Thousand Oaks, California

A true American success story. Born in Kansas to meager means, raised by older Siblings, he served in the US Army & the Korean War. After returning, he went west with a young family & began two successful careers - first, as a Musician, & second as a civil engineer. His jazz sax entertained Army Troops, concert goers, friends & family alike. As a Civil Engineer, he served the City of Santa Monica for 25 years. He managed the City's Water, Cemetery, & Sewer departments until 1988. In his later years, “Big Ed” was an avid Ham/CB radio operator & touched many friends through this pursuit, both near & far. In keeping with Ed's wishes, no services are planned, & his Ashes will soar in the warm winds over Oahu. Donations, may be made in his name to the Thousand Oaks Health Care Center.

Mortuary:

Dignity Memorial Pierce Brother's Valley Oaks - Westlake, CA



George Chung Realtors

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4323 Normandie



\$569,000

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1301 SEWARD ST , LOS ANGELES 9002



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Beautiful TWO HOUSES on one LOT. Perfect for investor but extra perfect for a family to live in front house with beautiful front yard while getting income from separate house income. Central AIR, New Kitchen, New hardwood floors throughout, great natural light, two separate private entrances, Two separate address. Do not disturb tenants. This is a great investment property, call Thomas and Brent today to find out how you can start investing in income properties without having to do any work!

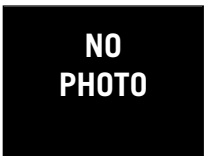
1850 Euclid St. (CONDO DEVELOPMENT)



1.395million

AMAZING OPPURTUNITY for a CONDO DEVELOPMENT PROJECT in SANTA MONICA. How often do you get an opportunity to bring in 7K in rents per month prior to tearing the property down and building condos. Have this building bring in income while you are getting plans and permits approved from the city. The lot can fit approximately 10 condos. The building next door currently has condos on it as well as the unit directly behind is currently being permitted for condos. Call now to find out more about this AMAZING opportunity.

341 47th Place



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2 Bedroom+1 Bath front house with a 1 bedroom 1 bath in the back. Great investment property to live in or to purchase fix up and rent out. Near USC and many other conveniences. Let us tell you more about this and other great investment opportunity. To view this or any home call Thomas or Brent today 310-943-7656.

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3259 ROSEWOOD AVE , LOS ANGELES 90066

Completely remodeled home; new roof in Apr/2000, 200amp, copper plumbing from street to all fixtures, 100gal water heater, central heating, all new maple cabinets, granite counters, laundry rm in the garage w/mop sink; hardwood floors; family rm; living room w/wood burning fire place; Dining Room; wired internet to bedrm, living rm & office; Rm addition done in 2000. To view this or any home call Thomas or Brent today 310-943-7656.



\$925,000

3457 ROSEWOOD AVE , LOS ANGELES 90066

Lovely 2 story, contemporary home located on a quite Mar Vista street which features living room with brick, gas burning fire place, formal dining room with pass through window to kitchen, kitchen with built-ins and plenty of cabinet space.

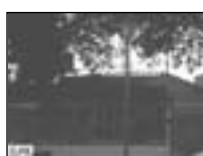


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11049 LINDBLADE ST , CULVER CITY 90230

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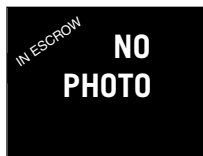
2614 Chariton Street



\$587,000

This is a very traditional 3bedroom 1 bath home in one of the hottest areas of Culver City. Have you ever visited the HELMS BAKERY? Well now you can walk to it. Take a look at this beautiful home that has a BONUS ill. Converted garage with 2 bedrooms. Electric has been updated but with a good size lot is in need of your own Tender Loving Care. To view this or any home call Thomas or Brent today. 310-943-7656.

3416 Wall Street



\$575,000

4 Unit Building, each very large 2 bedroom 1 bath bringing in a net of \$4500.00 per month. This building is a great investment and needs very little maintenance. This is a great investment property, call Thomas and Brent today to find out how you can start investing in income properties without having to do any work!

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Keys to tickle ivories at next month’s Grammys

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Green Day, Alicia Keys, Tim McGraw and U2 will perform at the 47th annual Grammy Awards next month.

They are the first group of performers to be announced by the Recording Academy.

Keys is nominated for eight Grammys. Green Day has six nominations, U2 has three and McGraw has two nominations.

The Grammys will be presented Feb. 13 at the Staples Center, with Queen Latifah as host. Presenters include Ellen DeGeneres and John Travolta.

U2 will be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in March, along with R&B singers The O’Jays, soul balladeer Percy Sledge, the Pretenders and blues guitarist Buddy Guy.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foundation will hold its induction ceremony March 14 at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel in Manhattan.

SALZBURG, Austria — The Salzburg Festival will produce all 22 works of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart next year in a marathon 250th birthday present to the Austrian musical genius.

The works will include the seven most performed Mozart operas, including premieres of “Le Nozze di Figaro” and “Idomeneo,” festival organizers told reporters Thursday.

But “the great seven operas ... would have been too little for Salzburg,” said festival director Peter Ruzicka. “The idea is to be able to examine the development of this unique genius and to contrast it with the music of the 21st century.”

He promised to engage “excellent ... singers on the highest international levels” for all productions.

Interest is already said to be high, with the Austria Press Agency reporting several inquiries from Mozart fans planning to attend all 22 performances.

The special emphasis on Mozart is part of the hundreds of events, performances and exhibition commemorating the 250th anniversary of the composer, considered by Austrians as their country’s greatest son.

BELGRADE, Serbia-Montenegro — Greeting members of the rock band R.E.M. in his Belgrade office, Serbia’s President Boris Tadic said he’s a fan and requested that his favorite song, “Orange Crush,” be played at their concert Friday.

Youthful and soft-spoken, Tadic, 46, is at the helm of a democratic leadership striving to open the troubled Balkan republic to the West after years of ostracism and isolation during the rule of Yugoslavia’s ex-President Slobodan Milosevic.

Bringing world-famous artists to the country is part of that effort, said Nebojsa Krstic, head of Tadic’s press team.

Krstic said Tadic has been a fan of R.E.M. since the band’s early days in the 1980s.

On Thursday, R.E.M. frontman Michael Stipe presented Tadic with a copy of the band’s new CD and Tadic gave the band a CD of Serbian ethnic music, “Serbia Sounds Global,” saying he hoped the exotic sound might inspire new hits.

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Elvis Costello is creating an opera based on Danish fairy tale writer Hans Christian Andersen’s impossible romance with a Swedish woman.

“The Secret Arias” is based on songs written by Andersen for Jenny Lind, a soprano dubbed the “Swedish Nightingale,” whom the Dane pined for, despite her never returning his affections, said Henrik

Engelbrecht, head of dramaturgy at the Royal Theater.

“Elvis immediately loved the idea and when we met him 18 months ago to discuss it, he had already a clear idea about the opera,” Engelbrecht told The Associated Press on Thursday.

It is believed that Andersen wrote his tale “The Nightingale” with Lind in mind.

The work will open in 2006 in the new opera house’s small experimental stage that can seat 200. The cast hasn’t yet been decided.

After Copenhagen, “The Secret Arias” likely will go on an international tour, Engelbrecht said, and be released as a CD and DVD.

Costello, who has recorded with Swedish soprano Anne Sofie Von Otter and the Brodsky Quartet, will perform the songs in a concert this fall at the new \$441 million opera house, which opened Jan. 15.

This year, Danes mark the bicentennial of Andersen’s birth. Andersen is renowned for his children’s stories, including the classics “The Little Match Girl,” “The Ugly Duckling” and “The Red Shoes.” He died in 1875.

NEW YORK — Ben Heppner finally is ready to take on Wagner’s Siegfried.

The Canadian tenor has agreed to sing the role in a new production of Wagner’s Ring Cycle at the Aix-en-Provence Festival in France, his agent, Bill Guerri, said Thursday.

Heppner, who sings Mahler on Sunday with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra at Carnegie Hall in New York, is scheduled to perform the title role in “Siegfried” for the first time on June 28, 2008. He also will sing the role of Siegfried in “Goetterdaemmerung,” the final opera of the four-night “Der Ring des Nibelungen,” for the first time on July 3, 2009.

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