

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

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Meganumber: 4
Jackpot: \$10 Million

FANTASY 5

12 14 21 30 35

DAILY 3

Daytime: 0 7 5
Evening: 9 7 8

DAILY DERBY

1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 10 Solid Gold
3rd: 05 California Classic

RACE TIME: 1:47:29

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In November, a Hindu seer in India's Orissa state drew large crowds, inspired by his calmness in the face of his announced, spiritually induced death, which was to come before noon on Nov. 17. At noon, however, he was still alive, and, according to Asian Age newspaper, the crowd of 15,000 suddenly turned ugly, berating him for not dying, and police had to intervene. The man, who is chief cleric of Srignuru Ashram, told reporters, "I wanted to leave my mortal body, but I could not. Please forgive me."

TODAY IN HISTORY

On Jan. 26, 1788, the first European settlers in Australia, led by Capt. Arthur Phillip, landed in present-day Sydney.

In 1802, Congress passed an act calling for a library to be established within the U.S. Capitol.

In 1837, Michigan became the 26th state.

In 1841, Britain formally occupied Hong Kong, which the Chinese had ceded to the British.

In 1861, Louisiana seceded from the Union.

In 1870, Virginia rejoined the Union.

In 1950, India officially proclaimed itself a republic as Rajendra Prasad took the oath of office as president.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Common sense is the collection of prejudices acquired by age 18."

— ALBERT EINSTEIN
GERMAN-BORN PHYSICIST (1879-1955)

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Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Palisades Park is starting to look like a danger zone, with caution tape and closure signs lining the grassy strip above the bluff. From the north to the south: The Montana and Idaho avenue stairs, as well as the Broadway stairs leading to the beach, are closed. Several areas along the park's edge also are off limits to the public.

Stuck in the mud: Battered bluff gets officials' attention

Mudslides, cracking lead to frequent road closures: compromise beach access

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

PALISADES PARK — As a new round of rainstorms headed towards Santa Monica on Tuesday evening, officials were closely tracking Palisades Bluff for further signs of cracking and mudslides.

The heavy deluge earlier this month saturated the bluff and sent mud, branches and other debris onto the Pacific Coast Highway, the California Incline and Moomat Ahiko Way, which connects PCH to Ocean Avenue by the Santa Monica Pier. The downpour also cracked the bluff in several places, and forced the closure of staircases and paths to the beach.

While officials said a major failure was more likely to occur two to three weeks after a storm,

when the bluff is drying out, they cautioned motorists to keep abreast of weather updates, adding ongoing slides could be expected.

"It's a long-standing problem," said James Rosenfeld, professor emeritus of geology at UCLA. "The city of Santa Monica was extremely smart making that a park because it is risky ... There are a lot of places in the Palisades that say, 'Oh, what a wonderful view.' That's sort of the idiot way of picking a building site. All those bluffs are unstable and anytime you have a cliff like that, with weak rocks, you're asking for it."

The bluff, which runs from Santa Monica Canyon to the pier, ranges from 30 to 150 feet in height. It's comprised of sand, silt and gravel bound together by clay, all washed down from the Santa Monica Mountains between 100,000 and 2 million years ago, according to Don Michael, a

See **CLIFFHANGER**, page 5

State begs to differ over dogs making splash

BY CORTNEY FIELDING

Special to the Daily Press

SM BEACH — Despite local approval, dogs will not run free here — if state officials have their way.

The state Parks and Recreation Department has a strict policy against allowing dogs on the beach, both on or off-leash, according to Roy Sterns, deputy director of communications at the

"Dogs on-leash means dogs on-leash when there is a ranger around. I've got some big concerns."

—RON SCHAFER

District Superintendent, State Parks Dept.

State Parks Department. These rules are written into state law, and have only been waived in very rare

exceptions, he said. None of those exceptions allow dogs off leashes or in the water.

The state's position could prove to be a setback for city staff working to establish an off-leash dog beach pilot program on Santa Monica State Beach, which was approved by the City Council earlier this month.

Before City Hall can go any further with the plan, which would involve sectioning off a part of beach — most likely between life-

See **DOG GONE IT**, page 6

Snakehead smuggler gets three years' probation

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A Koreatown market owner who admitted importing an illegal species of fish — the voracious snakehead that can travel on land and even feed on small birds and mammals — was placed on three years' probation.

Sung Chul "Daniel" Rhee, 46,

of Glendale pleaded guilty earlier to smuggling the live fish into the United States. He was arrested in May 2004 for importing and selling live snakehead fish, said Thom Mrozek, spokesman for U.S. Attorney's office.

As part of a plea deal, Rhee's business must pay a \$200,000 fine. Additionally, he must place ads in

two Korean newspapers with photographs of the fish and discourage consumers from buying it.

Had he been convicted at trial on the three federal misdemeanor counts, he would have faced a possible 15-year prison sentence.

The fish, native to parts of Asia and Africa, is believed to benefit pregnant women.

Rhee was arrested at his market Assi Super, where authorities said he sold the snakehead fish for \$14.99 a pound.

The fish were hidden in shipments of fresh food from South Korea's Hae Won Seafood via Korean Air, and the snakeheads were labeled "sea bass" or "bass, fresh water fish," prosecutors said.

Jacquie Banks

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ You bounce back with ideas. In the light of day, problems of yesterday seem minimal and easy to solve. Your high energy allows you to cruise through any issue that stumbles into your path. Others gravitate toward you. Creativity and humor intertwine. Tonight: Laugh along.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Your serious sense of direction and insightful perspective take you to another level. Work with others individually. Security will build to a new level if you apply your attention. Positive feedback takes on a new element. Tonight: Mosey on home.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Reach out for someone close. If he or she is hot under the collar, you will know what to say and how to handle this person. Let communication excel and bridge a difficult gap. You'll find answers through understanding. Tonight: Chat away.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Indulge yourself. Express your value by asking or expecting a stronger reception. You have a lot to offer. Remember that, especially at work right now. Start a diet or exercise program if you so choose. Tonight: Allow others to indulge you.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ The Moon in your sign gives you the popularity and demand of a rock 'n' roll star. Glance left and right; see your admirers. Someone could make an overture that makes you uncomfortable. Tonight: Relax; use this time for a mid-week break.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Emphasize your productivity, and you'll get far more done. You might be required to deal with a home or personal matter. This situation could call for a great deal of attention. Don't beat yourself up for not accomplishing more. Tonight: Lie back. Make this a personal day.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ What you say and do puts you in a position to hit a home run. Whether you do or not is completely your call. Don't blame someone else for being distracted. You can choose to focus and ignore all the whirlwind of activity around you. Tonight: Don't do anything halfway.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Others prod and push until you get the reaction you need. Just accept what is happening and take charge of the moment and your obligations. Invest your energy and perhaps some money if need be. Tonight: Glowing, others cannot resist you.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You energize others left and right. What could be viewed as a provocative opinion takes you to a new level and perspective. Avoid making decisions for others. Rather, understand where someone is coming from. Tonight: Where you can listen to great music.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Someone might appreciate some personal time or working directly with you. Investigate the pros and cons of an emotional matter without judging others, even yourself! Pull back and understand what might be annoying you. Tonight: Dinner and a chat.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Enjoy walking on water for a day. Use timing to foster an important heartfelt project. Realize that not everyone can understand the dynamics of a situation like you do. Zoom in and act rather than talk yourself to death. Tonight: Surrounded by favorite people.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Does it always have to be about work? Yes, at least today. Handle an irate or demanding boss by doing exactly what he or she wants. You cannot get around the chains of command. Don't even try. Toe the line. Tonight: Get some exercise.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

All the rage: Storm headed to the nationals

By Daily Press staff

This past fall and winter saw the formation of the 2004 Westchester Storm 10 and under Elite Travel Softball program. The storm was made up of 16 9- and 10-year-old girls from Westchester and the surrounding communities, and was led by manager Mitch Margolin. The team started practicing last August, and then played a 46-game schedule from Labor Day through their last tournament in mid-December.

The girls played against the toughest softball competition in their age group and competed in several national tournaments. The Storm's undefeated, first-place finish in the Harbor Face-off USSSA Tournament in December qualified the team for a birth in the USSSA national finals in Orlando, Fla. in July 2005. The Storm also placed third in the Triple Crown finals, with their only loss coming against the reigning National Champion Lakewood Ladies.

Over their fall and winter season, the Storm traveled throughout Southern California, compiling an overall record of 27 wins, 17 losses and 2 ties — a fantastic mark for a first-year team.

The Storm was one of five fall travel teams associated with Westchester Del Rey Little League this past year.

For more information regarding the Storm, contact Mitch Margolin at mitchpower@aol.com, or Robyn Martin at robynmartin56@yahoo.com.

Get flu shots while the getting's good

By Daily Press staff

With the shortage of flu vaccines less severe than expected, the Centers for Disease Control removed its restrictions on who can receive flu shots.

UCLA Healthcare is still offering flu shots to both adults and children. The shots are available at its Les Kelley Family Health Center, 1920 Colorado Ave., in Santa Monica, on the following days:

- Jan. 26: 9 a.m. to noon
- Feb. 2: 9 a.m. to noon

No appointments needed. For information only, call (800) 516-5323.

New sheriff in town: Law to head Cedars-Sinai

By Daily Press staff

A Santa Monica resident has been elected to lead the board of Cedars-Sinai Health System.

John C. Law, a real estate executive with an extensive track record as a community leader, was elected chairman of the board of Cedars-Sinai Health System. Law has served as vice chair since 2002.

Law succeeds Barbara Factor Bentley, who served as Cedars-Sinai board chair since 2002.

"I'm very optimistic about our future," Law said. "We have in Cedars-Sinai a dream which could never be replicated today. Our predecessors built this magnificent institution, and we stand on their shoulders in our efforts to make it bigger, better and stronger."

Law also cited the important role of philanthropy in Cedars-Sinai's success and its future.

"From the building of the original hospital, to the 30 endowed faculty chairs that enrich our academic mission, to the annual successes of our support groups, community philanthropy has been a crucial part of Cedars-Sinai's history, and will be a key element of our future growth," he said.

Law is managing director of Warland Investments, a commercial real estate investment and development firm. In addition to his volunteer leadership at Cedars-Sinai, his community activities include serving on the board of the Los Angeles Free Clinic, president of the Los Angeles County Capital Asset Leasing Commission and as a member of the Los Angeles County Small Craft Harbor Commission. He also is a member of the Board of Trustees of Macalester College, his alma mater.



SURF REPORT

Glassy P-Block waves — battling through the morning high tide. The NW rose a little Tuesday but was expected to drop back down Wednesday, as a rain-storm was expected to hit Southern California. Expect chest- to shoulder-high waves through the day. A new NW expected to produce head-high waves hits Thursday, and sticks through Friday.

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

Today the water is:

61°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	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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The Q Line

The issue of homelessness is complex, emotional and confusing for most people, especially here in Santa Monica, where the population is larger than in most cities.

The question of what to do about it remains unanswered. The City Council has begun its annual review of social-service programs aimed at getting people off the streets.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "How can Santa Monica better address the issue of homelessness here and throughout the country?"

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your responses in the weekend edition. Please try to limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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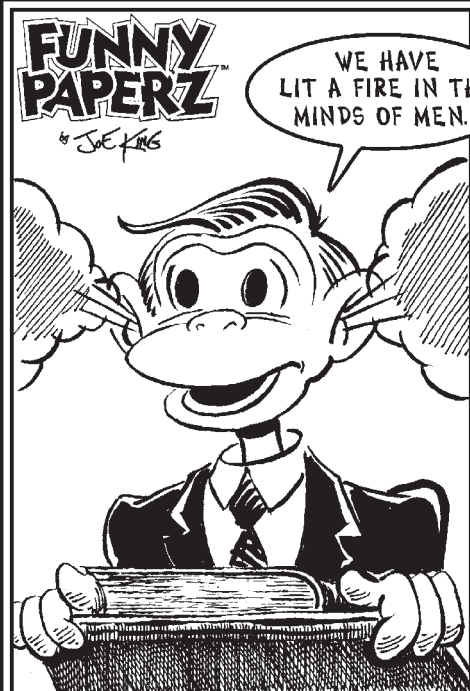
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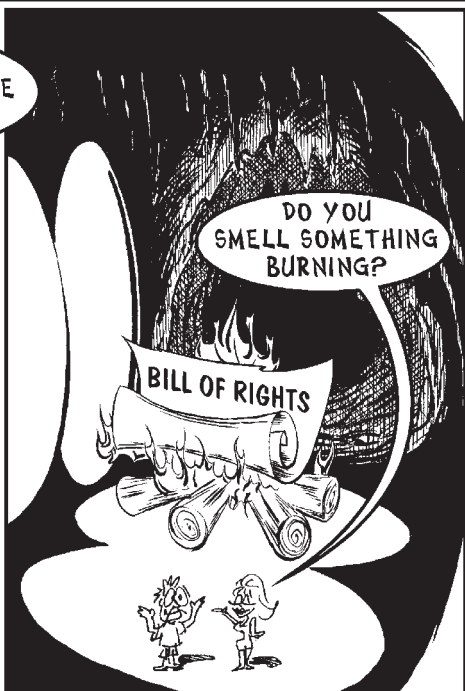
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OPINION



He says it makes him feel all warm and tingly inside...



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keep spending like it's going out of style

Editor:

My thought about the inauguration is the same as for the excesses of self-indulged celebs, movie moguls, etc. (SMDP, "Modern Times" Jan. 22, page 4). The more money they throw around all the better for business and employment in the community.

Mary kay Gordon
Santa Monica

Reign of rent control will topple under Bush



INCITES

BY ED SILVERSTEIN

Over the last eight years, I have owned and managed partnerships that purchased and operated apartment buildings. So it may surprise you that I do not support a recent lawsuit brought by a group of Santa Monica landlords seeking to abolish rent control.

As a landlord, I have tried to act ethically. I had a simple philosophy: If tenants paid their rent on time, maintained their unit without undo damage and didn't disturb other tenants, they deserved a clean building, timely maintenance, privacy and to have legitimate concerns addressed in a timely manner, regardless of the amount of the rent they paid.

Having said that, as a manager of a real estate partnership it was my fiduciary duty to maximize profit, which means increasing rents as expeditiously as possible. In fact, to not do so would be as unethical as a stockbroker buying his clients stocks in failing companies because he felt sorry for the CEOs.

The landlords' suit claims that Santa Monica's rent control law is unconstitutional because it protects the rich as well as the poor. And while this reasoning has some validity — even Community Corporation, a non-profit that provides affordable housing in Santa Monica, has provisions to move tenants who start to earn more into more expensive programs — the landlords' solution is too Draconian.

I have been a renter. I know what it feels like to fear every rent increase; worried that a shift in market conditions might force me from my home and into a diminished lifestyle. Even when I started doing better financially, it would have been impossible to plan my financial future without predictable housing costs. For you homeowners, it would be the equivalent of your bank having the right to increase your mortgage payment by 20 percent because they could.

Which is why I believe in rent control. What I don't believe in is the way Santa Monica (and West Hollywood) conceive of and administer their programs.

The rent regulations originally enacted by Santa Monica in 1978 — pushed in by Santa Monica's ruling party: Santa Monicans for Renters Rights (S.M.M.R.) — was shamefully unfair. The lack of vacancy control — now court-mandated — squeezed landlords so badly that they were forced to defer all but emergency maintenance. I remember visiting friends in buildings that had become so dilapidated they seemed like slums. And more than a few mom-and-pop landlords watched helplessly as their entire life savings were wiped out by this egregious law.

Even now, the annual rent increases,

intended to accurately reflect inflation and operational increases, are exceptionally stingy. This year's increase was a miserly 1.3 percent capped at \$20, compared to 3 percent for buildings right over the border in Los Angeles. Even parsimonious West Hollywood permitted a 2.7-percent increase.

And trying to evict a bad tenant in Santa Monica or West Hollywood, even if they are destructive, disruptive or dangerous, is near impossible.

For instance, one of my tenants began hammering on the walls, smashing furniture and having loud arguments — even though he lived alone and didn't have guests — at 3 a.m. each day. When tenants or staff complained, he became abusive and threatening. The man's mother admitted that her son had been institutionalized and was probably off his meds. Needless to say, he threatened to file a false complaint with the city.

When I called West Hollywood rent control for help, their first response was to imply that we were at fault. When I explained that the mother had warned us that her son had a history of mental disorders, violence and that he represented a danger to the other tenants, and that all I wanted to know was if there was a way to expedite his eviction before he killed someone, the case officer suggested that we all get together for a little chat and work it all out. I had a suggestion of my own, but my editor will not allow me to print it.

The problem with such a "guilty until proved innocent" prejudice against landlords is that savvy tenants use it to game the cities. It is not uncommon for a tenant, aware that they are about to be evicted, to intentionally damage their unit and file a false complaint claiming lack of maintenance. And these pro-tenant cities are all too willing to be their accomplice, delaying evictions and demanding repairs that were subsequently undone when the tenant was ultimately evicted.

Such policies chase away many of the ethical landlords who find the city's unreasonable bias too trying to manage. I, myself, have passed up more than one building simply because it was located in Santa Monica or West Hollywood.

In addition, this discrimination creates an adversarial relationship between landlords and the city. And while the city, led by its S.M.R.R. contingent, does not seem particularly concerned, they might well be.

While it is true that the current lawsuit is likely to, and should, fail, this will probably not always be the case. With President Bush stacking the federal courts with anti-regulation judges, it is only a matter of time before rent control is struck down. When that happens, the last thing that Santa Monica — or renters — will need is an angry mob of landlords intent on revenge.

(Comments or requests for copies of this column can be e-mailed to incites@incites.net.)

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LOCAL



Bluff dangers greatest after the hard rains fall

CLIFFHANGER, from page 1

Malibu-based engineering geologist consultant.

Michael said deep-seeded failures rarely occur in that type of bluff, though rain is still a major concern.

"When it gets wet, the clay loses its power to bind the other materials, the silts and the sands and so on — that's when a failure occurs," said Michael, who added mudslides are frequent and large slabs of material sometimes come crashing down. "That can make one hell of a mess."

Still, the most significant slides historically have occurred weeks after, not during rainstorms, said Dave Britton, the principal civil engineer at City Hall.

"In 1995 and again in 1998, there were two disaster-level storms that the president declared as disasters," said Britton, who has worked in City Hall for more than 30 years. "Those are very heavy rains and the major sloughing in those storms did not occur in the storm, it occurred weeks later, in the spring as the bluffs were drying out."

"Nobody can predict the future," Britton added. "All we can do is look back to what's happened in the past."

Britton said officials will re-examine

the bluffs two or three weeks after the storms for further signs of cracking and mudslides. Already, several areas with nearby cracking have been marked as off-limits and two beach-access paths have been closed indefinitely.

While the path at the end of Broadway has been undergoing renovations for new lighting and other improvements, and may reopen in as little as two to three weeks, the storm-damaged paths at the end of Idaho and Montana avenues will remain closed for several weeks at least, according to Britton.

"This is going to require the city getting a contractor in there to clean up this material that's on both of those paths, and the upcoming rains to subside, before we would consider reopening those to the public," said Britton, who added pedestrians still could reach the beach via the paths at Arizona Avenue, the California Incline or the pier. The Montana path had been re-opened shortly before the rainy season after undergoing renovations.

Though slides were frequent in the recent storm, Britton described the damage to the bluff as relatively minimal, despite an area of concern north of Montana Avenue. He credited a set of ver-

tical pipes which were drilled into the bluff in 1998 with keeping water from running over the face of the bluff and thereby limiting damage.

"Since 1998, the sloughing has been less frequent and less severe," Britton said. "There's kind of a marked improvement in the frequency of sloughing of the bluff material."

Between 1992 and 2000, City Hall spent upwards of \$500,000 on improvements to the bluff, Britton said.

Meanwhile, the City Council in April of 2003 pushed ahead plans to help preserve the bluff long term, through such measures as grouting major cavities, adding drainage pipes, spraying a clear binding material on the face of the bluff, and using what are called "soil nails" to

hold the bluff together.

According to Britton, \$5.6 million of the \$10.7 million project will be paid for with federal dollars, and the rest by City Hall. The project is currently undergoing its environmental clearance phase and Britton said he expected it to return to the council in April, after which a contractor will be chosen to begin work.

In the meantime, Britton said city engineers and maintenance workers will be closely tracking the bluff though the coming storms.

"We monitor the California Incline (and the other roadways) for debris and we close (them) as needed, and we also make sure that there's no substantial area of sloughage," he said. "With the bluffs, it's a little bit unpredictable."

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LOCAL

Dog beach's fate may be determined in February

DOG GONE IT, from page 1

guard towers 11 and 12 — it must get state approval.

City Councilman Kevin McKeown said he is aware of the state's position on dog beaches and will "pursue any channel necessary to get the state to work with us on a pilot program," he said.

City officials' first course of action will be to try and negotiate at the district level, said Santa Monica Open Space Manager Elaine Polacheck.

Santa Monica State Beach falls under the Angeles district of the State Parks Department, and according to a California code governing state beaches, the district superintendent has limited authority to make decisions about park use. However, superintendent Ron Schafer has never allowed dogs on any of the district's beaches and has been known publicly not to support dogs using them.

"He's been very consistent about that," Polacheck said.

Schafer acknowledged that he does have some leeway

in "identifying an area where it might be acceptable to walk on-leash," but said he has absolutely no authority to go against state law by letting dogs roam off-leash, which is what Santa Monica is requesting.

"The rules are very clear," he said, adding he doesn't look favorably on dogs on the beach, except in campground areas that are not near the water.

"Dogs on-leash means dogs on-leash when there is a ranger around," he said. "I've got some big concerns."

Both Schafer and Sterns said one of their biggest concerns is for the wildlife.

"Dogs are predators," Sterns said. "They chase wildlife, they grab birds. It doesn't mean they are bad, but they are hard on wildlife."

Schafer also said state property should benefit all users in California.

"How many people wake up in Fresno and say 'Oh Honey, let's go take the dogs for a walk in Santa Monica?'" he asked rhetorically.

Polacheck said if Schafer shoots down the proposal after a meeting they have scheduled in February, city

officials would have to look into what can be done at the state level.

Unleash the Beach, the organization Santa Monica resident Georja Umamo Jones formed last year in an effort to get the City Council to approve a pilot program, is relying upon City Councilman Bobby Shriver, who may have some clout in Sacramento. During his campaign this past fall, Shriver said he supported a dog beach. Shriver was recently re-appointed chair of the State Parks Commission by his brother-in-law Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

But Sterns said the commission has no formal jurisdiction over the dog beach law because it's by the state legislature, and the commission has no legislative power.

Shriver said if City Hall wants to have its off-leash dog beach, it will probably require lobbying the state for new legislation.

But Polacheck said the issue may be resolved next month.

"We are talking to the right people," she said. "But we may need to find another way to make it work."

"We are still in the begging process."

Sterns said the State Parks Department hopes the issue won't cause a rift between his office and City Hall.

"We are very happy with Santa Monica," he said. "We don't want to hurt that relationship ... over the dog issue."

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STATE



Bay Area apparel industry gets tattered by overseas competition

BY VANESSA HUA
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Jenny Kwong sewed up a lacy green gown as Cantonese music blasted in the background one recent evening.

Falling business had forced the San Francisco factory owner back behind the sewing machine. What her workers produced covered the rent on the factory. To turn a profit, she herself needed to sew, Kwong said with a sharp laugh.

Kwong is caught in the relentless decline of the San Francisco Bay area garment industry. For years, local factories have closed and jobs melted away as production shifted to cheaper places around the world. Today, the Bay Area is home to an estimated 3,500 garment workers, down from a peak of 30,000 in 1990.

In the latest blow to the local industry, a global system of quotas expired on Jan. 1 that had restricted the international flow of garments made in China, India and 146 other nations belonging to the World Trade Organization.

The lifting of import quotas could accelerate the loss of local jobs, say factory owners and community activists. Within the next couple of years, the Bay Area could lose more than half of its remaining garment jobs, which many Chinese immigrant women have long depended on for their livelihood.

"This is the death knell," said Katie Quan, chairwoman of the Center for Labor Research and Education at the University of California-Berkeley and a former garment union leader. "The elimination of quotas makes it extremely attractive to move everything offshore."

Those women — middle-aged or older, poorly educated and unable to speak English — often don't know about retraining programs for workers who lose their jobs to increased imports, and have few opportunities even with that help.

The federal Trade Adjustment Assistance program, established in 1962, provides training and benefits to workers who are laid off because of increased imports from a foreign country. Congress has appropriated \$220 million annually for this program.

In 2003, the state informed 12,989 laid-off workers that they were eligible for these federal training and unemployment benefits — more than five times the number in 1998. Typically, only 20 percent of those eligible apply.

Ironically, many local garment workers may lose their jobs to cheaper factories in China — the homeland that they left to find a better life in the Bay Area. That economic powerhouse sets the standard for cheap, efficient and full-package production.

As the last barriers to imports fall, Kwong's business is in jeopardy. The 60-year-old woman studied fashion design in Hong Kong, where she ran her own bridal store before immigrating to the Bay Area. Here, she worked in a garment factory and on an electric assembly line and ran a dry-cleaning business before starting her own factory nearly two decades ago.

Now, more than half of her sewing machines are idle after she cut the payroll from about 20 to just eight workers. She said she feared the loss of the quotas: "We can't be cheaper than other countries."

The Bay Area garment industry has roots dating back to the Gold Rush, when immigrant Levi Strauss founded the company that made the world's first jeans and later became a major source of San Francisco's manufacturing jobs.

A decade ago, the North American Free Trade Agreement set off the steep decline of the nation's garment industry as clothing labels outsourced production to Mexico and other countries with cheaper labor.

In 2002, Levi's shuttered six U.S. manufacturing plants, including its historic Valencia Street operation in San Francisco. The two remaining plants in San Antonio closed a year ago. Last year, the state Department of Industrial Relations listed 204 garment factories in San Francisco; in 1998, it listed 406.

In 2004, sewing machine operators in the San Francisco metropolitan area earned on average of only \$357 per week, according to state Employment

Development Department. Bay Area garment workers, many of them Chinese immigrants, must deal with long hours, piece-rate pay schedules and poor working conditions, labor activists say.

On top of offshore competition, San Francisco's increase of the minimum wage to \$8.62, high rents and other operating expenses have led to many plant closures, factory owners say. Many of the remaining factories are small, employing 20 to 40 workers, who come in only when there are orders.

Workers in the city sew clothes and evening gowns for local designers such as Jessica McClintock, who say they keep their production local for greater control and fast turnaround; the U.S. military, whose clothes must be American-made; and other niche manufacturers.

Housed in rundown buildings, the factories are in the South of Market district, the Mission, Potrero Hill and other industrial areas in San Francisco.

At one, under fluorescent lights, rows of middle-age women hunched over sewing machines recently. Some wore homemade face masks, protection against the fabric particles. Their activity filled the air with a low hum.

"I can't speak English, so it will be hard to look for work," worker Lily Ng, 48, said in Cantonese as she sewed a trendy pink top.

In another factory on the same block, just one worker sewed, and another folded pants. Plastic bags stuffed with cloth scraps, crumpled paper and threads littered the floor amid empty sewing machines.

The Bay Area garment industry has roots dating back to the Gold Rush, when immigrant Levi Strauss founded the company that made the world's first jeans and later became a major source of San Francisco's manufacturing jobs.

Every so often, a company buying sewing machines on the cheap to sell overseas calls her, said factory manager Cindy Huang. She has declined the offers, but she predicted that her factory could close within months.

No work is coming in, Huang said. She wore fuzzy blue slippers and fleece, bundled up in the cold, drafty factory.

"It's depressing, to work on something for so many years and watch it fall apart," Huang said in Mandarin. "It's good for China but bad for the people here."

Peng Mei-Ying immigrated here two decades ago. Unable to speak English, she had few job options and two children to raise. She became a garment worker, sewing eight hours a day for minimum wage. Her back ached all the time, and the detail work exhausted her.

The gowns she made were expensive and sexy — not her style, said the short, solid woman. In her free time, she went for walks or stayed at home. "You need money to have hobbies," Peng, 48, said in Cantonese through a translator.

In March, Leeda Sewing Manufacturing, the San Francisco factory where she sewed bridal and evening gowns, folded.

Along with her husband, a retired restaurant worker, Peng lives in the Sunset District with her son, a cab driver, and her daughter, a college student. Peng, who receives about \$610 per month in unemployment, said her relatives help with expenses.

In November, Peng began an 18-month program to learn English and professional care-giving provided by Self-Help for the Elderly. With only a middle school education, Peng has been out of the classroom for decades. She's forgotten how to write a lot of Chinese characters and never learned English.

"It feels like you can't learn anything," Peng said. "You think about what you don't know. It's so hard."

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NATIONAL

Washington state's women take charge politically

BY RACHEL LA CORTE

Associated Press Writer

OLYMPIA, Wash. — In Washington politics, women rule.

Never before has a state had a woman in the governor's mansion and both U.S. Senate seats. Also, all of the state Senate's leadership positions are held by women.

This is a state where female politicians' voices are clearly heard.

"The barriers and the hang-ups just aren't there," said state Sen. Margarita Prentice, a Seattle Democrat and the Senate's new budget chairwoman. In Washington politics, "we've always said that the edge is for the woman."

And the numbers have backed that up for more than a decade. Beginning in 1993, the state had the highest per-

centage of women legislators in the country, though after the November elections their share dropped from 40 percent to 33.3 percent.

Maryland has become the new leader, followed by Delaware, and Washington fell into a third-place tie with Arizona, Nevada and Vermont, according to Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University.

But even while losing numbers, women in the Evergreen State increased their power in the state Senate, holding all five leadership positions, including that of majority leader. And Democrat Christine Gregoire was elected governor after three counts in an excruciatingly close contest that is still being fought in the courts.

For now, Gregoire joins Democratic U.S. Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell as the highest-profile politi-

cians in the state, something Walsh calls a "landmark moment."

"Little girls can look in the newspaper and see a picture of what the governor looks like, what a United States senator looks like," Walsh said. "It looks like them."

Washington women charged onto the scene in 1992, joining other women nationally in what came to be called the "Year of the Woman" — when the number of women in Congress jumped from 28 to 42. Murray was elected, Gregoire became the state's first female attorney general, and Republican Jennifer Dunn went to Congress.

"Washingtonians dislike the classical, old-style, heavily partisan" leadership style, said state Senate Minority Leader Bill Finkbeiner, a Republican. "In the early '90s, women began to be seen as an alternative to that."

Walsh said the populist culture in the state has created a political system that "lets all people in."

State Sen. Lisa Brown, who became Senate majority leader this year, said she thinks the frontier past of the state plays a part in the can-do mentality of women here.

"Women were pretty used to doing whatever they had to do. ... They hunted, they fished, they got involved," Brown said. "I think it was a natural outgrowth to run for office."

Gregoire, who last week delivered the Democrats' response to President Bush's first weekly address since he was inaugurated, said that during her run for attorney general, she encountered the attitude on the campaign trail that "that's a man's job."

"The question always to me was: Can you be tough enough to be attorney general?" she said.

But in her run for governor last year, Gregoire said, no one ever questioned whether she could do the job because she was a woman.

"In 2004 there was not a uniqueness," she said. "In terms of going out on the campaign trail, gender wasn't an issue."

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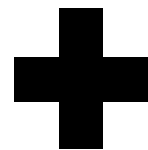
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NATIONAL



Senator's bill would let slanderers be slanderers

BY REBECCA COOK

Associated Press Writer

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Go ahead, call Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles a scurvy wench, a wanton strumpet, a shameless hussy.

She probably won't like it, but she doesn't want you to be prosecuted for it.

Kohl-Welles, D-Seattle, is sponsoring a bill to repeal Washington state's 1909 law that criminalizes "slander of a woman."

It's not that Kohl-Welles, a women's studies lecturer at the University of Washington, wants to hear women slan-

dered. But she believes the law is a relic that has outlived its usefulness, from a time when men put women on a pedestal — and denied them basic rights.

"This is one of those old laws that is really irrelevant now," Kohl-Welles said. She added that it almost surely violates the state and federal constitutions.

The statute prohibits "false or defamatory words or language which shall injure or impair" the virtuous and chaste reputation of any woman over the age of 12. The law does say it's OK to slander a "common prostitute."

The law hasn't been used for decades.

The state Supreme Court upheld it in 1914, affirming the conviction of Mattie T. Paysse, who had been fined \$50 for slandering another woman. Paysse's offending words didn't make it into the historical record.

Kohl-Welles first introduced the bill two years ago, but it never got a vote — impeded, perhaps, by the chivalrous impulses of the Republican majority in the Senate.

With Democrats controlling both chambers this year, she thinks Senate Bill 5148 has a strong chance of passing. However, she says it's not a top priority

compared to more pressing matters like the budget, health care and education.

"It's just something that should be done," Kohl-Welles said.

Other states have dislodged similar archaic laws from their statutes, though some don't go easily.

In Michigan a man who cursed after falling out of a canoe was found guilty in 1999 of violating a century-old state law against cursing in front of women and children. He was fined \$75 and ordered to perform four days of community service, but an appeals court struck down the law and threw out the conviction.

Radio technology could bump up U.S. borders

BY LESLIE MILLER

Associated Press Writer

NOGALES, Ariz. — U.S. officials want to see if the same technology that speeds cars through highway tolls and identifies lost pets can unclog border crossings without compromising security.

Homeland Security Undersecretary Asa Hutchinson announced Tuesday that the government will begin testing radio frequency identification technology at this crossing and four others by midsummer.

Weeding out potential terrorists, drug dealers and other criminals from shoppers, truckers and tourists who regularly pass through border crossings takes time. The RFID technology is designed to reduce the wait while giving authorities more information on who's coming into the country and who's leaving.

"We do not keep track of who enters this country," Hutchinson said while standing in an inspection booth at a crossing that is used each year by 5.4 million pedestrians and 3.9 million vehicles. "We need to have a comprehensive system, and that that's what our pilot (test) will do."

Currently, foreign visitors at the 50 busiest land border crossings in 10 states are fingerprinted as part of the government's new screening system. The system, called US-VISIT, scans photographs of the visitor's face and index fingers into a computer, which are matched with federal agencies' criminal databases.

With RFID technology, people or objects are identified automatically and swiftly. That allows vehicles outfitted with the technology to zip through toll plazas without stopping. At the border, people and vehicles still will have to stop, but if their identifying data produce no red flags, they will get just a cursory check rather than lengthy questioning.

The chip with the identifying information would be placed in a document, such as the State Department-issued border crossing cards for those who regularly make

short trips across the Mexican border.

The chip is attached to an antenna that transmits a signal to a handheld or stationary reader, which converts the radio waves from the RFID tag into a code that links to identifying biometrical information in a computer database read by border agents.

The technology — with some variations — has been in use for years in systems for toll collection, equipment tracking, merchandise tags and pet identification. Unlike bar codes, the RFID chip doesn't need to be oriented before a scanner for reading but need only be within transmission range, or 18 and 30 feet in this case.

Jay Stanley, spokesman for the American Civil Liberties Union, said he's concerned the technology will infringe on privacy rights.

"It permits automatic invisible ID checks by the government," he said.

But Nogales Mayor Albert Kramer said such a system has long been needed to make the clogged border system more efficient. "Any improvement is welcome," he said.

"The system has not worked for 20 years," said Maria Luisa O'Connell, president of the Border Trade Alliance, which promotes trade among the United States, Canada and Mexico and has long advocated using RFID technology to relieve the crossing logjam.

Simulation of the system will begin this spring. Officials said that by July 31, testing is expected to be under way in Nogales, Alexandria Bay, N.Y., and Pacific Highway and Peace Arch in Washington state. Tests are expected to last through spring of next year.

Nogales and Alexandria Bay were chosen in part because the government wants to find out if the technology can work in extremely hot and cold weather.

Hutchinson said the plan is to have RFID technology in place eventually at all U.S. border crossings. The chips could cost as little as 25 cents each, he said.

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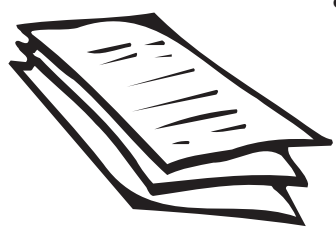


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Tips on how to begin the tax process



**BUYING
AND SELLING**
BY THOMAS KHAMMAR
& BRENT PARSONS

As your W-2s start rolling in and the time approaches to think about doing your taxes, we thought we would share some of the real estate-related tax breaks that you can receive. We are providing this information as a guide only. Please contact your tax or legal advisor to see if you qualify for these deductions.

RELOCATION COSTS

If you changed jobs in 2004 and the distance to your new job is 50 miles further from your old home to your old job, then you can deduct the moving expenses. For example, if you used to live in Riverside and worked 10 miles from home, you need to have a new job 60 miles from your old home in Riverside. The distance from your new home to your new job is not a consideration in this tax relief.

PROPERTY TAX

The property taxes that you pay are tax deductible. Remember to itemize them if you pay your property taxes through your mortgage's impound account. If you have an impound account, the property tax amount paid will be noted on IRS form 1098, which you will receive from your lender.

HOME LOAN FEES

If you bought a home or refinanced your home in 2004, you can deduct some of the costs associated

with your home loan. Points charged by the lender are deductible. Each point is 1 percent of the principal loan amount. Please note that for a refinance, the points are deductible over the term of the loan. For a sale, you may deduct them in a lump sum.

As a benefit for those of you who didn't know about this deduction, there is still time for you. If you refinanced prior to 2004 and forgot to take the deduction, you may take it this year.

In addition, points paid on a home improvement loan also are deductible.

HOME LOAN PREPAYMENT PENALTIES

If you refinanced your home or paid off a mortgage early in 2004, check to see if you paid a prepayment penalty. If you did pay a prepayment penalty, that amount is tax deductible.

HOME LOAN INTEREST

The amount of interest you paid toward your home loan counts as a deduction. You are allowed an itemized deduction for interest up to \$1 million worth of mortgages used to acquire or improve your main personal residence as well as one other home. Mortgage interest on your third personal residence and beyond is considered a non-deductible personal expense.

You also are allowed to claim an itemized deduction for interest on home-equity loans totaling up to \$100,000, regardless of how you use the loan proceeds.

In addition, construction loan interest for a home that will be completed within the next two years is tax deductible.

INTEREST ON VACATION HOMES

For most people, their vacation home is the second home and the mortgage interest will turn out to be deductible as noted above.

However, did you know that you can also deduct the mortgage interest on your R.V., camper, or even your boat? You are allowed to deduct mortgage interest on your primary residence and one other residence. The definition of what constitutes a residence is very broad and includes R.V.s, campers, and boats as long as they have cooking, toilet and sleeping facilities.

CAPITAL GAINS

If you sold your home in 2004, and you haven't taken the tax relief for capital gains in the last two years, you may qualify for up to \$250,000 for individuals and \$500,000 for couples tax-free gain.

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(To contact Thomas Khammar or Brent Parsons, call (310) 943-7656, or e-mail at thomas1@georgechungrealtors.com or brent1@georgechungrealtors.com).

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Sold	823 YALE ST	SANTA MONICA	90403
Santa Monica	SqFt: N/A	List Price: \$1,399,876	Bed: 3
01/20/2005	Lot Size: 8,000	Sold Price: \$1,345,000	Bath: 1.75
Sold	927 20TH ST #D	SANTA MONICA	90403
Santa Monica	SqFt: 798	List Price: \$459,000	Bed: 1
01/18/2005	HOD: \$228	Sold Price: \$439,000	Bath: 1.00
Sold	1325 WASHINGTON AVE #F	SANTA MONICA	90403
Santa Monica	SqFt: N/A	List Price: \$429,000	Bed: 1
01/21/2005	HOD: \$197	Sold Price: \$423,000	Bath: 1.00
Sold	1328 18TH ST #4	SANTA MONICA	90404
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01/20/2005	HOD: \$178	Sold Price: \$520,000	Bath: 2.00
Sold	2000 WASHINGTON AVE #2012	SANTA MONICA	90403
Santa Monica	SqFt: 1,109	List Price: \$635,000	Bed: 2
01/19/2005	HOD: \$210	Sold Price: \$725,000	Bath: 1.00
Sold	3126 BROADWAY	SANTA MONICA	90404
Santa Monica	SqFt: 526	List Price: \$379,000	Bed: 1
01/21/2005	HOD: \$214	Sold Price: \$415,000	Bath: 1.00
Sold	201 OCEAN AVE #P1901	SANTA MONICA	90402
Santa Monica	SqFt: 1,235	List Price: \$1,485,000	Bed: 2
01/18/2005	HOD: \$670	Sold Price: \$1,450,000	Bath: 2.00
Sold	2325 KANSAS AVE #22	SANTA MONICA	90404
Santa Monica	SqFt: 863	List Price: \$470,000	Bed: 2
01/21/2005	HOD: \$198	Sold Price: \$472,500	Bath: 1.00
Sold	826 2ND ST #103	SANTA MONICA	90403
Santa Monica	SqFt: 1,250	List Price: \$750,000	Bed: 3
01/19/2005	HOD: \$373	Sold Price: \$710,000	Bath: 2.00
Sold	1237 25TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90404
Santa Monica	SqFt: 999	List Price: \$999,000	Gl: \$0
01/19/2005	Lot Size: 6,896	Sold Price: \$975,000	GRM: 0.00
Sold	1661 Appian WAY	SANTA MONICA	90401
Santa Monica	SqFt: 4,368	List Price: \$2,075,000	Gl: \$126,000
01/21/2005	Lot Size: 4,370	Sold Price: \$1,850,000	GRM: 18.20

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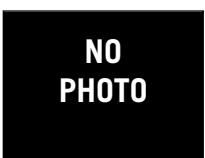
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Being in debt pays off when it comes to credit



**DAYS ON
THE MARKET**
BY JODI SUMMERS

This week's fascinating real estate topic is credit-related — on average, people who incur debt that is higher than the national average have a higher FICO score than people who owe less. Go figure. Experian Consumer Direct, one of several credit information bureaus used to calculate FICO scores, conducted this study.

A FICO score is your credit profile. Credit scores indicate the risk of not repaying a loan. It also affects the rate of your mortgage when you apply for a loan to purchase or refinance a property. Lenders rely on your credit score to assess your risk of default. FICO scores are calculated by the Fair Isaac Corp. (NYSE: FIC). Their scoring model incorporates information from three credit information bureaus: Equifax, TransUnion and Experian. Each credit bureau takes a singular approach to rating risk. Each bureau runs different software scoring models — all developed by Fair Isaac Corp. As design would have it, these scoring models rarely come up with the same number. As logic would have it, FICO's cumulative scoring software weighs and balances data more efficiently and precisely than human underwriters.

Stephen Brobeck, executive director of Consumer Federation of America and Provident Financial, believes that credit scores should become another key number, such as weight and bank balances, that Americans keep track of on a regular basis.

A FICO score higher than the low 700s usually qualify people for the lowest rates — the ones they advertise on commercials. A score below the low 600s may mean you are denied credit or have to pay a higher, sub-prime rate.

A recently passed ruling now allows consumers to manage their credit score by reviewing their credit report on a regular basis. You are now entitled to a free credit report annually from all three credit reporting companies. Visit <http://www.annualcreditreport.com/cra/index>, for more information.

Now that you know what you're looking at, here are some fascinating credit score statistics. This test was conducted by Experian Consumer Direct, one of FICO's three credit information bureaus:

- 677 is the average Experian PLUS Score in the United States.
- 672 is the average Experian PLUS Score in California.
- 669 is the average Experian PLUS

Score in the Los Angeles Area.

■ U.S. consumers have an average debt of \$11,224 compared to last year's average debt of \$10,024. This means U.S. consumers' average debt is 12 percent higher compared to the same time last year.

■ 25 percent of U.S. consumers have debt above the national average.

Their average Experian PLUS Score is 695.

■ The average PLUS Score for consumers with debt below the national average is 671.

This Experian study was compiled using the Experian National Score Index, which is based upon a nationwide sampling of 3 million consumer credit profiles. The index is updated monthly with the most recent Experian data regarding U.S. consumers' credit and is a powerful indicator of the nation's overall financial health.

This information is part of a nationwide trend commitment to educate consumers about credit. The Experian National Score Index was formulated using the Experian-developed PLUS Score. It is designed to give consumers a better understanding of how their credit compares to that of other U.S. consumers.

The index monitors several components of consumer credit behavior including average debt, credit utilization, and monthly payments, and is formulated using Experian's credit score model, called the PLUS Score. The PLUS Score is a numeric representation of financial behavior, based on information found in a credit report, and can range from 330 to 830, with a higher score indicating a lower credit risk.

The objective of FICO scores are to "rank the order of risk," concludes Sidney Weigner, who teaches credit scoring for the National Association of Mortgage Brokers.

Weigner observes that the scores use up to 40 variables to judge a person's ability to pay back a loan. Payment history tends to be most important — coupled with an analysis as to how the borrower uses debt, compounded by how long they have had credit. Each credit bureau — Equifax, TransUnion and Experian — receives different information, and may give it different levels of importance. One repository might rank credit from a finance company higher than credit from a department store. A department store might report to one or two repositories but not all three, and another creditor might report to only one credit bureau.

What a tangled web financial analysts weave.

(For your real estate needs, e-mail Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call (310) 309-4219).



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Also be sure to see the January 2005 edition of Los Angeles Magazine in which Jack Susser was selected as a Los Angeles Super Agent. Jack was honored to receive this recognition and is happy to bring this honor to ERA. Jack leads the training sessions and is proud to pass on his formula for success.

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Real Estate

In the end, not all rental rates are created equal



IN YOUR SPACE

BY CHRISTINA S. PORTER

In most of the leases I have negotiated, a tenant is expected to pay rent and additional rent. Rent is usually meant to be the base rent and additional rent is meant to be any other monetary obligation the tenant has to the landlord, like real estate taxes, common area maintenance expenses and property insurance.

Base rent is the monthly charge agreed to by the tenant and the landlord (i.e. — \$1 per square foot per month). The term base rent also would include any cost of living increases or escalations that are usually applied on an annual basis throughout the term of the lease. The increase in operating expenses also can be called escalations. The type of lease you are agreeing to is thought to dictate what charges are included in the base rent and what will be paid as additional rent. There are supposedly three different types of office leases: "full service gross," "modified gross" and "triple net." If you are leasing an industrial building, you will be

looking at an industrial gross lease or a triple net lease. Generally, the base rent in a full service gross office lease will include all of the operating expenses in the initial base rental rate. However, the tenant will be responsible to pay for any operating expense increases over the base year (the year the lease began), and the operating expense increases would be considered additional rent.

From a landlord's standpoint, the term "additional rent" is a very important one. Calling any other monetary obligation by the tenant "additional rent," provides the landlord all of the "expedited" remedies set forth in a lease for nonpayment of rent. Otherwise, the remedies will be those of a contract that could include delays incurred in general contract litigation.

From a tenant's standpoint, it's important to carefully review all of the monetary obligations that are considered in additional rent. Many landlords would like to include capital expenditures in operating expenses but a capital expenditure is considered an investment in the property for which the benefit lasts more than one year and an investment that increases the value or life of the asset doesn't fit the definition of an "operating expense." In the past couple of years, there seems to have been a compromise

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on this issue in that a capital expenditure can be included in the operating expenses if it effectively, reduces the operating expenses, i.e. a more efficient HVAC system. The expenditure is amortized over the useful life of the improvement, translated into a per square foot amount and added to the tenants "additional rent" obligation for the remainder of the tenant's lease term.

Another term that falls under "rent" in a lease is "free rent." In a tenant's market or a "soft" leasing market, landlords will sometimes give "free rent" in order to attract tenants. The truth is that it's not really "free," it just reduces your "effective rent." In a three-year lease for 500 square feet, if you agree to a base rate of \$1 per square foot per month and you get the first two months "free" the "face" rent is \$1= per square foot but the "effective" rent would be \$.94. In reality, the effective rent is the face rent minus the cost of any improvements and "free" rent given

by the landlord, sometimes called "concessions." Tenants in the leasing market in Santa Monica today are seeing less concessions being given and according to many market forecasters will continue to see less as our economy improves. There are clauses in today's leases that give the landlord the right to recoup any concessions given to a tenant in the event of a default. If I were representing a landlord, I would make sure this clause is in the lease. If I were representing a tenant, I would do my best to have it removed or, at least, modify it.

(The above is for informational purposes only and not meant to be taken as advice. Christina S. Porter is in the business of leasing and selling office and industrial buildings. She can be reached at (310) 806-6104, or at cporter@naicapital.com)

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NATIONAL



Bush wants \$80 billion more for overseas wars

BY ALAN FRAM
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush is getting ready to ask Congress for an additional \$80 billion for conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, as budget analysts prepare new estimates of the federal deficits that would have loomed even without the wars.

An \$80 billion request would push the total provided to the Defense Department so far for those wars and for U.S. efforts against terrorism elsewhere in the world to more than \$280 billion. An additional \$25 billion has been provided to rebuild Iraq and Afghanistan, all but \$4 billion for Iraq.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office was expected to project Tuesday that federal shortfalls over the next decade will total perhaps \$1 trillion less than the \$2.3 trillion it estimated last September, said congressional aides of both parties.

The agency was also expected to project that this year's shortfall would be close to the \$348 billion it forecast last fall. If accurate, that would be the third

largest deficit ever in dollar terms, behind only last year's \$412 billion and the \$377 billion gap of 2003.

The deficit estimates for 2005 and for the next 10 years, however, were excluding war costs and other expenses, thanks to quirks in the way the law requires the budget office to make its estimates.

Also omitted were the price tags of Bush's goal of revamping Social Security, which could cost \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion and dominate this year's legislative agenda; an estimated \$1.8 trillion for extending Bush's tax cuts and easing the impact the alternative minimum tax would have on middle-income Americans; and other expenses.

Those omissions prompted Democrats to warn about the deficit forecasts.

"Whatever we get" Tuesday from the budget office "needs considerable adjustment before it is brought back to reality," said Rep. John Spratt of South Carolina, top Democrat on the House Budget Committee.

On the war financing front, White House budget chief Joshua Bolten or

other administration officials were expected to describe Bush's forthcoming request for funds on Tuesday, according to congressional aides who spoke on condition of anonymity. The package won't formally be sent to Congress until after Bush unveils his full 2006 budget on Feb. 7, the aides said.

White House officials declined to comment on the war package, which will come as the United States confronts continued violence in Iraq leading up to that country's Jan. 30 elections.

Aides said about three-fourths of the \$80 billion was expected to be for the Army, which is bearing the brunt of the fighting in Iraq. It also was expected to include money for building a U.S. embassy in Baghdad, estimated to cost \$1.5 billion.

One aide said the request will also include funds to help the new Afghan government combat drug trafficking. It might also have money to help two new leaders the U.S. hopes will be allies, Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and Ukraine President Viktor Yushchenko.

The aides said the package Bush eventually submits to Congress will also include money to help Indian Ocean countries hit by the devastating December tsunami.

The forthcoming request highlights how much war spending has soared past initial White House estimates. Early on, then-presidential economic adviser Lawrence Lindsey placed Iraq costs at \$100 billion to \$200 billion, only to see his comments derided by administration colleagues.

By pushing war spending so far beyond \$280 billion, the latest proposal would approach nearly half the \$613 billion the United States spent for World War I or the \$623 billion it expended for the Vietnam War, when the costs of those conflicts are translated into 2005 dollars.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Monday it was Congress' "highest responsibility" to provide the money that American troops need. But in a written statement, she said Democrats would ask questions about Bush's goals in Iraq, the eventual costs, and why Iraqi troops aren't playing a larger role in security.

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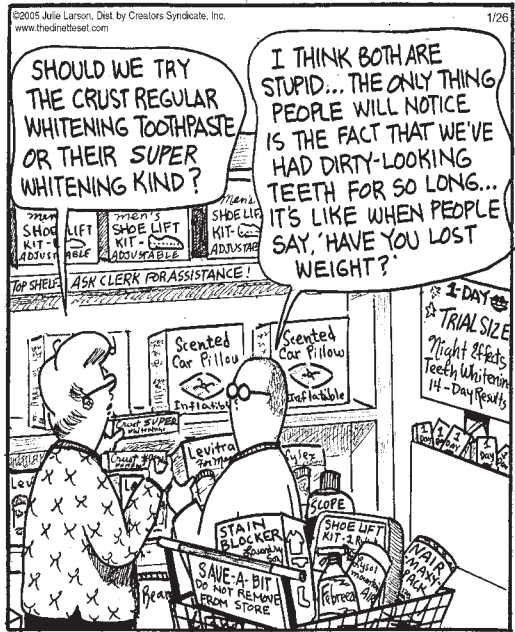
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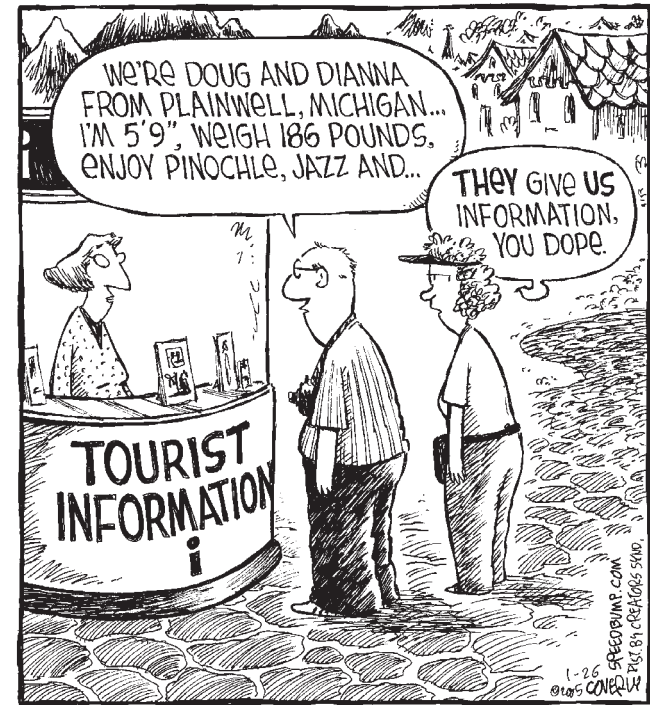
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- 13 Monster
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- 15 Favorite
- 16 New driver, often
- 17 Casino machines
- 19 Moonshine holder
- 22 Admit
- 24 Steak choice
- 26 Final, for one
- 27 Horse strap
- 28 Cook's wear
- 30 "Divine Comedy" writer
- 31 Gift-tag word
- 32 Last letter
- 34 Norse god
- 35 Chart
- 38 Give a hand to
- 41 Heavenly topper
- 42 Next in line
- 43 Painter Dix
- 44 Pesters
- 45 Norse god

DOWN

- 1 Chicken holder
- 2 Spur on
- 3 MVP of Super Bowls I and II
- 4 Pub product
- 5 Himalayan land
- 6 Not active
- 7 Abel's brother
- 8 Up in years
- 9 Soviet jet
- 10 High card
- 16 Shipping unit
- 18 Long ride
- 19 MVP of Super Bowl III

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Yesterday's answer

- 20 Hand or foot
- 21 DNA carrier
- 22 Tree part
- 23 Trade show
- 25 Toot one's own horn
- 29 "Forget it!"
- 30 Beastly home
- 33 Furry creatures
- 34 Pamplona cries
- 36 Choir member
- 37 Lacking funds
- 38 Period
- 39 Chemical suffix
- 40 "Cold Mountain" character
- 41 All the rage

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Msrp \$25,690.00
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Rebate \$3,000.00
Fmcc bonus cash \$1,000.00
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1998 Mustang GT Conv - ID 198954**\$12,995.00**

Under 37K miles, Auto, leather int, pw, pdl, tilt, cruise, Rear Spoiler, alloy wheel

2003 Grand Marquis LS - ID 697036**\$16,995.00**Blue Oval Certified pw, pdl, tilt, cruise, cd, leather int alloy wheels - *previously rental/one at this price***2003 F-150 Super Cab XLT - ID A12864****\$17,995.00**Blue Oval Certified - Auto, pw, pdl, tilt cruise, mutli-disc cd, bedliner, alloy wheels - *one at this price***2001 Expedition - ID A73929****\$17,995.00**

Blue Oval Certified - Only 34K miles, lether, third seat, dual air, mutli-disc changer, running boards, tow package, loaded

2003 Ford Escape Limited - ID B86682**\$18,995.00**

Blue Oval Certified - V6 3.0 liter, 4 wheel drive, multi-disc changer, moon roof, towing package, alloy wheels

2003 Mustang GT Conv - ID 308712**\$19,995.00**Blue Oval Certified - Leather, multi-disc changer, rear spoiler, traction control - *one at this price***2002 Lexus IS 300 Sport Cross - ID 040162****\$19,995.00**

Auto, air, cd changer, moon roof, ABS, chrome wheels

2002 Lincoln LS V8 - ID 628274**\$21,995.00**

Moon roof, silver with black leather, loaded

2001 Mercedes-Benz C-Class C320 - ID 067984**\$23,995.00**

V6 3.2 liter, rear wheel drive, slip control, mutl-disc changer, Bose premium sound, moon roof, alloy wheels

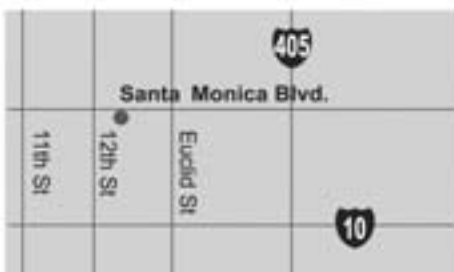
2000 Cadillac Escalade Sport - ID 205492**\$23,995.00**

V8 5.7 liter, 4 wheel drive, premium sound, OnStar, video system, running boards, towing package

2002 Mercedes-Benz SLK-Class SLK320 - ID 251773**\$28,995.00**

V6 3.2 liter, rear wheel drive, slip control, traction control, alloy wheels

All vehicles subject to prior sale. Prices exclude government fees and taxes, any finance charge, any dealer documentation preparation charge, and any emission testing charge. All offers on approved credit. Expires 01/30/05 close of business.


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2nd - \$100,000.00 @ 6.875%
\$572.00 Per Month

Total \$2,030.00 Per Month
*Not Including Tax & Insurance

\$650,000.00
1st - \$520,000.00 @ 4.375%
\$1,895.00 Per Month

2nd - \$130,000.00 @ 6.875%
\$744.00 Per Month

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