



FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

January 29-30, 2005

A newspaper with issues

Volume 4, Issue 67

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

2 3 27 28 46
Meganumber: 24
Jackpot: \$12 Million

FANTASY 5

3 11 17 18 39

DAILY 3

Daytime: 7 9 1

Evening: 2 1 3

DAILY DERBY

1st: 07 Eureka

2nd: 10 Solid Gold

3rd: 03 Hot Shot

RACE TIME: 1:44.23

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Those Hardy Floridians: Rudolph Jessie Hicks Jr., 30, was arrested in Brooksville, Fla., for trespass, but not before he had gotten up from a police dog takedown, five Taser shots, and an entire can of pepper spray (December). And police in Port St. Lucie, Fla., were considering whether to charge Ms. Robin Bush, who strangled a 130-pound Rottweiler after it would not let go of her tiny Yorkie (December). And a 20-year-old man suffered only minor injuries after driving his car through a fifth-floor wall of a parking garage and landing inside the second floor of a store at the Shoppes of Sunset Place in South Miami (December).

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1861, Kansas became the 34th state of the Union.

In 1936, the first members of baseball's Hall of Fame, including Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth, were named in Cooperstown, N.Y.

In 1958, actors Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward were married.

INDEX

Horoscopes

Kick up your heels, Gemini 2

Surf Report

Water Temperature: 60° 3

Opinion

Taking it to the streets 4

State

Conan the barbs-barian 6

National

Expensive shave 9

Sports

Bird of prey 13

Comics

Yuk it up 16

Classifieds

Ad space odyssey 17-19

People in the News

Back in the swing 20

Beer Eye for the Teen Guy



John Wood/Daily Press

Olympic High School senior Pete Rengito, 18, is ejected from a drunk driving simulation course after plowing down several cones this week. To simulate the effects of drinking and driving, students wore special goggles supplied by the Santa Monica Police Department. Olympic High School Principal Janie Gates said it was good for her 130 students to interact with police in a positive way. "Drinking is an issue they don't take seriously," she added.

City workers put to the test

City staffers up in arms over new system requiring them to compete for their jobs

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Hundreds of city workers literally will be put to the test in the next few months, if they want a chance to keep their jobs.

Officials earlier this month mailed a letter to nearly 500 temporary and seasonal city employees, informing them that starting this summer all jobs will be filled through a competitive, merit-based process.

The idea is to make each position available to the most qualified applicant. But the process has raised concerns among some long-time temporary workers who worry they may be edged out of their jobs in the push for equal access.

Karen Bancroft, human resources director at City Hall, said at any given time there are between 300 and 400 temporary and seasonal employees working for City

See PUT TO THE TEST, page 5

Marine species' cry for kelp answered in Malibu

BY DAVID EISENBERG

Special to the Daily Press

A volunteer group of underwater foresters have restored enough of Santa Monica Bay's kelp to fill a two-story office building.

Since 1996, more than 130 volunteers have restored more than 150,000 cubic feet of kelp in beds off the coast of Malibu, said Santa Monica Baykeeper marine biologist Tom Ford.

Ford, 35, has coordinated Baykeeper's Kelp Restoration Project for the past three years, and is currently its only full-time employee.

"The restoration work — it's not science, so much," he said. "It's really physical work."

While most people have little experience with it outside of aquarium exhibits, kelp is one of the cornerstones of the bay's ecosystem. Nearly one-quarter of California's marine species rely on kelp during some portion of their life span, Ford said. A healthy bay also is critical to local economies.

"When beaches start to close or when fishing starts to tank, all of a sudden you're looking at entire industries being compromised," Ford said.

While the program is not the first of its kind, it's the only project in the Santa Monica Bay to have earned the ongoing support of the state of California and the federal government.

Volunteer labor has stretched the project's \$100,000 annual budget enough to allow divers to visit their five restoration sites

See UNDER THE SEA, page 5

Appearances can be deceiving, and soon quite costly

BY REBECCA COOK

Associated Press Writer

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Nip, tuck and ... tax?

Lawmakers trying to plump up the bottom line are considering a "vanity tax" on cosmetic surgery and Botox injections in Washington, Illinois and other states.

Plastic surgeons and their patients say the idea is just plain ugly.

"It makes no sense. Where does it stop — massages, facials, teeth cleanings?" asked Karen Wakefield, 51, who has had a nose job, dermabrasion, liposuction, tummy tuck and breast lift — plus a little Botox here and there.

"Even having a baby is elective surgery," added Wakefield, an event planner in Woodinville. "Why not tax that, too?"

In California, the very capital of cosmetic surgery, such procedures are tax-free.

The cosmetic surgery tax is a cousin to the "sin taxes" many states slap on drinking, smoking

and gambling during tough budget times.

"In this anti-tax climate, these user-based, selective tax proposals are more palatable than broader ones," said Bert Waisaner, tax policy analyst for the National Conference of State Legislatures.

See VANITY TAX, page 6

GABY SCHKUD

The name you can depend on!
Serving sellers and buyers
on the Westside.

2444 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 102
Santa Monica, CA 90403
(310) 586-0308



Band & Orchestra Instruments

RENT-TO-OWN

(310) 453-1928

1901 Santa Monica Blvd. in Santa Monica

www.santamonicausic.com



Features

THE UNDER \$10
DINNER SPECIAL

Served from 4pm - 10pm

1433 Wilshire Blvd at 15th St
310-394-1131

THIS VALENTINE'S DAY



HEART SHAPE DIAMOND AND PLATINUM

SHOP WHERE THEY KNOW YOUR NAME



Visit us today and see the difference family makes.

331 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica 2 Hours Free Parking (Behind Store)
310.451.1349 • www.readersjewelers.com



Eddie Guerboian

You deserve to relax, even if just for a few minutes.

SHOW CARD
Local Santa Monica
20% Off
Senior VIP Card

EXPRESS
TAXI



Get to the doctor's office or local grocery store without
worrying about traffic, parking, gas, and impatient drivers.
No hassle return trips. We're always here for you.

For Fast Pickup Call:
(310) 828-3333

For More Ways to Make Your Life Easier
www.passengerswanted.net



Tudor House

Serving Santa Monica for over 40 years



English Tearoom

1403 Second Street Santa Monica
Tel (310) 451-4107

Lunch and Afternoon teas
British Gifts, China
Bakery and Groceries

Sunset Grill

A CONTINENTAL CAFE
FOOD TO GO • DELIVERY • DINE IN

A Spectacular Spot for Dinner

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CAFE FOR 15 YEARS

Come in and taste our:
DRUNKEN CHICKEN
LAMB CHOPS
PORK TENDERLOIN
SUNSET QUICHE

OFFICE PARTY OR SOCIAL EVENT?
IMPRESS YOUR GUESTS WITH
CONTINENTAL CATERING.
CALL US FOR DETAILS.

"THE ONLY THING TO DO IS BECOME A REGULAR" – L.A. TIMES

BREAKFAST ■ LUNCH ■ DINNER

Open from 7:30am - 9pm ■ Closed Sundays & Holidays
1701 Ocean Park Blvd. in Santa Monica ■ 310-450-7546



HOROSCOPE

SELLING
SUNSET
PARK



SUZANNE SANDERS
& SCHULER

2444 Wilshire Blvd.
Santa Monica, Calif. 90403
Tel: 310-586-0371
Tel: 310-586-0369
e-mail: heidischuler@compuserve.com
www.santamonicahouses.com

COLDWELL
BANKER

Kick up your heels, Gem

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll have:



★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You don't need to live with difficult situations. In fact, with focus, you can change your direction and be much happier. Some nurturing and a little understanding go a long way. Allow friends and loved ones to lighten up your life. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Your desirability punctuates a good part of your day. Funnel your creativity in a direction that makes a difference to you and to others. People gravitate toward you, no matter what you say or do. Express that Taurean nurturing quality. Tonight: Understand that not every moment has to be a whirlwind.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You might enjoy moseying around your home, visiting with a family member. You also might opt to take on a new project to make your pad more accommodating and homey. Let your imagination play into your choices. Tonight: Kick up your heels.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ You know what is happening within your immediate circle. Everyone wants to update you on his or her news. Still, don't forget someone close who might feel left out. Run errands and visit with others. Tonight: Homeward bound.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You indulge yourself and those around you. Don't kid yourself about the cost of a project or long-term frivolity. Just the same, you choose that course. A get-together has a very intellectual tone or side to it. Tonight: Debate and brainstorm.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You have a most appealing way about you. Mix in your empathetic abilities, and others will act magnetized by your very presence. Know that this is short-lived. So make the most of the moment. Treat yourself well. Tonight: Choose what would make you smile.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Much that occurs revolves around a secret or something you choose not to share. Others could pry, ask and try to weasel information out of you. Your personality and intellect stop all efforts before they even begin. Tonight: Feed your mind. Play Scrabble.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Your ability to turn in new directions and see value in what others see as odd helps you maximize your opportunities. Hop into the whirlwind of life, understanding that you are the vortex. Even the Scorpion could be overwhelmed. Tonight: Chill out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Others let you know how important you are to them. How very nice. An offer or compliment could turn your world around. Please don't underestimate yourself. You have a lot to offer. Accept the applause. Tonight: Why not celebrate?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Your vision mixed with your ability to pull back allows you to be much more caring than if you were triggered by situations. Accept responsibilities graciously. Dote on an older relative or loved one. Tonight: In the limelight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ A loved one or friend does true confessions. Could this person have a crush on you? Intimate conversations and sharing mark your decisions. Consider getting tickets to a concert or play. Tonight: Your imagination will serve you well.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Someone clearly has a crush on you or is an admirer. Though you enjoy the compliments, you might have a problem with accepting his or her affection. You might want less in a relationship. Chat over a late lunch. Tonight: Be sensitive to others' feelings.



Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
Phone: (310) 458-PRESS (7737) • Fax: (310) 576-9913
1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • www.smdp.com

PUBLISHER Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com	ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Stewart O'Dell stewarto@smdp.com	NIGHT EDITOR Michael Tittinger moneysurf@smdp.com
EDITOR Carolyn Sackariason sack@smdp.com	PRODUCTION MANAGER Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II alex@smdp.com	CIRCULATION Keith Wyatt keith@smdp.com
STAFF WRITER John Wood wood@smdp.com	EXECUTIVE TRAFFIC MANAGER Brenda Casas brenda@smdp.com	CIRCULATION Glenn Bolan glenn@smdp.com
ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER Robbie P. Plubeni rplubeni@smdp.com	CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE Mirella Reyes mirella@smdp.com	SPECIAL PROJECTS Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com
ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Rob Schwenker schwenker@smdp.com	NIGHT EDITOR Lori Luechtefeld lori@smdp.com	MASCOT Maya Furukawa maya@smdp.com

LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Elks give props to cops

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Elks hosted a dinner for 41 officers from the FBI, LA County Sheriff's and the Santa Monica Police Department.

An individual from each law enforcement branch was recognized with a plaque. Bill Wittenberg, district deputy grand exalted ruler, presented a scroll from State Sen. Sheila Kuehl. Elks Vice President James Rocha relayed his commendation to all.

The FBI nomination went to Amulfo (Arnie) Madrano for his outstanding record of solving fraud cases involving financial institutions. Ray Beers, Elks' leading knight, presented a scroll to Madrano from Congressman Henry Waxman.

For the county sheriff station in Malibu, Deputy James Mee received the nomination. In the last year, while working a DUI patrol car, Mee made 104 DUI arrests and issued 1,335 citations. Doug Randall, exalted ruler, noted that the number of DUI accidents has decreased in the area.

Nark Hollans of the SMPD was nominated by Chief James Butts. On Dec. 1, 2004, Holland spotted a suspicious 2005 Mercedes. A quick check showed the car was stolen. Holland's surveillance led to the arrest of two suspects in possession of stolen property.

Tune in, turn on, drop by

By Daily Press staff

Ever wondered what effect your iPod will have on posterity? If so, then you may want to check out the Marshall McLuhan Event at Bergamot Books on Feb. 9.

Robert Dobbs, author and McLuhan's archivist, joined by Gerry Fialka, the producer of Media Ecology Super Sessions (MESS), will spend the evening discussing McLuhan's ideas and published works, as well as the underlying implication of new technology on daily life. The focus will be on McLuhan's recent releases from Ginko Press, "Understanding Media-Critical Edition" and "Through Thy Vanishing Point: Space in Poetry and Painting."

MESS is an organization that provides a forum to examine how the form and content of modern media affects daily life.

The event will be held at 7:30 p.m. at Bergamot Station, building G-5B, 2525 Michigan Ave. Free admission. Free parking. For information, call (310) 306-7330, or log onto www.bergamotstationbooks.com.



Photo courtesy of the Santa Monica Elks
(Left to right) Elks Curt Curtiss, Ray Beers and Doug Randall present 'Officer of the Year' plaques to LA County Sheriff's Deputy James Mee, Santa Monica Police officer Mark Holland and FBI agent Arnie Medrono. Elk Bill Wittenberg stands between Mee and Holland.



SURF REPORT

The rain fell Friday, meaning only the sick seekers will be out today. Still, the NW swell rose and wave size was a solid chest-high even in the middle of the bay.

Saturday, this NW'er should peak in the pre-dawn hours with sets running overhead at most west facing breaks by sunup. Sunday, the surf is expected to decline towards chest-high, and winds should recuperate as well. Bacteria levels from runoff will still be a concern though.

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

Today the water is:

60°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	5:01	2.0	5:36	0.3	10:51	4.7	N/A	N/A
SUNDAY	5:55	1.9	11:32	4.0	5:55	1.9	6:00	0.8
MONDAY	12:47	4.3	12:27	3.3	7:06	1.8	6:26	1.3
TUESDAY	8:42	1.6	6:57	1.8	1:29	4.5	2:03	2.7
WEDNESDAY	10:25	1.0	7:47	2.3	2:24	4.8	4:50	2.5
THURSDAY	11:40	0.2	9:30	2.6	3:31	5.1	6:45	2.8
FRIDAY	11:40	0.2	9:30	2.6	3:31	5.1	6:45	2.8

The Surf Report is sponsored by:

ALL ABOUT HER

ROCKER

BOARD SHOP

SURF • SNOW • SKATE

boards • wetsuits
swimwear
clothing • accessories

12204 Venice Boulevard
Mar Vista, CA 90066
(310) 397-8300 TEL
(310) 397-8931 FAX
www.rockereboardshop.com
info@rockereboardshop.com

The QLine

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.

Santa Monica Daily Press
Has an 'E-dition'!
Home delivery by E-mail
FREE SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE!
For more information, please call: 310.458.Press (7737)
or sign up on our Web site @ www.smdp.com



MATT CRABBS



(310) 864-9034 352 WESTMINSTER AVE., VENICE

CALL ME TO GET A PROFESSIONAL OPINION ON YOUR RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE.

RESIDENTIAL

WANTED: RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY IN OCEAN PARK AND SUNSET PARK. I HAVE QUALIFIED BUYERS PREPARED TO BUY

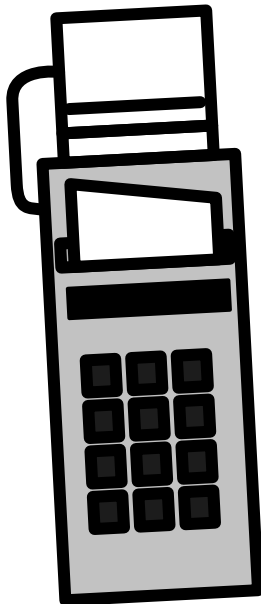
COMING SOON: VENICE, New contemporary, N. of Abbot Kinney, S. of Washington 2BD 2BA brand new loft over garage, new construction. 1,000SQFT loft. \$1,199,000

COMMERCIAL

Wanted: Commercial Property Main Street Santa Monica.

Hermosa Beach Shopping Center Anchored by a major restaurant. Center includes medical group, salon, Pilates studio, boutique, office suites. 6% cap rate \$7,050,000

Manhattan Beach - New Listing 24,000 square feet of land, prime location, signalized corner. Fantastic opportunity! **Just reduced!** \$2,099,000



TAXES

ALL FORMS • ALL TYPES • ALL STATES

AUDITS • BACK TAXES • BOOKKEEPING • SMALL BUSINESS

SAMUEL B. MOSES, CPA
(310) 395-9922

100 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1800
Santa Monica 90401



The Q-Line

HOMELESS 101: TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

This past week, Q-line asked:

How can Santa Monica better address the issue of homelessness here and throughout the country?

Here are your responses:

© “Logistics are the key for the homeless problem and logistics are all important. Right now we pay millions of dollars to social service agencies but get nothing in results. The sobriquet homeless is a loose definition of people without a roof over their heads. Usually people have to work to keep a roof over the heads, but obviously not in Santa Monica where homelessness is on automatic pilot. Logistics are key to the solution to the problem. And getting the biggest bang for the buck is also part of the solution. In the 1980s, Ronald Reagan cut all financial support for mental institutions in the United States. The states closed most of their facilities for the mentally ill for lack of federal funding. So logistically, do a four-step processing of homeless on the streets. Step number one: Pick them up and take them to the processing center (e.g. 7th and Colorado, or another building, e.g. the old jail house). Step number two: City personnel should ascertain who is fit to work and who needs a mental health institution and who needs sobriety treatment. Step number three: The Los Angeles county and cities should hire part-time employees from the fit to work, assigning simple chores. The mentally ill should go directly to newly opened mental institutions. The sobering up crowd should be given part-time work by the cities in Los Angeles County. Step number four: The people in the above categories should be given bed vouchers as part of their work, except for the mentally ill. Sound simple? It is. Just do it.”

© “The city of Santa Monica is only the recipient of homelessness and not the cause of homelessness. Homelessness is the responsibility of the federal government of the people to establish a program that will help local municipalities in their effort to aid and redirect their homeless population. Showers, haircuts, clothing, and food would be a good start. Unfortunately, our federal bureaucrats and politicians do not have time to consider the problems of the homelessness. They are too busy servicing the special interest who sponsored them for office. The money spent on the last presidential election inauguration would solve Santa Monica's homeless problem until doomsday. Still, my suggestion would be that we drain the Pacific Ocean from the Santa Monica Bay area, tear down the pier, and close down the Third Street Promenade, Palisades Park and the bike path and finally block access to the 10 Freeway. No self-respecting homeless person or anyone else would want to hang out in Santa Monica after that.”

© “For years Santa Monica has permitted this homeless vagrant population to grow unabated. The few agencies which would have been adequate for local people and problems are now totally overwhelmed. Santa Monica itself has

created this monster. All these feeding and donation programs that come in from out of this area are worsening the problem by the day. We have one gigantic skid row population. I was infuriated at the picture of the homeless with their bags of goodies in front of City Hall (SMDP, Jan. 24, page 1). Let that church hire a couple of buses and bring these people to Manhattan Beach and decrease our surplus population. And that goes for all the rest of the out of the area do-gooders. Our situation here in Santa Monica is unmanageable the way it is now.”

© “One thing that strikes me immediately was on the Monday, Jan. 24 cover of the Daily Press, you mentioned that the Manhattan Beach Catholic Church was giving out food to the Santa Monica homeless people. Well, that's very admirable. Wouldn't they be better off giving it to the homeless in Manhattan Beach? And, therefore, maybe keeping some of the homeless in Manhattan Beach. Its a win-win situation for them.”

© “Yes, years ago I was captain of a homeless feeding program in Palisades Park, it was quite an interesting thing. But I think we do a bit too much for the homeless and I think it should be spread around to other cities. Because we're almost this homeless capital of southern California.”

© “The main lifeblood of the homeless in Santa Monica is not the public feedings, it's the trash cans in the alleyways. And if the city passed an ordinance requiring locks on all the trash cans across the board, which is a very simple thing to do, my prediction is that homelessness in Santa Monica would go down 50 percent. I appreciate the forum here.”

© “The main thing that will get rid of the bum problem in Santa Monica is to enforce all the laws. If there's a bum with a shopping cart, arrest him. If there's a bum loitering in the park or going to the bathroom in public, arrest him. And if the jail won't keep them, put them on a chaingang or something, force them to work. Sans the bum feedings, enforce the laws. If they aren't allowed to feed the bums in public, confiscate the food, give it to the food banks. The only thing that some of these bums will understand is a knock on the head. One time I was walking along on about 20 feet behind a guy — this was in Venice — he walked past this bum. The bum wanted some money, the guy kept walking, the bum spit on him. The guy turned around and decked the bum and knocked him down, then kept on walking. That bum probably won't spit on people again. That's how you teach these people. They take over the parks, take over the Promenade, they stink it up, something has to be done.”

We all need enhancers to perform to our best



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

Organized baseball recently initiated an anti-steroid policy that will slap the overdeveloped wrists of violators. The major objection that baseball and its fans have against steroids is that “performance-enhancing drugs” muddy the purity of the game. Those who use these drugs are “cheaters,” since players in previous decades didn't have the chance to use them. So if a beefed-up slugger hits 70 home runs today, he shouldn't be compared to an earlier player's 60 home runs in the pre-steroid era. Some suggest an asterisk should be placed next to records set by those who are now suddenly capable of bench-pressing a Buick.

The most objectionable things about steroid use to me are that it is generally illegal since you're supposed to have a valid prescription for the drugs, and the side effects on the user's body can be tragic. These things weren't even mentioned in baseball's attack on players who looked like normal people two years ago, and now are slightly larger than the clubhouse. Baseball's concern seems to be exclusively about a possible unfair advantage over those who didn't or don't use these drugs.

Modern athletes have better diets and more knowledge about vitamins and training methods than those in previous eras, but these advantages are acceptable. It's the wicked drugs that apparently make things unfair.

If I disregard the legal and health issues — as baseball does — I have to look at steroid use in a different light. I'm not sure I know anyone who doesn't use “performance-enhancing drugs or supplements.” Do you?

Do we criticize the plumber who takes blood pressure medication, thereby adding years to both his life and career? Does anyone call the woman executive a cheater who feels she can do her job better now that she is taking hormone replacement therapy or supplements? If we read a classic novel written by an alcoholic writer, do we suggest that it's unfair to compare it to lesser novels written by sober authors? If a ballerina gives a beautiful performance that she couldn't have given without the anti-inflammatories she takes for her

knees, should the critic put an asterisk next to her review? If a kid needs his asthma medicine before taking the SATs, should we discount his score? Is the mother of four whose anti-depressants help her at home and at work cheating?

What about that couple in the TV commercial in the outdoor bathtubs? Is anyone saying that their improved sex life — or the improved sex lives of millions — is not as legitimate as those who don't use medication? In fact, it's ironic that sometimes, right behind home plate — right behind that batter who might or might not be an evil performance enhancer — is an ad for people to enhance their sexual performance.

Does the proliferation of drugs in our society excuse or condone steroid use by athletes? No, but it sure helps explain it. If a high school baseball player comes home and sees his parents having a drink or two “to take the edge off,” or if he sees how many pills and vitamins his parents take every day, is it any wonder that he might be tempted to take things that may help him play better? We live in a culture in which most people take something to help them feel better and, yes, perform better.

So, why are we so much more critical of those who do this in sports? It's because we like to cling onto the myth that athletes are pure and good. This has always been the case. While they were playing, nobody talked about Babe Ruth's drinking, Joe DiMaggio's treatment of family and friends, or Mickey Mantle's womanizing.

As long as athletes are heroes, they'll be held to different standards from regular people, and we won't think it's OK for them to take drugs to help them on the field. And maybe that's not such a bad thing. People need heroes, and maybe some of us need to live vicariously through others whom we like to believe are so talented, so strong, so good, so superhuman that they don't need drugs or supplements like the rest of us.

I had a little headache before writing this column, and took something for it. I hope you don't feel that I cheated.

(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@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com).



Got News?

If you see news happening or have something to report, call the Santa Monica Daily Press at our NEW tipline!

Call 310.285.TIPS (8477)

LOCAL



New hiring protocol puzzles long-time workers

PUT TO THE TEST, from page 1

Hall. They work, among other places, in the police department as cadets, in city libraries as pages, and at pools as junior lifeguards during busy summer months.

"Under the city charter and the Santa Monica municipal code, we're supposed to be using a merit system recruitment procedure for all positions, whether they're as-needed or permanent," Bancroft said this week. "Also, federal law ... requires that jobs be open and accessible to any qualified person.

"We're trying to make sure that we're doing things correctly," Bancroft added. "(In the past) people have gotten in without having to compete. It doesn't mean that they can't compete for these jobs and still have them."

Under the competitive process, workers must turn in new employment applications and, if qualified, undergo a civil ser-

vice exam, which may include a written test, oral interview and performance test, according to city documents. An eligibility list then is established, and managers are given the authority to choose between the top three ranked applicants for any given position.

Many of the temporary or seasonal workers have been employed by City Hall for years and worry they may lose their jobs because of the changes.

"I have worked for the city for almost a decade as an as-needed employee, and have dedicated my time and efforts to provide the best possible job performance to my employer, so (I) was shocked and dismayed" by the letter announcing the changes, said one worker, who asked not to be named.

"It's a lot more than a job," added the worker, who said his supervisor had advised him to keep a low-profile during the transition to a competitive process.

"It's an investment that I made years and years ago, and it's really quite a loss to me. It's not just the money, it really meant a lot to me to be working for the city."

Bancroft said workers need not fret. Though employees must follow procedure to retain their positions, the city is holding workshops to help the workers with interviews and tests. What's more, because many of the temporary and seasonal jobs are not complex managerial positions they often require only an oral examination, and not a written test or performance review, Bancroft added.

To illustrate her case, Bancroft pointed out that when City Hall made permanent 16 concession sales and parking attendant positions at the Civic Auditorium last year, all but two of the workers held onto their jobs.

City Hall's municipal code has required equal opportunity in the workplace since 1948. The city recently decid-

ed to reconsider the way temporary and seasonal workers were hired after realizing in the course of reviewing the civil service regulations it long had been out of compliance, Bancroft said.

"This is an issue that we discovered and we're now fixing it," she added.

The cost to re-test the workers will be nil, continued Bancroft, who said all the work will be done by existing workers, without any added hours. The benefits, however, may be noticeable to Santa Monica merchants and residents.

"It really sets forth a process where all positions are filled through an open, competitive process — so the best-qualified, based on their exam results, are the ones that are hired by a public agency," Bancroft said. "So that a public agency isn't just hiring friends, neighbors, doing it that way. It's really to ensure that the taxpayer dollars are spent the way they're supposed to be."

Making the bed provides habitat for bay creatures

UNDER THE SEA, from page 1

near Point Dume two to three times a week throughout the year.

"What holds municipalities or governments back from doing the right thing is often that they don't have the money or the time," Ford said. "Volunteers can step in and just do the job."

To replant an area with kelp, volunteers anchor mesh bags full of leaf-like blades of the kelp plant to the bay floor. In other cases, they may drag long stalks of loose kelp down from the surface and tie them in place near a reef. Using methods that simulate the way that kelp spores naturally spread encourages their success, Ford said.

"A kelp spore knows a great deal more about where it should best be than I do," he said.

Sea urchins must be removed from those areas because they feed on young kelp. Many of the spiny creatures' natural predators have been removed by unregulated fishing, Ford said. The result has been their presence in unnatural and, sometimes unbelievable numbers.

"We show up to some of these sites and there are just urchins everywhere," Ford said. "You can see nothing but urchins."

"Sometimes it feels like you're diving down onto a big pin cushion," said program volunteer Joe Couce.

The divers spend much of their time placing sea urchins into bags and floating them to the surface. At the end of each day, Ford said the creatures are taken out to sandy areas of the bay and released from their study areas.

"We know that they're not very good at walking," he said.

Laws prevent the group from destroying the creatures, or taking them too far out of their normal environments in the

bay.

Another large portion of the work involves collecting data about the health of the kelp, as well as the number and types of marine life that have moved into the restored habitats.

While he admitted that he wished the program was more visible, Couce, who has been with the program for five years, said volunteers "don't go out for praise or glory, they just want to work for the environment."

Couce is a Los Angeles City firefighter and paramedic. Like many other volunteer divers, he helps out on his days off. The project currently has 35 active members, who dive as their schedules permit.

The kelp beds in the bay naturally increase and decrease in size over a period of years. Weather patterns, events that affect water temperature such as EL Nino and La Nina, and as well as certain types of pollution, are believed to have a role in those fluctuations, Ford said.

Over the past 30 years, kelp beds have become less able to recover from the disruptions.

"Everybody who's studying this stuff sees this ... one year it's there and the next year it's back," Ford said. "But historically that wasn't the case. We didn't see the 'vanishing kelp act' as frequently."

Increases in water pollution, dirt running into the water as a result of increased coastal development, and the exploding urchin population have made it hard for young kelp to grow.

"If you take a look at giant kelp, it's easy to forget it starts off as a single cell planted on a rock. It doesn't take much to interrupt it at that stage," Ford said.

Ford and his crew hope that their beds will recover more quickly from disturbances, and help keep the surrounding

kelp healthy.

Ford said he is glad the restoration effort is under way, despite that the bay is far from being healed.

"We could sit and wait until we had

everything all cleaned up and then say, 'now that the water's all clean, let's go fix it,'" he said. "I'm afraid if we wait that long, there won't be anything left out there to fix."

Eat inside or out in our beautiful lavender garden!

Grilled & Cold Paninis
Gourmet Salads
Delicious Crêpes

Since 1998

2715 Main St. Santa Monica • (310) 399-9939
www.paninigarden.com

BREAKFAST - LUNCH - DINNER | CATERING/DELIVERY

Santa Monica TOBACCO & GIFTS

CARTON SPECIAL

\$30.99

We honor all manufacturer's coupons PLUS an additional 5%

Marlboro, Camel, Newport, Kool, Parliament, Virginia Slims, Winston

w/ COUPON EXP. 1/31/04

1434 Fourth Street, Santa Monica 310.393.9592 (parking in rear)

ADVERTISEMENT

YOUR AD
COULD RUN HERE!
CALL US
TODAY AT
(310) 458-7737

LEARN TO SURF LA
Surf Lessons
Private and Group
Equipment provided
CPR certified
310-920-1265
Camp@learntosurfla.com

CAR ACCIDENT?
How to Protect Yourself
If You've Recently Been
In An Accident?...

Sacramento, CA — Car Accident injuries are often misunderstood. The pain from automobile accident injuries can last weeks, months, even years down. After an accident, many feel frustrated because they don't know how they should feel, how long it should take to get better and what they should do. A free report has recently been available to accident victims that reveals...

- ✓ A common condition that keeps many accident victims from ever feeling normal again.
- ✓ How to determine if you may already have this seldom discussed condition.
- ✓ How to protect yourself from insurance company abuse.

To get a copy of this free report, Call 1-888-246-3790. (Toll-free 24 hr. recorded message.).

WHEN
will you get the power of email working for your business?
greatbignoise® www.greatbignoise.com



STATE

Schwarzenegger, Núñez trade barbs over reform

BY TOM CHORNEAU

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — A day after Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger challenged the Democrats who control the Legislature, he and key Democrats sparred again Thursday over who's to blame for the slow progress of the governor's reform proposals.

Schwarzenegger called a surprise news conference Thursday morning to say he

wanted to set the record straight and "reiterate that we have introduced legislation and if anyone there says that we didn't, they are wrong."

Only moments after the governor completed his remarks, Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez, D-Los Angeles, responded, saying that some of the bills were not in a complete form when they were introduced and needed to be revised. He also said that measures were not clearly identified as the governor's proposals, which

also delayed action.

The four constitutional "reform" amendments backed by Schwarzenegger and introduced by Republican legislators would impose across-the-board spending cuts when revenues failed to match spending; give authority for drawing legislative districts to retired judges; restrict the state's future pension obligations; and set base teacher pay on merit rather than tenure.

What appeared to be routine political wrangling between Schwarzenegger and Democrats also highlights the stakes involved with Schwarzenegger's proposals. Already, they've been attacked by powerful groups with long-standing ties to Democrats, including labor unions and education groups.

If the Legislature doesn't pass his plans or negotiate compromises to put them on the statewide ballot for voter approval, Schwarzenegger said he will push his plans as ballot initiatives and get them on a special election ballot that way.

Tension between the popular Republican governor and the Legislature's Democratic leaders is likely to be a common theme throughout the rest of the year.

Indeed, some of it spilled over on to the Assembly floor Thursday morning as well

when several Republicans followed up the governor's complaint that leadership was moving too slow on the governor's plans.

"It's time to get to work. This state has had a fiscal crisis for a number of years," Assemblyman Keith Richman, R-Chatsworth, sponsor of the governor's pension reform measure. "I would ask that we address the governor's reform proposal now, instead of sitting around and doing nothing."

Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg countered that the governor's restructuring proposals wouldn't affect the 2005-06 budget, so the budget committee wasn't required to discuss them.

"There's not a dime of savings in there for the budget," said Goldberg, D-Los Angeles. "I'm a little confused about why we should be talking about them in the budget hearing."

Goldberg also pointed out that the presidential swearing in ceremony in Washington, D.C., last week took some key lawmakers out of town. "It makes it sound like we're in a fight over this already," she said. "Some of you in the outraged category weren't around last week, so I don't know if we could have held hearings without your presence."

The fabulous cry foul over possible vanity tax

VANITY TAX, from page 1

The Washington state senator who proposed the tax said she has never gone under the knife for beauty, but wouldn't rule it out.

"I, too, look in the mirror and see my mother," said Seattle Democrat Karen Keiser, 57. But she thinks cosmetic surgery patients can afford the state's 6.5 percent sales tax. She wants to earmark the money for poor children's health insurance.

"We could do Botox-for-babies parties. It might be the new thing," Keiser said. "Anyone who can afford the money for cosmetic procedures, I don't think they would be deterred by a little sales tax. You pay it on your lipstick."

The tax would not apply to reconstructive surgery for, say, burn victims or women who have undergone mastectomies.

In September, New Jersey became the first and so far the only state to tax plastic

surgery, at 6 percent. The tax is projected to bring in \$25 million a year.

In Illinois, the state comptroller has proposed a 6 percent tax on cosmetic surgery to create a stem cell research institute. If the Legislature approves, the question could be put to the voters in 2006.

The American Society of Plastic Surgeons frowns on this new wrinkle, calling New Jersey's law a "dangerous precedent."

Seattle surgeon Dr. Phil Haeck noted that 86 percent of cosmetic surgery patients are women.

"This is an unfair tax on women," said Haeck, editor of Plastic Surgery News. "The bulk of the people who have procedures are not financially upper-class women. They've saved hard, and this is about restoring their self-esteem."

Wakefield, for one, wants people to know she paid for her own nips and tucks.

"I'm not married to some rich guy," she said. "I worked my butt off for this."

10% OFF
with this
ad

ALEXANDER'S

AUTO BODY REPAIR & PAINT SPECIALISTS

*"We work
on all
makes and
models"*

FREE

Tow, Pick Up, Delivery, Estimates

**Top Quality Work
Satisfaction Guaranteed
Fast & Friendly Service**

1008 Olympic Blvd. Santa Monica CA 90404 • (310) 450-0300 • fixitright@verizon.net

Santa Monica Daily Press

Has an 'E-dition'!

Home delivery by E-mail

FREE SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE!

For more information, please call: 310.458.Press (7737)
or sign up on our Web site @ www.smdp.com

OVER/UNDER

SPORTS GRILL

Available for Private Parties
Lunch Time Delivery Available
1333 Santa Monica Blvd.
[Corner of 14th and Santa Monica Blvd.]
(310) 899-0076

FEBRUARY 6TH

SUPERBOWL BASH

Contests
Drink & Food Specials
\$2.50 DRAFT SPECIALS
Raffles!

SCHOOLS, from page 40

ALL LAKERS GAMES

\$5 Burgers or Philly Cheese Steaks & Fries

\$1.00 OFF

LUNCH SPECIALS
11 TO CHOOSE FROM

From Monday - Friday, 11:30AM - 3:00PM
Witch choice of seasoned or curly fries, potato chips, mixed greens or rice & beans and soda.
Limit 1 special per customer. Expires 04/30/05

SUB SANDWICH

Buy one at regular price & get the 2nd of equal or lesser value

FREE

Limit 1 special per customer. Expires 04/30/05

Since 1993
Available for private parties

14

Below

Next door to Over/Under
(310) 451-5040 www.14below.com

Upcoming Headliners

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

Broken Remotes

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

Cubensis

(Tribute to Grateful Dead)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Atomic Punks

(Tribute to early Van Halen)

Celebrating SMDP's 3rd Anniversary!

FUNNY PAPERZ

BESTEST EDITORIAL CARTOONS OF THE YEAR 2004

ORDER ONLINE!

FUNNYPAPERZ.COM

-Softcovers \$15
-CDs \$10
-Sets \$20

STATE



Train wreck shines spotlight on rail vulnerability

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — In the first moments after a commuter train plowed into an SUV parked on the tracks, some feared it was a terrorist act. The truth — that the deadly wreck was caused by one man bent on suicide — was at once reassuring and chilling.

Chilling, because the disaster illustrated just how vulnerable the nation's passenger trains are.

Security and railroad experts worry that the nation's 140,000 miles of track are extremely susceptible to sabotage, and say there is not much that can reasonably be done to protect the rails because the network is so vast and because submerging or enclosing track would be staggeringly expensive.

Track security is "basically superficial," said David Heyman, director of homeland security program at Center for Strategic and International Studies, a think tank in Washington. "Anyone who's determined can get to the tracks."

New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Miami and other major U.S. cities have commuter railroads that accounted for 405 million passenger trips in 2003, according to the American Public Transportation Association.

Amtrak accounted for an additional 24.6 million.

The weakest links are the nearly 250,000 junctions where roads cross the tracks, including nearly 8,000 such spots in California. They are unprotected except for easily eluded crossing bars.

"I can think of a lot of different scenarios where they could wreak havoc and create major disasters," said Union Pacific engineer Timothy Smith, state legislative chairman for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen. "There's absolutely no doubt about that."

In a recent episode of the hit TV drama "24," in fact, terrorists parked a truck on the tracks to cause a train crash in Santa Clarita.

On Wednesday, authorities in suburban Glendale confronted their own real-life scenario when a man left his Jeep Cherokee on the tracks and jumped out in time to see two commuter trains crash. Eleven people were killed and nearly 200 injured in the nation's deadliest rail disaster in six years.

Investigators set up a counterterrorism command post to look into the possibility that it was a terrorist act, but they quickly dismissed the notion.

Authorities said the SUV driver, Juan Manuel Alvarez, had reached the tracks through a street-level highway crossing,

then drove parallel to the tracks and turned onto them.

While rail security has become a greater concern following last year's deadly bombings in Madrid, the nation's vast stretches of rail defy constant supervision. That was clear in 1995, when saboteurs pulled up the spikes along a stretch of rail in the Arizona desert, sending an Amtrak train into a dry stream bed. One person was killed.

Glendale Mayor Bob Yousefian said he and other Southern California officials have pressed the federal government for years to provide millions to help secure Metrolink's tracks by building tunnels or bridges where rail lines intersect roads.

But building tunnels or bridges costs \$9 million to \$100 million per crossing, said Warren Flatau, spokesman for the Federal Railroad Administration.

Less than half of Metrolink's nearly 800 crossings use tunnels or overpasses, said Metrolink spokesman Francisco Oaxaca. Refitting all crossings would cost

billions — a prohibitive amount, he said.

"What are the feasible solutions? There are plenty of pie-in-the-sky solutions," Oaxaca said. "We could create a 100 percent underground railroad, but realistically that's not going to happen."

Wednesday's crash also highlighted the practice of using locomotives at the rear of the train, to push instead of pull. To save time, commuter railroads such as Metrolink do not switch engines around when a commuter train reverses direction.

Smith said putting a passenger cab at the front makes a train more likely to derail instead of sweeping obstacles aside. Also, the force of a powerful engine in the back can cause a train to buckle violently in an accident, he said.

Flatau, the Federal Railroad Administration spokesman, said there is no evidence that a locomotive in the rear is more dangerous.

"It's a method that's been in use for many years," Oaxaca said, "both here and in Europe."

STATE BRIEFS

Petting zoo goes to the dogs

By The Associated Press

CHINO HILLS — A goat was killed and more than a dozen petting zoo animals were mauled by a pair of dogs that managed to get inside zoo fencing.

"I feel sick," owner Lori Bayour said of the Tuesday night attack. "I've been here for years, and nothing like that has happened before. They all have deep wounds."

Besides the dead 3-year-old goat named Hope, nine other goats, five sheep and a llama had puncture wounds, but it could have been worse if neighbor Ismael Cervera hadn't chased away the marauding dogs.

"I jumped the fence," Cervera said. "I chased him away. I was really angry. I didn't care if they were going to attack me. It's one of those things (where) you don't think about your own danger."

The dogs fled and their whereabouts weren't known.

Marine accused of abusing son

By The Associated Press

RIDGECREST — Marine Corps Sgt. James Samuel Rogers remained in custody pending a hearing next week on charges he abused his newborn son, who was hospitalized this month with a fractured skull.

Rogers is alleged to have attacked his son on Jan. 18. The infant was released to the custody of his mother, Jessica Wainright, on Wednesday at Loma Linda University Medical Center after treatment for skull fractures and other injuries.

Julie Patrick and Kinzie Brinson, the mothers of Rogers' 19-month-old daughter and 3-year-old son, told The Daily Independent that the Marine had a history of hurting his children when he was stationed in North Carolina.

"If we can prove that some sort of sadistic history existed we will seek a torture charge," Kern County Deputy District Attorney Perry Patterson said Thursday. "The minimum Rogers could receive at this point is 12 years but a torture charge could carry a life sentence."

Rogers faces a Tuesday hearing in Ridgecrest for setting of a preliminary hearing.

Retirement pays off for OC official

By The Associated Press

SANTA ANA — Former Orange County personnel chief Jan Walden, who announced a year ago she was retiring after criticism from the county grand jury, is still collecting her \$139,000-a-year salary.

The county confirmed this week that Walden resigned in April 2004 as human-resources director but she was then allowed to go on administrative leave and still get paid. Her leave expires Monday.

County chief executive officer Tom Mauk said Walden, to his knowledge, hasn't performed any Orange County work during her administrative leave.

Meanwhile, Walden has been manager of human resources for the city of Irvine since October, earning an annual salary between \$82,891 and \$117,300.

GERMAN CAR SERVICE

Specialist in Repair of **Porsche • VW • Audi • BMW**

- Best alternative to high dealer prices
- Complete service and repair
- All work guaranteed
- Locally owned and operated since 1965



2202 OLYMPIC BLVD., SANTA MONICA • (310) 829-2563

Vintage Fashion Expo

The original

Show & Sale

Feb 5 - 6

Historical
Collectible
Wearable

Fashions
1850s-1980s

Accessories

hats

textiles

Jewelry

Men's

Women's

Santa Monica Civic Center

1855 Main @ Pico

Sat. 10:30am-6pm

Early buy! Sat. 9-10:30 am \$20

Sun. 11-5

Admission \$10 (\$2 off w/ this flyer)

Parking rebate with ticket purchase

www.vintageexpo.com

Students free on Sunday w/ ID & Ad

707-793-0773



STATE

STATE BRIEFS

Finally, a flip of the switch

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Nearly two decades of effort climaxes at sunset Sunday with lighting of the Vincent Thomas Bridge linking San Pedro and Terminal Island.

The campaign to light the bridge started in 1988. The switch will be flipped Sunday evening and 160 blue LED lights will outline the landmark span's roadway and cables.

The mile-long suspension bridge opened in November 1963 bearing the name of the area's long-time state assemblyman.

Lighting up the bridge took years of fund-raisers and environmental clearances.

Vincent Thomas Bridge Lighting Committee chairman Louis Dominguez and his committee members deserve most of the praise for never giving up, residents said.

"They have patience galore," San Pedro resident Bill Roberts said.

Highway to be rigged

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Transportation officials approved a \$5.5 billion plan to rebuild the truck-choked Long Beach Freeway into a modern highway with four big-rig-only lanes, some of them possibly elevated.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority board on Thursday voted to reconstruct an 18-mile state Highway 710 from the harbors to rail yards in Commerce and East Los Angeles.

The current six to 10-lane freeway will become a 14-lane highway.

Environmentalists sue to stop logging at national monument

BY LISA LEFF

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Environmentalists sued the federal government this week over plans to log Giant Sequoia National Monument, plans they say would violate the presidential proclamation creating the preserve that is home to two-thirds of the world's largest trees.

The Sierra Club and four other environmental groups called the U.S. Forest Service's decision to include widespread logging in its plan for managing the 327,769-acre monument in central California a scientifically suspect strategy meant to satisfy timber interests under the guise of wildfire prevention.

"This plan opens up huge areas to logging and specifically targets trees big enough to sell, undermining the whole purpose of the monument," said Carla Cloer of the Tule River Conservancy, one of the organizations challenging the Forest Service plan.

The lawsuit filed Thursday in U.S. District Court in San Francisco seeks to block the plan and have it vacated. The groups had asked the regional forester to overturn it, but were refused.

Forest Service spokesman Matt Mathes said Thursday the federal agency's plan to allow "thinning" of some trees in Sequoia was motivated by fire prevention goals and does not permit commercial logging, which would be illegal there.

Only trees with diameters of up to 30 inches can be cut under the rules. The giant sequoia commonly grows to 30 feet in diameter, Mathes noted. Timber companies will pay the government for the right to remove some of the larger trees that fall within the 30-inch limit, which will provide money for removing brush and smaller trees that could pose a fire danger, he said.

"We have spent a tremendous amount of time with

scientists looking at the condition of the sequoia groves," he said. "The general conclusion is that decades of well-meaning but overzealous firefighting in that area has created an unnatural condition. There are far more small trees down there than nature intended."

The monument has been mired in controversy ever since former President Clinton created it in April 2000.

Logging interests, recreational groups and Tulare County unsuccessfully sued to eliminate the designation, contending Clinton exceeded his authority when he acted unilaterally to protect 38 ancient groves of the giant trees within the 1.1 million-acre Sequoia National Forest. The groves account for about 20,000 acres, or roughly 6 percent, of the monument's total acreage.

Eric Antebi, national spokesman for the Sierra Club in San Francisco, said environmentalists are suspicious about Forest Service plans for the monument because the National Park Service has managed the adjacent Sequoia National Park without relying on logging as a fire prevention tool. The Park Service uses prescribed burns and limited thinning around structures to remove low-lying fuels that can become kindling for fires, he said.

"There is a more scientifically sound way to manage this treasure and to address the fire-reduction needs. The Forest Service has no justification for logging," Antebi said.

But the Forest Service's Mathes said the conditions in Sequoia National Forest are different from those in the park and require different strategies. He said the Forest Service may eventually follow the Park Service lead in relying on more prescribed burns, but only when the forest is in better shape.

"It would be unprofessionally risky to light a prescribed fire under the current conditions," he said. "There is just too much chance of the fire getting away from us."

Britannia Pub

A Great Place To Anchor

Great Food...Great Cocktails...Great Crew... GREAT FUN!!

**"The Place
for Superbowl
Sunday"**

**Wednesday Night
Live Band**

BEGINNING FEBRUARY 2ND

Live 6 Nations Rugby

Acoustic Bands Needed for
Wednesday Nights, contact:
mike@brittania.com

Full Bar • Restaurant • Live Music • Heated Patio • Delivery
Low Carb Menu Available!

Open Sat & Sun at 9:30am for Breakfast

KARAOKE! Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sundays NO COVER

318 Santa Monica Blvd. • Santa Monica
310-458-5350 • www.britanniapub.com

Fresh Flowers Anywhere!

Amazing WonderVase
packs flat, molds to any
shape to hold fresh flowers
wherever you go. Set of
three, only \$14.85.



Magellan's

AMERICA'S LEADING SOURCE OF TRAVEL SUPPLIES

1006 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica

(at 10th - ten blocks from the beach)

Open Monday ~ Saturday from 10 to 6. Sunday 11 to 4.

Free Parking in Back.

www.magellans.com

NATIONAL



Procter & Gamble seeks Gillette for \$57 billion

BY JOE KAY

Associated Press Writer

CINCINNATI — The Procter & Gamble Co. is embarking on its largest acquisition to date — a \$57 billion deal for Gillette Co. and its pricey shaving products and copper-top batteries that would form the world's largest consumer-products company.

If regulators approve the deal, P&G will add Duracell battery, Right Guard deodorant and Gillette razors to its more than 300 consumer brands, including Head and Shoulders shampoo, Pringles, Crest toothpaste and Bounty paper towels. The acquisition would vault P&G's sales to more than \$60 billion annually.

"This combination of two best-in-class consumer products companies, at a time when they are both operating from a position of strength, is a unique opportunity," P&G chief executive A.G. Lafley said in a statement early Friday.

Both companies' boards unanimously approved the deal on Thursday.

Famed investor Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc. owns 9.7 percent of Gillette, or about 96 million shares — a stake equivalent to 93.6 million P&G shares. Buffett, Gillette's largest single shareholder, called the combination "a dream deal" and said he plans to buy another 6.4 million P&G shares to reach 100 million by late this year when the sale is expected to close.

P&G will pay 0.975 of a share for each share of Boston-based Gillette. Based on P&G's closing price of \$55.32 per share Thursday, the deal values Gillette at about \$54 per share — an 18 percent premium over its closing price.

P&G also plans to buy back \$18 billion to \$22 billion of its stock during the next year to 18 months. As a result, the deal would ultimately be financed through about 60 percent stock and 40 percent cash.

Lafley said about 6,000 jobs would be eliminated out of the combined work force of about 140,000, most of them by eliminating managerial overlaps and consolidating operations.

Gillette CEO James M. Kilts will become vice chairman of Cincinnati-based P&G, joining its board.

"Gillette and P&G have similar cultures and complementary core strengths in branding, innovation, scale and

go-to-market capabilities, making it a terrific fit," Lafley said.

The deal is a bold move by Lafley, who led the company out of dark times in 2000. Moving too fast on a restructuring plan implemented by Chief Executive Durk Jager, the company posted several disappointing quarters and its stock lost more than half its value in 2000.

Lafley replaced Jager in June 2000, slowed the pace of change and got the company back on solid footing. Its stock has risen by nearly one-third since 2003, with its strong global brands powering consistent sales growth.

As it resumed growth, P&G started acquiring brands that fit with its strategy — Germany's Wella AG hair care line in 2003 for \$5.7 billion was the biggest acquisition until Thursday. P&G also acquired Clairol for its hair-care lines and Iams Co. for its pet foods.

The company reported strong quarterly earnings on Thursday, including a 12 percent jump in net income to \$2.04 billion, up from \$1.8 billion in the same period a year ago. P&G's sales increased 7 percent to \$14.45 billion in the quarter.

Gillette also has reported strong earnings since Kilts joined the company in 2001. It has moved to buoy its premium-line shaving and dental care products and sales of Duracell batteries.

In its most recent quarter, Gillette reported income of \$475 million, up from \$416 million, as more consumers traded up to its pricier M3Power razor and the series of hurricanes in the South boosted battery sales. Gillette also sells Oral B dental care products.

Gillette shares closed at \$45.85 Thursday on the New York Stock Exchange, hitting a new 52-week high.

15TH ANNUAL WHITE SALE

the perfect time to stock
up on basics for your home!

5 DAYS ONLY!

essentials for bath, bed and table

**WEDNESDAY THRU SUNDAY
JANUARY 26TH - 30TH**

Store Sale Hours: 10 am – 6 pm



1600 Montana Avenue
Santa Monica Tel: 310.998.5858

Turn Your Closet into Cash!

L.A.'s hottest resale store!

Great Labels

DESIGNER RESALE

**ACCEPTING
NEW CONSIGNERS**

WANTED:

LOUIS VUITTON
CHANEL
GUCCI
HERMES
ST. JOHN
PRADA
JUDITH LEIBER
MISSONI
DOLCE & GABBANA



1126 Wilshire Blvd.,
Santa Monica, CA 90401

(310) 451-2277



NATIONAL

Smuggler crackdown now eyeing criminal bosses

BY JACQUES BILLEAUD

Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — A migrant smuggling crackdown credited with helping lower violent crime in Phoenix has a bigger goal in its second year: targeting the bosses of the crimi-

nal groups that make millions of dollars sneaking people across the border.

The crackdown was launched 16 months ago to reduce smuggling-related assaults, kidnappings and other violence that soared in metropolitan Phoenix, the nation's hub for transporting illegal workers.

Immigration officials said their success in busting street-level smugglers and identifying criminal groups puts them in a better position to focus on disrupting the financial and transportation networks used by smugglers — work they hope will lead to criminal bosses.

To do so, agents said they will keep busting “drop houses,” where smugglers hide migrants while payment and travel arrangements are made before would-be illegal workers are sent elsewhere.

“We are trying to tie those individual drop houses that we respond to with the organizations that we are investigating,” said Patricia Schmidt, deputy special agent in charge of Immigration and Customs Enforcement's investigations in Phoenix.

Unlike past crackdowns, the approach centers more on the smugglers than it does on their customers. Illegal immigrants are still apprehended and sent back home, but officials hope that, by keeping pressure on smugglers, they can make it harder to sneak people into the country.

“It does no good to just have this revolving door,” Schmidt said. “So what we needed to do was focus on the infrastructure that caused them to come to Arizona.”

Advocates for comprehensive change in American immigration policy said the approach doesn't confront the larger problems.

The heaviest flow of illegal border-crossers into Arizona began this month and is expected to continue through March. Migrants, some returning from an extended holiday back home, are seeking seasonal agricultural work and other jobs in the American labor market.

More than any other state in recent years, Arizona has been dogged by a heavy flow of illegal immigrants after the government tightened enforcement in El Paso, Texas, and San Diego during the mid-1990s.

Phoenix, located 108 miles from the border, offered smugglers neighborhoods that make it easy to hide their operations and plenty of transportation routes for sending customers to other regions.

While the majority of migrants crossing into the United States still use Arizona as their entry point, pressure from the crackdown has prompted some smugglers to shift from Phoenix to Los Angeles, Houston, Las Vegas or rural communities in Arizona.

Until the beginning of the crackdown in late 2003, local police said they sometimes had no choice but to release migrants into neighborhoods, without sorting the criminals from would-be workers, because there weren't enough federal immigration agents to handle the hundreds of drop houses in metropolitan Phoenix.

A more consistent response in Phoenix has led to the arrests of more than 300 people since the crackdown began, many of whom were workers for smuggling groups that ran drop houses.

Their first success at snaring alleged high-level smugglers came when state and federal authorities investigated workers at used car lots accused of helping sell vehicles to smugglers. That investigation led to a related case in which some of the suspected top managers in one of Arizona's largest smuggling groups were indicted on federal smuggling charges.

Increased enforcement alone won't solve the country's failed immigration policies, said Deborah Meyers, policy analyst for the Migration Policy Institute, a non-partisan group in Washington, D.C. The answer, she said, is for the government to simultaneously confront enforcement, the economic pull of migrants to the United States, migrants already living illegally here and other factors.

“There is no one particular switch a person can flick,” Meyers said.

Federal agents in Los Angeles will focus on the incoming smuggling traffic by gathering information about smugglers in drop house busts and trying to cut off the groups' access to Los Angeles International Airport, said Loraine Brown, special agent in charge of Immigration and Customs Enforcement's investigations in Los Angeles.

Once more pressure is applied in Los Angeles, some of the traffic is expected to turn to McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas, said Brown, whose jurisdiction also includes Clark County, Nev.



Pebbles
Gifts • Clothing • Collectables

2400 Main Street
Santa Monica, CA 90405
310.314.6472

NATIONAL



Economy looks promising after strong performance

BY JEANNINE AVERSA

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The economy finished 2004 with its best performance in five years despite slowing in the final stretch. The outlook ahead: a moderate jog, rather than a sprint.

The broadest barometer of the country's economic standing, the gross domestic product, clocked a 4.4 percent increase for all of last year spurred by brisk consumer and business spending, the Commerce Department reported Friday.

The latest snapshot of GDP, which measures the value of all goods and services produced within the United States, exceeded the 3 percent registered in 2003 and marked the strongest showing since the 4.5 percent gain of 1999.

"When you add it all up, you can't help but be pleased with how the economy performed last year," said Carl Tannenbaum, chief economist at LaSalle Bank. "The economy in 2004, in some cases, was like the Rodney Dangerfield economy. It didn't get a lot of respect. We spent so much of last year worrying about high oil prices, deficits, employment ... yet through it all we were able to turn out an outstanding year economically."

To be sure, it wasn't all smooth sailing.

In the October-to-December quarter, the economy grew at a 3.1 percent annual rate, its most sluggish pace since the first quarter of 2003. In the third quarter, the economy expanded at a 4 percent rate.

Although economists had expected a 3.5 percent growth rate in the fourth quarter, they said its 3.1 percent performance was still respectable and not as weak as the number suggested.

The deceleration seen in the fourth quarter from the previous quarter mostly reflected a drag on growth from the nation's swollen trade deficit. That shaved a sizable 1.73 percentage points off of fourth-quarter GDP.

Consumers and businesses, however, showed a relatively hearty appetite to spend during the final quarter even as energy prices soared. "Households and businesses went hog wild at the end of the year," said Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors.

Economists have varying opinions about the strength of economic growth in the current January-to-March quarter. Some predict growth could hover around a 3 percent pace. Others say it could come in closer to 4 percent. For all of 2005, analysts believe GDP will increase in the range of 3.5 to 3.8 percent — which would be slower than 2004 but still solid,

they said.

Against this backdrop, the Federal Reserve will probably stick with its gradual approach to raising interest rates, economists said.

Fed policy-makers are expected to boost rates next week by one-quarter percentage point to 2.50 percent. That would mark the sixth increase since the Fed embarked on a rate-raising campaign in June 2004.

The newest GDP readings come as President Bush tries to build political and public support for two key pieces of his second-term economic agenda: overhauling Social Security and the nation's tax code. Those are costly propositions made even more daunting, analysts say, by the government's already bloated budget deficits.

Treasury Secretary John Snow said the latest GDP figures highlight the "strength of our nation's economy" and the president's policies will "keep our economy on this upward path."

While the economy has been moving forward, the recovery in the nation's jobs market since the 2001 recession has been more uneven as companies remain somewhat cautious. Still, payrolls in 2004 expanded by 2.2 million, the first annual increase in three years.

In other economic news, the Labor Department reported that workers' wages and benefits grew 0.7 percent in the fourth quarter, down from a 0.9 percent increase in the prior quarter, as employers kept a close eye on costs.

An inflation gauge tied to the GDP report, meanwhile, showed prices rose 2.2 percent in 2004 as energy costs surged. In 2003, prices were up 1.9 percent. Excluding energy and food costs, "core" prices — closely watched by the Fed — increased 1.5 percent in 2004. While that was up from 1.3 percent in 2003, the pickup in core prices isn't worrisome, said Lynn Reaser, chief economist at Banc of America Capital Management.

Those higher prices didn't crimp consumer spending, the lifeblood of the economy. Consumers boosted spending in the fourth quarter at a brisk 4.6 percent annual rate. For all of 2004, spending rose 3.8 percent, the strongest since 2000.

Business spending on equipment and software, meanwhile, rose at a 14.9 percent pace in the fourth quarter. This spending was up 13.4 percent for all of last year, the most since 1997.

"The economy isn't in a galloping mode but more like a brisk trot," said Richard Yamarone, economist at Argus Research.

Molson's shareholders give overwhelming nod to merger with Coors

BY PHIL COUVRETTE

Associated Press Writer

MONTREAL — Shareholders of Canada's biggest brewer, Molson Inc., on Friday voted overwhelmingly in favor of merging with Adolph Coors Co., the third-largest brewery in the United States.

The \$6 billion merger would form the world's fifth-largest brewery if Coors shareholders also approve next Tuesday, as widely expected.

The combined Molson Coors Brewing Co., with headquarters both in Montreal and Denver, would own brands that include Coors Original, Coors Light, Keystone, Molson Canadian and Carling.

Molson officials said that more than 80 percent of the shareholders agreed to the merger, whose chances were increased earlier this month after the brewers dramatically increased a special dividend to persuade wavering Molson shareholders to approve their deal.

"Molson management and the board are very pleased that shareholders have supported the merger and understood the strategic and economic value of the transaction," Molson Chairman Eric Molson said in a statement after the vote, which took less than 45 minutes.

He said the merger creates a company "with the operational scale and the financial strength to compete in the rapidly consolidating global beer market."

Warren Chippindale, a former director of Molson, said shareholders understood that it was likely the best offer they would get.

"I think that it was generous of the Molsons to offer the special dividends and not take it for themselves," Chippindale told reporters after voting himself. He shrugged off concerns that yet another Canadian industry was being

dominated by U.S. interests.

"It's a big world and that's where the market is," he said. "I would rather see this kind of a merger than a takeover by a Miller or something like that."

The brewing giant SABMiller PLC had indicated it would be interested in making a bid for Molson should the pending merger with Coors fall through.

Earlier this month, the Canadian brewer and Golden, Colo.-based Coors dramatically increased a special dividend to persuade wavering Molson shareholders to approve their deal. The sweetened offer came after several shareholders, including some with significant holdings, said they would oppose the merger because they did not believe they would receive fair value for their stock.

It boosted the dividend to Molson shareholders to \$4.53 US per share from \$2.71 per share, or about \$532.6 million in all.

Molson Chairman Eric Molson, a member of the Canadian-based brewer's founding family, agreed to waive participation in the dividend, which amounted to about \$50 million.

Shareholder Francois Perreault said he was going to oppose the merger until the dividend deal.

"Molson wasn't really giving us a good deal. It could have been involved with more international corporations," said Perreault, after voting in favor of the merger on Friday, saying the dividend "pushed me over the edge."

Coors spokeswoman Laura Sankey said the company was pleased with the results of the Molson shareholder vote.

"We're confident that our shareholders will approve the merger," she said. "The proxies we have received to date already indicate a majority have voted to approve the merger."



don't be mousey
the DAILY PRESS e-dition is available
free daily on our website
log on: smdp.com



NATIONAL

Dispute over soldier's body causes parental divide

BY CHRISTINA ALMEIDA

Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — The horror was just beginning for Eleanor Dachtler when she received word her only son, Lance Cpl. Nicholas H. Anderson, had been killed during an insurgent attack in Iraq.

Less than 24 hours later, distraught by her ex-husband's plan to bury their son in another state, Dachtler found herself pleading with military officials to bring Anderson's body home to Las Vegas.

But after learning that a little-known military policy favors the older parent in such disputes and that the military had not required her son to have a will before deploying, Dachtler watched helplessly as her son was laid to rest some 266 miles away in Ventura, Calif.

"I couldn't believe that this was happening," Dachtler said recently, as she sat in her Las Vegas home filled with photographs of her 19-year-old son. "I can't go see him every week, talk to him. I want to go visit his grave and take him flowers."

Officials who deal with casualties say disagreements over a soldier's burial are not uncommon, particularly if there has been a divorce.

"I'm sure if you did some digging, you would find other instances of the situation we had with Lance Cpl. Anderson," said Marine Corps Capt. William Ghilarducci, who assisted Dachtler after her son's death. "That's why this policy is in place."

Military officials said most disputes are resolved among family members. But experts acknowledge the possibility exists for more such conflicts as soldiers deploy and increasingly leave behind complicated family situations — divorces, remarriages and stepfamilies.

"There is no question that these sorts of issues will become more common as divorces grow more numerous," said Loren Thompson, a military analyst with the Lexington Institute, a defense think tank in Alexandria, Va.

When Dachtler was first told her son had been killed Nov. 12, 2004, she assumed his body was being sent to Las Vegas, where Anderson had spent most of his childhood and had recently graduated from high school.

But Marine Corps officials told Dachtler, 47, that his body was being sent to his father in Southern California, where Anderson had spent summers and holidays.

The Marine Corps determined Dachtler's ex-husband, Albert Anderson, 58, was the primary next of kin authorized to handle the disposition of remains. The law says that without a spouse or child, the responsibility falls to

the oldest surviving parent unless sole custody was granted by a court.

"It's a bad situation, and no one was happy with it," said Bryan Driver, spokesman for the Marine Corps Casualty Assistance Branch in Quantico, Va. "The rules are what they are. We had to follow them."

Dachtler was outraged.

"You can't determine something like this by age," she said. "You have to look at where they lived, where they spent their time. This was Nick's home."

For Dachtler, a casino cocktail waitress who had primary custody of Anderson growing up, the decision was like losing her son twice. The pain was so unbearable that she left her son's funeral before he was interred.

"I refused to watch him being lowered into the ground," Dachtler said, her eyes filling with tears. "Because that's not where he was supposed to be."

When reached by telephone, Albert Anderson said he did not want to discuss the case out of respect for his son and the pain he felt over his death.

"The policy that the Department of Defense has is very clear," he said.

The situation might have been avoided if Lance Cpl. Anderson had filled out a will or designated power of attorney. But the Marine Corps, along with the Army, Navy and Air Force, do not require it before deployment.

"As far as actually having a will, no, that is not required," Driver said. "But it is highly encouraged."

Each branch advises soldiers to complete the paperwork, using workshops and checklists to remind them.

"However, it is up to airmen to decide what is best for their particular situation," said Jennifer Stephens, an Air Force spokeswoman.

"Obviously it's in the best interests of the sailor and his family to do so, but we can't order them to," said Navy Lt. Kyle Raines. "It's one less thing for you to worry about so you can focus on the mission at hand."

Defense Department spokesman Jim Turner said the military cannot require a soldier to have a will, which is "a personal, private legal matter."

"Since it serves no military purpose, a military superior cannot order a subordinate to have a will or make a will," Turner said from Washington.

Even though a soldier provides next of kin contact information, absent a specific designation, the military law is used to determine who will be responsible for funeral arrangements. Civilian agencies such as the Clark County coroner's office also rely on age when determining who should take custody of a body if there is no will or a dispute exists among family members.

Because of the sensitivities involved in burying a loved one, Thompson said, a seemingly arbitrary law based on age might be the military's only solution. Holding a hearing on a case-by-case basis to allow each parent to plead their case might be too painful and too lengthy a process.

"You cannot divide a body," Thompson said. "This is the way big bureaucracies deal with the tragedies of warfare when there is no better way."

Still shrouded in grief and a longing for her son, Dachtler has been collecting signatures and working with elected officials to either change the law or compel soldiers to designate someone to make burial decisions for them.

"I don't want to see anyone go through this," Dachtler said, adding that times have changed since the law was enacted. "Back then, you can understand. Families were together. But this is now. It doesn't work that way."

Rep. Shelley Berkley, D-Nev., has ordered her staff to study Dachtler's case and is considering whether to request a review by the Defense Department or draft legislation to change the law, spokesman David Cherry said.

"In every situation you can't mandate a happy ending. The best hope you can do is to create a situation that is fair," Cherry said. "In at least this case, the situation did not take into account the very human relationships involved."

Dachtler has hired a lawyer and is considering legal action to exhume her son's body so it can be buried at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in near-by Boulder City.

"I'd like to bring my baby home," Dachtler said.

Ready ore not: Firm applies to run mine under wilderness area

By The Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. — A Washington company has applied for the state permit necessary to operate a copper and silver mine beneath Montana's Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Area near the Idaho border.

Mines Management Inc. of Spokane, Wash., submitted an application to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality to move forward with the Montanore Project. Noranda Inc. pursued the project but withdrew in 2002 after making a major investment.

Mines Management said last summer that it was interested in Montanore, expected to start the permit process early in 2005 and hoped to see it concluded in about two years. A plan for operations also has been submitted to Kootenai National Forest officials.

The proposed mine is on national forest and private land 18 miles south of Libby. The ore body is beneath the Cabinet wilderness in Sanders County, but the mill and other facilities would be in Lincoln County. All disturbance of the land's surface would occur outside the wilderness boundary, DEQ said.

State and federal officials are reviewing the plan of Mines Management for completeness. The next steps are preparation of an environmental analysis and a draft environmental-impact statement. Issues will include effects on wildlife, including grizzly bears.

Approval at both the state and federal levels is necessary for Mines Management to move ahead with its project, Warren McCullough, a DEQ administrator, said Thursday.

It is too early to say whether the permit process can be completed within two years, he said, noting the Mines Management documents now before DEQ fill 17 binders.

The state agency is accepting public comment on the application.

Montanore would share an ore body with the controversial Rock Creek Mine, which has been challenged by people concerned the mine puts water quality at risk. Rock Creek flows into the Clark Fork River, which flows into Idaho's Lake Pend Oreille.

Mines Management has projected the Montanore project would take 2 1/2 years to build, operate for 15 to 20 years and employ about 250 people.



**Do you have ideas how to make Santa Monica a better place to ride bicycles?
Do you have safety concerns when bike riding?**

Please bring your great ideas and join



Motion by the Ocean BICYCLE WORKSHOP

Saturday, February 5 10 a.m. to Noon

Ken Edwards Center 1427 Fourth Street

Secure bicycle parking provided

The Ken Edwards Center is accessible by Big Blue Bus line 1,2,3,4,5 and 9
(Busses have bike racks)

Youth are welcome and children's activities will be provided

Please RSVP no later than February 2, 2005

310/458-2204 or Transportation.Management@smgov.net



SPORTS



Risk management: Winter Games embrace the odd

BY JOHN MARSHALL

AP Sports Writer

ASPEN, Colo. — The first Winter X Games included an event that had racers barreling down the mountain in homemade contraptions built around snow shovels. That's right, the so-called world's premier action sports event featured what amounted to a soap box derby on snow.

Not every idea has been a hit, but part of what had made the Winter X Games so successful is that the athletes aren't the only ones taking risks. By trying out new events and constantly tweaking old ones, Winter X organizers have kept the event fresh and challenging.

In the what's-the-next-big-thing world of action sports, that's all that matters.

"We tried a couple things that didn't necessarily work and didn't last that long, but that's kind of what our company is all about," said ESPN's Ron Semiao, founder of the X Games. "We take risks and we're aggressive in terms of doing things that please our viewers."

It seems to be working.

Since the first competition at Big Bear, Calif. in 1997, the Winter X Games has continually searched for ways to push the limits for a group of athletes who are always

searching for the ultimate test. When this year's event gets under way in Aspen with more than 230 athletes from around the globe, it will be bigger, higher and faster than ever before.

For four days, starting Saturday, snowboarders will sail dozens of feet over the superpipe walls, motorcycles will backflip 90 feet through the air and snowmobiles will career over hills and around berms.

More than 40,000 fans — many with tattoos, colored hair and multiple piercings — are expected at Buttermilk Mountain, adding a touch of mosh pit to one of the country's ritziest spots.

Live television, some of it under the lights, will add to the party atmosphere and — of course — there'll be plenty of suspense as fans wait to see the latest wipeout, face plant or even broken bone.

"Definitely you'll get all that, exciting racing to the finish and someone cartwheeling down the track," said snowmobile racer Blair Morgan, a Winter Xer since 1998. "Everything's tied in together and that's what makes it so fun."

Organizers have kept up the buzz by trying to stay ahead of the game. They've done it by checking the pulse of the athletes.

If an event doesn't seem to fit the vibe of Winter X or

becomes stale or too easy, the athletes are often the first to complain. The organizers have done a good job of listening and have tweaked the lineup over the years to keep challenging the athletes, making for better viewing.

That's the reason super modified shovel racing was ditched after the first crash-filled year and mountain bike racing, another first-year event, was replaced after four years by the flying motorcycles of Moto X.

Oddly enough, the Winter X Games didn't have any skiing the first year. That's changed with the increased popularity of free-skiing. Skiers are now whirling off the walls of the superpipe just like the snowboarders.

And even the events that have been there since the early days, particularly snowboarding, have remained edgy because the athletes keep finding new ways to flip and twist through the air.

"The athletes are the ones who have progressed their sport and continued to push the limits and continued to innovate in terms of the tricks they do," Semiao said. "If you look at courses in the first Winter X Games, it probably wouldn't be considered very challenging right now. Things are just bigger and wider and longer, and are made that way because of the incredible tricks the guys and girls are doing."

Super Talker: Eagles' Mitchell stirs trouble with Patriots

BY ROB MAADDI

AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Freddie Mitchell's big mouth struck again.

The Philadelphia Eagles' other loquacious receiver — the one without the Pro Bowl pedigree and ankle injury — offended some Patriots when he dissed their secondary in a television interview.

Mitchell, a starter only because All-Pro Terrell Owens is hurt, said he just knew the numbers — not the names — of New England's cornerbacks. He singled out Rodney Harrison, saying he "has something" for the veteran strong safety.

"It just shows he doesn't have respect for us," Patriots cornerback Asante Samuel said Friday, responding to Mitchell's comments from a day earlier.

The Patriots' defensive backs will see Mitchell up close when the defending champions meet the Eagles in the Super Bowl next Sunday.

"You have so many young guys nowadays, so many young guys that don't have respect for the game," Harrison said. "Some people are just immature. Some people really haven't experienced certain things."

The Patriots have a patchwork secondary that includes a rookie free agent (Randall Gay), a converted wide receiver (Troy Brown) and a guy (Hank Poteat) who was

taking college courses before the playoffs started.

Starters Tyrone Poole and Ty Law have been sidelined with injuries most of the season, but the fill-ins shut down Peyton Manning and the rest of the Colts in a second-round playoff game, and intercepted Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger three times in the AFC championship game.

"Freddie Mitchell is a guy who is getting time now because Terrell is hurt," Patriots linebacker Willie McGinest said. "We don't worry about what he's saying. He will have to deal with that on the field."

"All I can say is, Rodney Harrison is the wrong guy to mention, especially if you're a receiver. He (Mitchell) is not humble. He hasn't done enough in this league to be on TV talking about that. Philly has a lot more class than that. It's just one guy."

Mitchell's response to the Patriots' reaction?

"I was joking. I don't care. It'll all be solved on Sunday," he said.

A first-round pick in 2001, Mitchell hasn't lived up to his potential in four seasons with the Eagles. He had five catches for 65 yards and two touchdowns, including one on a fumble recovery, in Philadelphia's second-round playoff win against Minnesota. But he caught just two

passes for 20 yards in the NFC championship game against Atlanta.

"I'm a special player," Mitchell said after the win against Minnesota. "I want to thank my hands for being so great."

Mitchell and the rest of the Eagles' receivers clearly are tired of hearing about Owens, who had surgery to repair torn ankle ligaments on Dec. 22. and is trying to return for the Super Bowl despite his doctor's orders.

"We got there without T.O.," Mitchell said. "He's going to be a great addition if he comes, but we're going to stick with our guns. When he comes back, he'll be a huge help for us because he's one of the best receivers in the game. Until then, let's talk about Greg Lewis, Todd Pinkston and Freddie Mitchell, the receivers who are here and won the NFC championship."

Mitchell later grabbed a reporter's microphone and bombarded Lewis with questions in a mock voice.

"What about T.O.? Is he 80 percent? When is he coming back? How do the receivers get it done without T.O.?" Mitchell said.

Lewis replied: "Everybody said we weren't capable of winning without T.O., but we proved them wrong."

Mitchell has something to prove to the Patriots.



Sustainable Quality Award

Nomination Deadline February 4, 2005

The Sustainable Quality Awards honor businesses and organizations that make Santa Monica a better place to live and work. Awards are given to companies that demonstrate commitment to the community in one or more of the following three areas: economic development, stewardship of the natural environment, and social responsibility. Winners will be honored the Chamber Luncheon on May 3, 2005.

Nominations are quick and easy! Visit www.smsqa.com and click on "SQA Nomination Form", or contact the Chamber of Commerce at 310.393.9825 for more information.

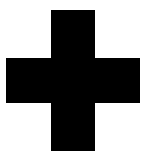


I'll buy or lease your house in 7 days or less!
Stop foreclosure/double payment.
No commission/fees.
866-528-6761 X 11 24 hr. recorded msg.

"World Famous"
Big Dean's Cafe
AT SANTA MONICA BEACH
Where the "locals" meet and the "fun loving" tourists always return!
SUN • FUN • GREAT FOOD • BEER • WINE • MUSIC
Sports TV • 2 Outdoor Patios • Smoking Allowed
Reasonable Prices! Children Welcome!
1615 Ocean Front, Santa Monica (310) 393-2666
At Santa Monica Beach in front of the historic merry-go-round, just below & southeast of the pier.
This location has been here since 1902

DONATE Your Vehicle

Tax deductible.
No DMV hassle.



The call is free!
And so is the pick-up!

American Red Cross
1-866-7REDCROSS
1 - 8 6 6 - 7 7 3 - 3 2 7 6

Cars • Boats • RVs • Cars • Boats • RVs • Cars • Boats • RVs

ADVERTISEMENT

Local Doctor Breaks His Silence...

Back Pain Relief Secrets Revealed!

Sacramento, CA — A local doctor's shocking new FREE report reveals the truth about using over the counter drugs, and even prescribed drugs to fix the real cause of your low back pain: They don't work!

If you've been told you need surgery on your low back, you must find out the #1 reason most low back surgery's are ineffective or at best only offer short-term pain relief.

Readers will also discover what many university studies have proven to be the most effective, safest, and longest lasting treatment for eliminating YOUR low back pain.

Don't suffer with your pain another day because you don't have to!

To receive a copy of the FREE report entitled: "The Truth About Low Back Pain And How To Eliminate It Once And For All Without Drugs Or Surgery!" call toll-free 1-888-241-2207 and listen to the 24 hr. recorded message.

FIVE ACES PHOTOGRAPHY

FOR ALL OF YOUR DIGITAL AND PRINT NEEDS
NO EVENT TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL WE COVER IT ALL

20% DISCOUNT FOR DAILY PRESS READERS

FiveAcesPhoto.photorelect.com

310 963 0636



 **INTERNATIONAL**

Israeli army chief orders troops to halt raids in the Gaza Strip

BY LARA SUKHTIAN
Associated Press Writer

RAFAH, Gaza Strip — Israel's army chief ordered his troops Friday to halt raids in the Gaza Strip and move against West Bank militants only with his approval, a major policy reversal after more than four years of fighting and a key step toward a truce with the Palestinians.

Lt. Gen. Moshe Yaalon issued the orders just hours after Palestinian police completed a deployment in Gaza, taking up positions in the central and southern areas of the coastal strip to prevent attacks on Israeli targets. Police deployed in northern Gaza last week.

But the fragility of the newfound cooperation between Israel and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas was underscored Friday with a victory by the Islamic militant group Hamas in Gaza's first-ever municipal elections.

The results could signal a strong showing for Hamas in July parliamentary elections and give the group — which opposes the existence of Israel — more leverage in power-sharing negotiations with Abbas, who has coaxed them into an informal cease-fire.

The change in Israel's troop deployment was the latest in a flurry of steps toward ending more than four years of fighting and resuming peace talks. In the coming days, top Israeli and Palestinian officials will set the terms for an Israeli troop pullback from West Bank towns, and an Israeli-Palestinian summit is expected soon.

Yaalon said Israel would halt military activity in areas of Gaza where Palestinian police have been deployed. Israeli troops will still maintain positions along main roads and near Jewish settlements in Gaza.

Yaalon also said arrest raids in the West Bank must be minimized and will require his personal approval. Soldiers would only target Palestinian militants "if there is an immediate threat by active terror cells, and only with explicit authorization" of the army chief, an army statement said.

Gideon Meir, a senior official at the Israeli Foreign Ministry, said Israel is trying to reward Abbas for his efforts to prevent violence.

Still, Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said Israel must go further.

"We call upon the Israelis to announce a full stop of violence against Palestinians everywhere, to match our commitment to stop violence against Israelis everywhere," Erekat said.

Hundreds of Palestinian police spread out in the central and southern Gaza Strip on Friday, completing a deployment ordered by Abbas last week to halt attacks on Israeli targets.

Areas of southern Gaza, particularly along the border

with Egypt and near a large bloc of Jewish settlements, have been flashpoints of violence. Militants have frequently fired guns, rockets and mortars at Israeli positions, and troops have responded with deadly raids that left thousands of Palestinians homeless.

More than 3,000 Palestinians have died in the four years of fighting.

In the Rafah refugee camp, perhaps hardest hit by the violence, the arrival of Palestinian police brought a sigh of relief from residents.

"It's great that they (the policemen) are here. Maybe now they can stop the fighters from shooting at the Israelis, and the Israelis from shooting at us," said Sakhri Abu Tiyou, 48.

Two of his 12 children have been seriously wounded by army fire, and his house was leveled by an army bulldozer.

On Jan. 21, Palestinian police fanned out across northern Gaza with the same security mission, and there have been few violent incidents in the area since.

The police deployment was accompanied by a decree banning Palestinian civilians from holding weapons — a nod to demands by Israel and the United States that militants, responsible for killing more than 1,000 Israelis, must be disarmed.

"I feel that we are again approaching a new age," Israeli Vice Premier Shimon Peres said in a panel discussion between Israeli and Palestinian leaders at the World Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

While Abbas, elected in a presidential poll earlier this month, remains popular with the Palestinian public, his Fatah party is tainted by years of corruption under his predecessor, Yasser Arafat, who died Nov. 11.

Fatah was trounced by Hamas in local elections in 10 Gaza towns, according to results released Friday.

In Gaza City, thousands of Hamas supporters celebrated the election victory in a rally, waving Hamas flags and distributing candy. Supporters chanted: "Hamas is the real way to reform and rebuilding!"

"They have clean hands and are not corrupt," said Radawan Shabat, a 65-year-old farmer in northern Gaza who voted for the group, which has killed hundreds of Israelis in attacks.

According to unofficial results, Hamas won 77 of 118 seats in 10 districts, election officials said. Fatah won 26 seats, independents took 14 and the radical Popular Front won one seat. Hamas officials confirmed the results and said the group now controlled municipal councils in seven of the 10 towns.

Voters in 10 localities voted Thursday in the first-ever local elections in Gaza. There also were elections in 26 West Bank communities last month.

Kristine Johnson Fountain of Joy

The Kristine Johnson Fountain of Joy is seeking donations. Situated in a courtyard garden visible to the community, the fountain will be a respite for those seeking faith, peace and hope amongst the challenges of the world.

Donations to the Kristine Johnson Fountain of Joy may be sent to:

St. Augustine By-The-Sea Episcopal Church
1227 Fourth Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401
Re: Kristine Johnson Fountain of Joy



INTERNATIONAL



Iraqis claim to be hot on the trail of al-Zarqawi

BY SAMEER N. YACCOUB

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Authorities in Iraq have arrested three close associates of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, officials said Friday, claiming to be close to capturing the al-Qaida-linked terror mastermind himself two days ahead of historic elections that extremists have vowed to subvert.

The announcements, made days after the arrests, appeared aimed at helping reassure Iraqis about security ahead of Sunday's polls. Still, violence continued: Insurgents killed five U.S. soldiers, set off a suicide car bomb that killed four Iraqi policemen in Baghdad and targeted more polling sites across the country.

American troops and insurgents exchanged fire on a major Baghdad thoroughfare. The crackle of gunfire could be heard over the noon call to prayer. U.S. fighter jets thundered through the skies over Baghdad throughout the morning in a show of force against the militants.

A U.S. Army OH-58 Kiowa helicopter crashed in southwest Baghdad on Friday night, and the fate of the crew was not immediately known, a U.S. military official said. Kiowas usually have a crew of two pilots. U.S. military officials do not believe the helicopter was hit by hostile fire, Lt. Col. James Hutton said.

The crash came two days after a CH53E Super Stallion helicopter transporting troops went down in bad weather in the western desert, killing 30 Marines and one sailor — in the deadliest single incident for U.S. forces in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion. The military is still investigating the cause of that crash.

The arrested al-Zarqawi associates included Salah Suleiman al-Loheibi, the head of his group's Baghdad operation, who met with al-Zarqawi more than 40 times over three months, said Qassim Dawoud, a top security adviser to Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

Dawoud said Ali Hamad Yassin al-Issawi, another associate, was also captured. Dawoud said the two arrests took place in mid-January but gave few details.

Also captured was al-Zarqawi's military adviser, a 31-year-old Iraqi named Anad Mohammed Qais, 31, said Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh.

Asked by reporters if authorities were close to arresting al-Zarqawi himself, Saleh replied: "We are getting close to finishing off al-Zarqawi and we will get rid of him."

The Jordanian-born Al-Zarqawi heads al-Qaida's affiliate in Iraq, which like other militant groups has threatened to kill anyone who takes part in Sunday's election. It repeated those warnings in a new Web message Friday, telling Iraqis they could get hit by shelling or other attacks if they approach polling stations, which it called "the centers of atheism and of vice."

"We have warned you, so don't blame us. You have only yourselves to blame," it said.

On Thursday, the group posted a video on the Internet showing the murder of a candidate from Allawi's party. The tape included a warning to Allawi personally: "You traitor, wait for the angel of death."

Friday's announcement brings to six the number of purported al-Zarqawi lieutenants arrested recently.

The announcement appeared aimed at bolstering public confidence in security forces in advance of Sunday's election. Officials fear a low turnout could tarnish the legitimacy of the new government. Iraqis will choose a 275-member National Assembly and governing councils in the country's 18 provinces.

The U.S. ambassador in Baghdad, John Negroponte, insisted some Sunnis will turn out to vote. "Sunnis don't only live in some of these beleaguered provinces, they live here in Baghdad, they live in other parts of the country," Negroponte said on CBS's "The Early Show." "I think you're going to see participation across the board."

Iraq's Shiite Muslim majority is eager to vote, expecting the election to establish their domination of the country after decades of repression. Sunni Arabs may follow calls by some leaders to boycott the vote.

Expatriate Iraqis began casting ballots amid tight security in early voting in 14 countries from Australia to Sweden to the United States.

"This is a long dream that now comes true," said 56-year-old Karim Jari before casting his vote in Sydney, Australia, where young children mingled in line with elderly Kurdish women in head-to-toe black robes and men in colorful traditional costumes. "We hope this is a

new beginning."

Five U.S. soldiers were killed in Baghdad on Friday — three of them in a single roadside bomb that hit a patrol in a western district. The other two were killed in a bomb in southern Baghdad and a shooting across town.

The two American soldiers from Task Force Baghdad were killed Friday in two separate incidents in Baghdad, one when a roadside bomb went off, the other in a shooting on the other side of the capital about 15 minutes later, the military said.

Friday's suicide car bombing rattled Baghdad's Doura neighborhood, a flashpoint in recent days, with several street battles between insurgents and Iraqi National Guard troops and assassinations of government officials.

Police opened fire on the speeding car in an attempt to stop it just as it burst into flames. Hours later, another car bomb exploded on the neighborhood's main road, damaging a school where voters are to cast ballots Sunday. No one was hurt.

Insurgents hit designated polling centers in at least six major cities across the country. Gunmen attacked a school to be used as a polling station in Kirkuk, killing one policeman, officials said.

Bombs blasted three more schools designated as polling sites in the city of Beiji, 155 miles north of Baghdad. A mortar shell landed on a house close to a school believed to be used as polling site in the western city of Ramadi, wounding two women and two children, a hospital doctor said.

In southern Iraq, a roadside bomb hit an Iraqi police vehicle, killing one officer and wounding three others, said police Lt. Col. Karim al-Zaydi. The attack occurred in the town of Zubair, south of the port city of Basra.

Also Friday, insurgents shelled a U.S. Marine base south of Baghdad, injuring three American troops and three civilians, the military said.

Authorities on Thursday night found the bodies of four Iraqi National Guardsmen who had been shot dead in Ramadi, capital of the troubled Anbar province. Police believe the four had been kidnapped several days ago.

President Bush, in an interview published in The New York Times on Friday, said he would withdraw the 150,000 U.S. forces from Iraq if the new government formed after Sunday's vote asks for a pullout. But Bush said he expected the country's new leaders would want multinational forces to stay.

**PENETRATE YOUR
TARGET MARKETS**

**CAPTIVATE
AUDIENCES**

**COPIA
CREATIVE**
... creativity knows no boundaries

info@copiacreative.com
310.8.Copia.C (826.7422)
www.copiacreative.com

MARKETING • BRANDING • DEVELOPMENT • CONSULTING



COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Garfield® Jim Davis

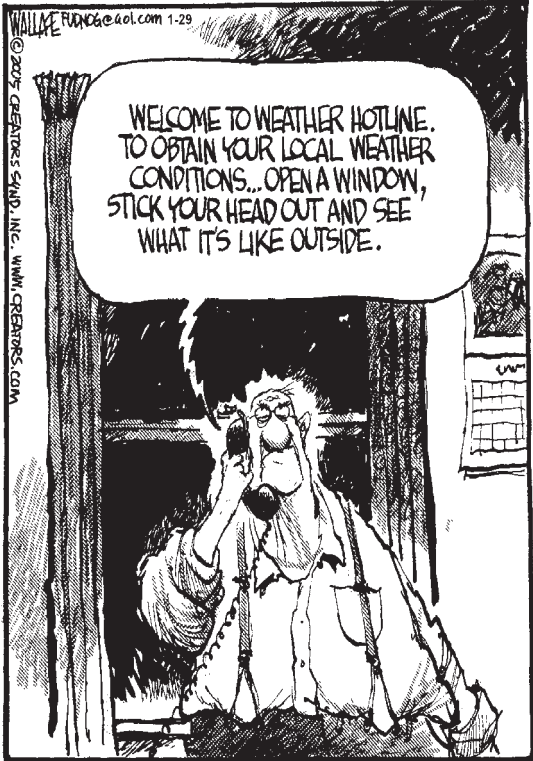


Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



Natural Selection®

By Russ Wallace



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Take, in a way
- 6 Big boomer
- 11 Comic Young-man
- 12 Iraq neighbor
- 13 Waiter's concern
- 14 Bit of change
- 15 Role for Alec and Ewan
- 17 Fire
- 18 Sermon topic
- 19 Like some birthday cards
- 22 Brain scan: Abbr.
- 23 Makes amends
- 24 Nervous
- 25 Belt part
- 27 Kinda: Suff.
- 30 Prepare copy
- 31 "The Matrix" hero
- 32 Everything
- 33 Like some lines
- 35 Tale tellers
- 38 Colleague of Spock and Sulu

DOWN

- 39 Available
- 40 Gave a darn
- 41 Poor
- 42 Mates of harts
- 1 Pick
- 2 Disney bug
- 3 Finale
- 4 Fresh
- 5 Noted super-model
- 6 Nile slitherer
- 7 Top player's pass
- 8 Fancy
- 9 Pert girls
- 10 Howled at the moon
- 16 Irritated
- 20 Stop communicating
- 21 One or more
- 24 Whiz
- 25 Story credit
- 26 Burning the midnight oil
- 27 Sequentially
- 28 Fume
- 29 Hangers-on, in surf slang
- 30 Hawk's grabber
- 34 Asian cuisine
- 36 "Far out, dude!"
- 37 Mole, e.g.

L	A	Y	E	R		G	A	I	T	S
E	L	O	P	E		A	R	G	U	E
S	E	U	S	S		S	T	O	N	E
	M	O	T	O			I	T	E	M
A	D	A	M			L	O	C	O	
C	R	Y		D		E	P	L	E	T
R	A	B	B	I		T	E	X	A	N
E	M	E	R	G	E	S		T	U	V
	R	A	S	P		A	R	T	Y	
G	R	I	D			A	C	M	E	
E	A	G	L	E			L	I	M	O
E	T	H	E	R			A	G	E	N
S	A	T	Y	R			M	O	S	E

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.50 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13						14				
15					16			17		
18				19		20	21			
22				23						
			24							
	25	26						27	28	29
30								31		
32					33		34			
35			36	37		38				
39						40				
41						42				

1-29

Going above and beyond for those who've passed beyond.

DeHaven Funeral Home

(FD1714)

Gary L. Moredock FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Independently owned and operated

(310) 498-1945

pager: (310) 843-8366

Personal, in-home care for families
Available 24 hours / Se Habla espanol

BURIALS • CREMATION • SHIPPING

TOBACCO CENTER

12215 Santa Monica Blvd. (1 Blk W. of Bundy)

CIGAR HQ'S
WALK IN HUMIDOR
REDUCED PRICES

FREE
LIGHTER
W/EVERY
CARTON!

20% off
all smoking
accessories

310-826-2899

WE ACCEPT ALL COUPONS

Marlboro Carton	\$31.99	w/ad Reg. \$33.99
Kool Carton	\$27.99	w/ad Reg. \$29.99
Pall Mall Carton	\$24.99	w/ad Reg. \$29.99
Generic Carton	\$17.99	w/ad Reg. \$23.99

Hours: 9:30 - 6:30 Mon-Sat. Closed Sunday

\$3⁵⁰ per day. Up to 15 words, 20 cents each additional word.

Call 310-458-7737 and promote your business opportunities to our daily readership of over 38,600.

CLASSIFICATIONS:

Announcements
Creative
Employment
For Sale
Furniture
Pets
Boats

Jewelry
Wanted
Travel
Vacation Rentals
Apartments/Condos for Rent
Houses for Rent
Roomates
Commercial Lease

Real Estate
Real Estate Loans
Storage Space
Vehicles for Sale
Massage
Services
Computer Services
Attorney Services

Business Opportunities
Yard Sales
Health and Beauty
Fitness
Wealth and Success
Lost and Found
Personals
Obituaries

Houses/Condos for Sale

2BDRM/2BATH TOWNHOUSE in Pacific Palisades \$729,000 (310) 230-7866

Employment

AUTO TECH NEEDED \$2000 bonus for right Tech. ASE a must. Fax resume (310) 319-9189

AVON***AVON***AVON***
\$5.00 to start your business!
Call Cindy (310) 531-5055

BE YOUR own boss. Learn to earn \$10K+mo. Working from home P/T. Not MLM (800) 435-3698

50+ Years Old Advertising Co. seeking self-motivated energetic professionals.

Commissions Paid Weekly. Leads Furnished. Selling all aspects of advertising: Newspapers - Magazines - Classified - Display, Real Estate, Ethnic, Entertainment, Military, Business, Finance, Call: Paul 213-251-9100
www.theglobalmediagroup.com/jobinfo.htm

BARTEND EARN \$150-400 DAILY

• 1 or 2 week training
• Nationwide job placement
Financing Available
National Bartenders School
310-996-1377
www.nationalbartenders.com

MR. W'S PLATINUM FINGERS HAIR GALLERY

10774 W. Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA (Downtown)

HIRING!

Seeking experienced, Energetic & Serious Braiders, Barbers and Stylists

CALL (310) 766-0501
OR (310) 841-6763

CONSTRUCTION: LOOKING for strong, energetic, individuals. All levels. Must have own transportation. Tools or Spanish speaking is a plus. Salary DOE. Patrick (310) 450-3515

EXPERIENCED SALESPERSON needed F/T at Harari 1406 Montana. Apply within or call Lisa @ (310) 260-1204

Employment

DANCERS OF ALL AGES NEEDED FOR A NATIONAL TELEVISION SERIES. No experience necessary, we will train you. Call for an appointment (310) 572-7223

EXPERIENCED NEWSPAPER classified sales person to work phone sales at home. Leads furnished. Ground floor opportunity. Full or part time, California Contractor. Fax resume to Terry at (310) 393-0606. Or call (310) 393-0601.

FIT FEMALE model wanted for figure drawing by artist. No experience necessary call. (818) 501-0266

GOT YOUR Real Estate license? Bulldog Realtors is looking for a few great agents. Love of Venice & Santa Monica essential. 2nd language helpful for our int, 1 clients. Abe (310) 392-3677 ext 210

HAIR DESIGNERS

10TH STREET at Montana Ave. Brand new, modern and bright 5-chair salon renting stations now. 10tana Salon (310) 451-0330

HOME CLEANING service needs cleaners M-F. Cars and English required. Needed immediately. (310) 656-6243

MINUTEMAN Parking seeks valet parkers. Experience preferred, no placement agency. (310) 214-1888

NOW HIRING

Sexy upscale young girls for high class escort agency. \$500-\$1500 daily. (310) 402-6692

OFF THE Top is growing into a full service salon. We are looking for a motivated, professional manicurist. Great career opportunity in fun working environment! Call Pepper (310) 458-8985

PERSONAL ATTENDANTS, community trainer needed to work with developmentally disabled adults in their home and the community. F/T-P/T in Santa Monica area. \$7.75/hr. Call Sally Brown (818)782-2211 x598.

RADIO PUBLICITY or music airplay salesperson. Full commission, F/T-P/T in Santa Monica (818) 905-8038 ext:55

STYLISTS WANTED

Santa Monica hair salon for men & women offers low rent for Stylists with clientele. Great place. Call Don (310) 315-1098

RETAIL

Retail Manager Travel Supplies & Clothing

Love travel, quality products, great customer service? Join America's leading source of travel supplies &

Employment

clothing in our Santa Monica store. FT position for Mgr. Competitive \$ + benefits, fun & challenging wk. Fax resume to (805) 568-5406 or email HR@magellans.com.



AMERICA'S LEADING SOURCE OF TRAVEL SUPPLIES
www.magellans.com

For Sale

**\$\$ BUCK A DAY \$\$
FOR SALE**
Classified ad, call
(310) 458-7737
www.smdp.com

20 1984 LA Times Olympic Magazines, \$400. 1980 football/hockey cards 1k, \$150. (323) 525-9164

HOT TUB 2005 Model. Net Jets. Therapy seat. Warranty never used. Can deliver. Worth \$5700, sell for \$1750 (818) 785-9043

Thrift Shop

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE THRIFT SHOP. 1453 15th Street, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 11am-3pm. Parking in front (310) 395-2338

Pets

ROTTWEILER PUPPIES. World class pedigree, 100% German lines; w/papers. Big heads and Mahoney markings (760) 788-8333

Vehicles for sale

1995 TOYOTA Celica, black, 2 door convertible, 5spd, good condition, 73K miles \$6800. (310) 828-3394

1998 VW Jetta GLX, automatic 75kmi, airbags, ABS, AC, PS, tilt, asking price \$8,900 (323) 839-3039

2000 S430 Mercedes, midnight blue, full power, one owner, low mileage, \$38,950 (310) 396-9611

2003 MERCEDES C-240, CD changer, sun-roof, chrome wheels, forest green, beige interior \$22,500. D. Keasbey (310) 266-6327

92' HONDA Wagon. Automatic, good condition. \$2800 OBO. Call (310) 458-1234

Vehicles for sale

LEXUS ES300, Luxury package, moon roof, leather, 5cd changer, excellent maintenance, must sell! \$4,850 (310) 458-4709

Instruction

MATH TUTOR

Ph.D will tutor junior high, high school and college students. He is experienced, patient, and able to explain mathematics clearly. Will diagnose and correct problems.
(310) 842-7801
or Email: StevePlafker@msn.com

I WANT your child to succeed! SM tutor accepting students for elementary level. Adrienne (310) 394-8256

QUICK BOOKS. Training & Booking call (310) 977-7935

Wanted

HUSBAND & WIFE looking for work. Housekeeping and ranch hand / horse handler. Malibu references. (310) 940-7633

NURSE W/20 years experience & excellent references, available for live-in or out. (310) 270-6183

Travel

CARIBBEAN CRUISE EXCLUSIVE OFFER!

Departs August 7, 2005

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SELECT DISCOUNTS AND AMENITIES

Call Elena at (866) 388-6372

info@thevacationconsultant.com
CST #2071975-40



For Rent

2+1 WESTSIDE/PALM @ 3562 Mentone Ave. Everything new in this nice upper 2 bedroom 1 bath w/ balcony in a great westside location. \$1425 (310) 466-9256

CHARMING 8 unit courtyard style building @ 136 S. Roxbury Dr. (BH) Large studio, renewed wood floors, Murphy bed, large vanity, great closets, 200 yards to prime Beverly Hills shopping. 1 year lease, no pets, no smokers. (310) 466-9256

FOR RENT

SANTA MONICA LUXURY CONDO WALK TO BEACH & MONTANA SHOPS

Santa Monica \$2895, 2 bed, 2 bath condo, approx. 1500 sqft. Stove, dishwasher, washer & dryer, gated entry & parking (2 spaces,) LARGE patio.

818 6TH St., to view call Roque & Mark (310) 828-7525

MAR VISTA 1+1 @ 12450 Culver. \$850/mo. Stove, refrigerator, carpets, blinds, intercom entry, gated parking, utilities included, no pets. (888) 451-7778 www.JKWproperties.com

For Rent

The BEST RENTALS in VENICE
ELLY NESIS Co. INC
(310) 396-4443
ellynesis.com

FEMALE ROOMMATE wanted! 2bdm/2bath, \$656. Reliable, trustworthy, professional, with a song in her heart. (818) 744-2088

FREE RENTAL Lists & No Fee Rentals. Sullivan-Dituri Company. 2111 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90403.

LARGE WEST L.A. 2+2 @ 1220 S. Barrington with balcony, large kitchen and lots of storage. 1 carport parking, laundry rm, close to everything. 1220 S. Barrington Av. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking, \$1525 (310) 466-9256

LARGE WEST L.A. single with balcony, large kitchen and lots of storage. 1 carport parking, laundry rm, close to everything. 1220 S. Barrington Av. \$950. 1 year lease, no pets. No smoking (310) 466-9256

LOS ANGELES, 2bdm 1bath @ 1523 Holt Ave., Unit 3 \$1400/mo. Stove, refrigerator, blinds, laundry, carpet, parking, no pets. \$200 off move-in fee. (310) 578-7512 www.JKWproperties.com

MAR VISTA 1+1 @ 12627 Washington Place, Unit 5. Stove, new refrigerator, dish washer, carpet, balcony, blinds, laundry, fire place, parking, no pets. \$825/mo \$200 off move-in special. (3 1 0) 5 7 8 - 7 5 1 2 www.JKWproperties.com

MDR ADJACENT 2+2 @ 2724 Abbot Kinney, gated building with gated parking. Newer building w/ courtyard area, quiet neighborhood. Laundry, pkgng, 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. \$1550 (310) 578-9729

MDR ADJACENT Studio @ 2724 Abbot Kinney. Gated building with gated, subterranean parking. Newer building with courtyard area, quiet neighborhood. (310) 578-9729. Laundry room 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. \$925

MDR ADJACENT. Beautiful contemporary 2Bd, 2.5Ba 2-story townhome @ 2500 Abbot Kinney w/fireplace, high ceilings, gated entry and 2 car gated parking. Dishwasher, laundry facilities, 1 year lease, no pets. \$1750 (310) 466-9256

PALMS/BEVERLYWOOD ADJ \$915/mo 1bdm 1bath. Appliances. No pets, parking 2009 Preuss Road #9. OPEN DAILY FOR VIEWING. 8am til 6pm. Additional info inside apartment.

PALMS/BEVERLYWOOD ADJ. \$750.00 Bachelor. Refrigerator, hot-place, no pets, parking, utilities paid. 2009 Preuss Rd., #1. Open daily for viewing 8am till 6pm. Additional info inside apt.

VENICE BEACHFRONT luxury condo 3 Bed, 3.5 bath @ 2917 Ocean Front Walk with amazing ocean and mountain views, 2 car gated parking, Gourmet Kitchen, spa style bathroom and much more. Must see to appreciate. 1 year lease, no pets. \$4850. (310) 466-9256

WESTWOOD CONDO 2+2 @ 10966 Rochester Ave., #5C. Stove, refrigerator, microwave, dishwasher, fire place, wine cabinet, marble counter tops, pool, W/D, hardwood floors, tandem parking, balcony, no pets. \$2400/mo (310) 578-7512 www.JKWproperties.com

SANTA MONICA \$1000/mo Studio 1bath. No pets, tile, hardwood floors, laundry, parking included. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

ROQUE & MARK Co.

**2802 Santa Monica Blvd.
310-828-7525**

SALES • RENTALS PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

RENTALS AVAILABLE NO PETS ALLOWED SANTA MONICA

1441 Princeton \$1350
Lower 1 bed, remodeled, Pergo floors, new blinds

117 Strand \$1395
Upper 1 bed, steps to beach, new carpet, remodeled kitchen

942 7th St. \$2250
Upper 3 bed, 2 bath, new carpet & blinds, fireplace

WEST LA/BRENTWOOD/WESTWOOD

1306 Armacost, WLA, \$1075
Lower 1 bed, new stove, patio, fresh paint, laundry room

649 Barrington, BW \$1150
Lower one bed, hardwood floors, great location, street park only

1723 Barrington, WLA, \$1450
Upper 2 bed, 2 bath, new carpet, new vertical blinds, balcony

1518 Centinela, WLA, \$1895/\$1995
Brand new 2 bed townhome apts, washer & dryer, private sundecks

10724 Missouri, WLA/WESTWOOD
3 bed + den, 2 bath, new carpet, washer & dryer, dish-washer

FOR MORE LISTINGS GO TO WWW.ROQUE-MARK.COM

Advertise! Call us at (310) 458-7737

SANTA MONICA \$1050/mo 1bdm/1bath, W/C pets, laundry, street parking, water & trash included. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1075/mo 1bdm/1bath, no pets, laundry, newly painted, streets parking, 1year minimum lease. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1150/mo Studio 1bath. Hardwood floors, laundry, permit parking, 6mo minimum lease (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1249/mo 1bdm/1bath. No pets, stove, carpet, laundry, parking included, new paint. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1250/mo Studio w/ large, newly remodeled kitchen. Utilities included, street parking. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1255/mo. Completely remodeled top floor apartment. 1bdm/1bath, parking included, hardwood floors. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

Claude Short Auto Sales

Offering Quality Service to the Westside since 1927

This Week's Special



'00 Volvo C70 coupe \$16,995
low miles, one owner, vin#018256

Four Generations
of
Devoted Service

**2501 Lincoln Blvd.
in Venice
(310) 395-3712**



CLASSIFIEDS

For Rent

SANTA MONICA \$1295/mo. Newer building, 1bdm/1bath, no pets, controlled access, parking included, laundry. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$1300/mo 1bdm 1bath, great ocean park location. 2508 3rd Street. Remodeled kitchen and bath. 1 parking space. Contact agent (818) 415-1985

SANTA MONICA \$1985/mo 3bdm/1.5bath Townhouse, light unit,12th near Colorado. Stove, 2-door refrigerator, dishwasher, ample closets, private patio,2 car enclosed garage, Owner 310-828-4481

SANTA MONICA \$2300/mo front lower unit 2bdm/2bath. Great Ocean Park location. 2508 3rd Street. Remodeled kitchen and baths. 1 covered parking space and street parking w/ permit available. Contact agent (818) 415-1985

SANTA MONICA \$925/mo Studio 1bath. W/C pet, patio, new carpets & paint, parking included. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA \$995/mo 1bdm/1bath. No pets, stove, new carpets, laundry. (310) 395-RENT www.westsiderentals.com

VENICE 1BDRM 1bath \$1050/mo 501 N. Venice, Unit 25. Stove, refridgera-



30 DAYS ‘TIL PROZ@K
(A NEW SELF HELP BOOK)

One month of simple activities directed at stimulating your spirit, before you choose to embark on a path of prescription medication.
BUY THIS BOOK TODAY!
Buy Online or By Phone: [Amazon.com](#) [bbotw.com](#)
Or call: **1(877)BUY-BOOK**
Author Dennis A. DeGeorge



PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS IN THE SANTA MONICA
SERVICE DIRECTORY

SUCCESS DEPENDS ON THE RIGHT CHOICES.
A.G. Edwards offers a full range of investment alternatives to help meet your needs:
Stocks • Bonds • Mutual Funds
CDs • Financial Planning

Brian Hepp, Financial Consultant
2425 Olympic Blvd., #130-E
Santa Monica, CA 90404
(310) 453-0077

2004 A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. • Member SIPC

Services

A/C CONSTRUCTION

General Construction
Commercial & Residential
Remodel & Add ons
Honest • Reliable
FREE ESTIMATES
— Sabbath Observed —

310.278.5380
Fax 310.271.4790
Lic# 804884 Fully Insured

BEST MOVERS
No job too small
2 MEN, \$59 PER HOUR
Fully insured. We make it EZ.
Free prep. & boxes. Discount for handicap & seniors!
Since 1975 Lic. T-163844
(323) 997-1193 (310) 300-9194

When You Get Ready to Fix Up, Call Us!
NED PARKER CONSTRUCTION
Bonded & Insured • Lic#658-486
PAINTING • CARPENTRY • ROOFING
CONCRETE • ELECTRICAL
323.871.8869

For Rent

tor, carpet, laundry, utilities included, parking, no pets (310) 574-6767 9am-6:30pm
www.JKWproperties.com

VENICE 2BED 1bath+den @ 25 19th Ave., Unit D \$1975/mo. Stove, fridge, blinds, free-standing fireplace, laundry, 1 space garage parking, no pets. \$300 off move in fee. (310) 578-7512
www.JKWproperties.com

VENICE VERY nice, sunny studio @ 30 Horizon Ave. 1/2 block from beach, large closet. 1 year lease, no pets, no smoking. (310) 466-9256 \$925

WHY RENT? You can own your own home with **no down payment!** Call Kristle or Bill (310) 207-5060 x 3232

Houses For Rent

HOUSE FOR rent - open house Sat/Sun SM 2bd/1ba. Newly remodeled, walk to beach, all appliances, parking. \$2500/mo. Pets considered (818) 415-2019

Roommates

ROOM FOR Rent in 2bdm 2bath Apartment. Professional female late 20's-30's \$770/mo + \$770 security (310) 968-1564.

Commercial Lease

1617 BROADWAY
Individual Offices

New building.
All services included.
Reception telephone answering.
High speed T-1 Internet.
Full use of conference rooms,
copier, printer, faxes...etc.
Parking. Flexible lease terms.

310-526-0310

WAREHOUSE SPACE 1300sq/ft
Includes 1 office and bathroom;
Lease for 6-24/mo @\$2300/mo
Includes roll-up door+4 parking
spaces. Located in S.M.
Colorado & Yale.
Quiet, safe & accessible.
Tom (310) 612-0840

SANTA MONICA 1452 2nd Street. Very charming building, small offices. Between \$700/mo & \$2100/mo. Includes utilities & cleaning. (310) 614-6462

Commercial Lease

Christina S. Porter
Vice President

Flex Space for Lease
1610 Colorado Ave. SM
Approximately 8,800 SF divisible to 4,400. / .75¢ psf, nnn
(310) 806-6104 [cporter@naicapital.com](#)

310-440-8500 x.104

DESIGNERS WANTED! Santa Monica women's boutique offers retail space for rent, \$300, 8 available. (310) 486-6964

SANTA MONICA Creative office space 2812 Santa Monica Blvd. 385sq/ft to 2570sqft. Par commercial (310) 395-2663 ext101.

SM 1334 Lincoln 3 office spaces 1140sqft, 750sqft, 600sqft, \$1.90/sqft. Utilities and parking included. D. Keasbey (310) 477-3192

SM RETAIL 1844 Lincoln, 1800sqft. \$3500/mo +rear 1600sqft \$2000/mo. Option to buy. D. Keasbey (310) 477-3192

Real Estate

AMERICAN MORTGAGE FUNDING CO. INC

Home Loans for any reason.
Good Credit, Bad Credit.
Purchase or Refinance. Rates low as 1%.

CALL BRIAN McDANIEL
Licensed Loan Officer
(310) 901 1268
Se Habla Español



Buying & Selling

Brent Parsons
(310) 943-7657
Thomas Khammar
(310) 943-7656

Call us for any of your Real Estate needs. We can make your dreams a reality

George Chung Realtors

NEED HOUSING in the Phoenix Metro Area?
Investing in Residential Houses, Multi-Family Housing or LAND?
Call Janice Snell for ALL your Living or Investing needs.
Janice Snell, CRIR
Prudential AZ, Properties
[www.janicesnell.com](#)
Phone: (626) 332-5006

WANTED
COMMERCIAL real estate on Main Street in Santa Monica

Real Estate

PAC WEST MORTGAGE
2212 Lincoln Blvd in Santa Monica
1-888-FOR-LOAN
310 392-9223

VERY AGGRESSIVE RATES	
30 YEAR FIXED RATES	
JUST REDUCED! JUST 5.375%	
30 YEAR FIXED	5.375%
10 YEAR/1 ARM	5.25%
7 YEAR/1 ARM	5.125%
5 YEAR/1 ARM	4.5%
3 YEAR/1 ARM	4.25%
1 YEAR/1 ARM	3.6%
6 MO./6 MO. ARM	3.75%
1 MO./1 MO. ARM	1%
*Rates subject to change	
** As of Dec 1 2004	

WE FEATURE
100%
INTEREST ONLY
LOANS

\$500,000
1ST \$400,000 @ 4.375% \$1,459 PMO
2ND \$100,000 @ 6.875% \$572.00 PMO
Total: \$2,030.00 P/MO
** Not Including Tax & Insurance*

\$650,000
1ST \$520,000 @ 4.375% \$1,895 PMO
2ND \$130,000 @ 6.875% \$744.00 PMO
Total: \$2,639.00 P/MO
** Not Including Tax & Insurance*



ROB SCHULTZ
BROKER
LICENSED CALIFORNIA
BROKER #01218743



DIVORCE
Free Report reveals what you need to know about what happens to your matrimonial home before, during and after a divorce
Free recorded message
ID# 1019.
[www.matillarealty.com](#) 1-888-465-4534

EL SEGUNDO - Coming soon. New construction. 1,400sqft retail and 2bdm 2bath Loft. 1,800sqft total. 300sqft roof top Call Matt (310) 864-9034

WANTED
COMMERCIAL real estate on Main Street in Santa Monica, call Matt (310) 864-9034

Real Estate

HERMOSA BEACH Shopping Center Anchored by a major restaurant. Center includes medical group, salon, Pilates studio, boutique, office suites. 6% cap rate \$7,050,000 (310) 396-1947

MANHATTAN BEACH – New Listing 24,000 square feet of land, prime location, signalized corner. Fantastic opportunity! Just reduced! \$2,125,000 Anthony's Restaurant - El Segundo City Landmark comes with land, improvements, and business. 22 year lease left on parking lot and patio. \$2,000 per month with no increases Gross business. \$575,000 annually. \$1,099,000 (310) 396-1947

WANTED
RESIDENTIAL property in Ocean Park and Sunset Park. I have qualified buyers ready to buy.
Call Matt (310) 864-9034

Storage Space

GARAGE RENTAL! West Los Angeles, 2 car garage, \$280/mo. Storage only. (310)391-8880

Massage

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 Swed-ish/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.

LONG LASTING RELIEF
From Muscle Tightness & Pain
Increase Flexibility & Strength
Located Downtown SM
(310) 930-5884
[www.nydoo.com/massagebyraj](#)

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

Business Opps

BUSINESS FOR sale. Gift and cold sandwich shop in high rise building. Open 5 days a week. Asking \$20,000 including inventory. Call Essa (310) 804-6528

DISCOVER THE SECRET to take control of your financial retirement future of lifetime perpetual income.
[www.path2plenty.net/13961pr](#) (626) 355-0542.
Because you deserve a better life starting now!

TURN \$1295 into six figure income. 3Sales = \$3000 working home! Money in travel, vacation free. (323) 467-3399

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

Yard Sales

BRIC-A-BRAC ALL paintings, etc... 8500 West Airdrome Ave., WLA. Sat. 1/29/05 - Sun. 1/30/05 9am

Advertise! Call us at (310) 458-7737

CLASSIFIEDS



Yard Sales

GARAGE SALE! 1047 4th St. Electronics, loomen's clothing, and other great stuff! Sat. 1/29/05 9am-12pm.

Health/Beauty

DIET MAGIC

*Totally Controls Appetite
Gives Tremendous Energy
Lose Weight Like Crazy*

100% Money Back Guarantee

**30 Day Programs
Start At \$38**

(888) 249-7397

www.antiagingdepot.com

**Seniors Hair
Special \$18**
Cut or Shampoo Set

Hair by Sophia
1302 Wilshire
Santa Monica
(310) 393-2772
BRING THIS AD

Chiropractic & Accupuncture



Victoria D. Lucas
D.C., LAC. QME

Vita Wellness

MAXIMUM FAMILY CARE IN ONE LOCATION
310-449-1222

2222 Santa Monica Blvd. • Ste. 205 • Santa Monica, CA 90404

MEDICAL MARIJUANA REFERRALS

Doctor Referrals.
Dispensary locations.
Call us. We can help.
Green Medicine Group
(323) 243-8158
www.greenmedicalgroup.org

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 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

Personals

SINGLE?

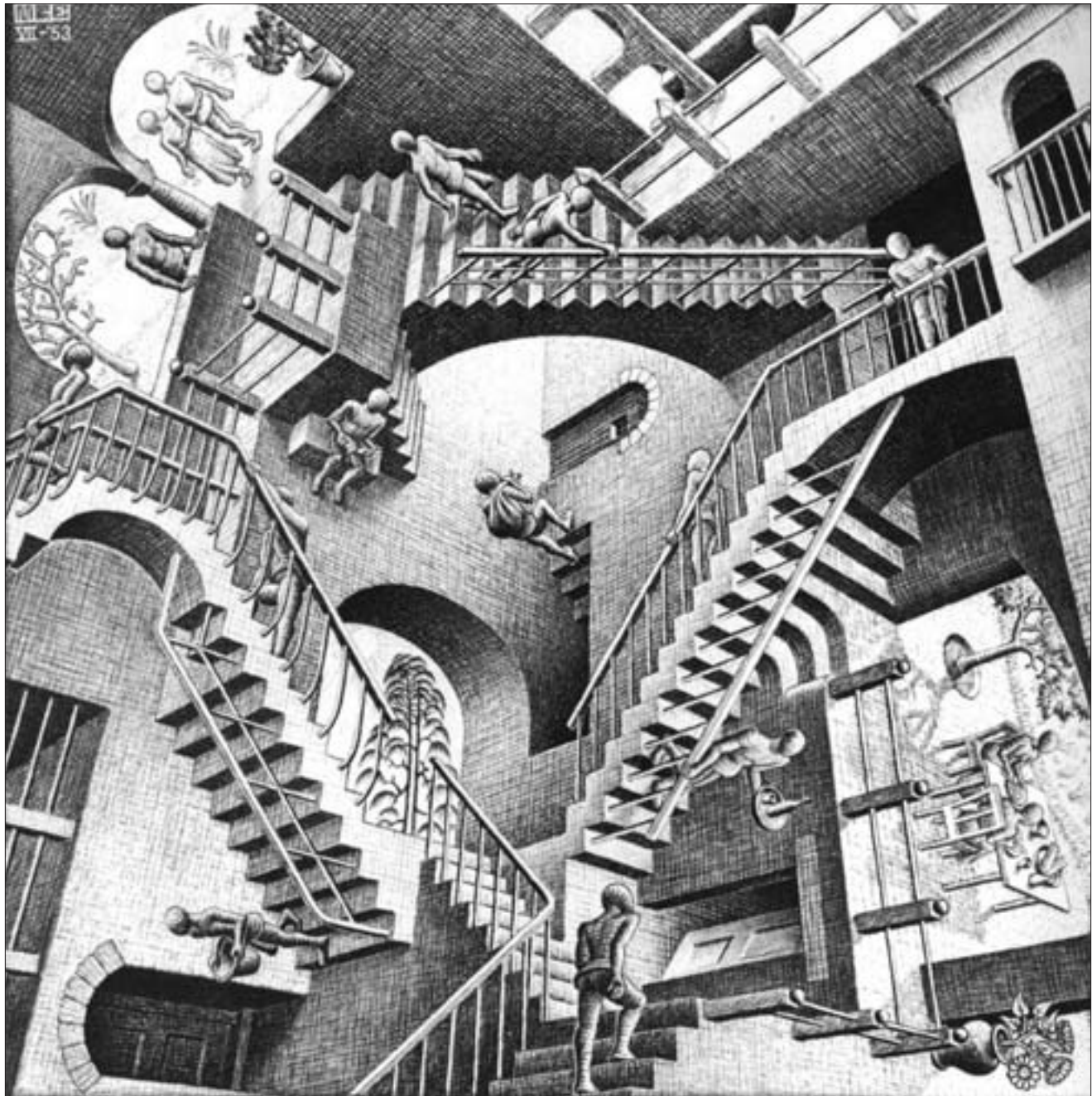
FASTDATER, LA's premier 3-minute speed dating company in hosting a party at El Guapo Cantina in Hollywood, February 1st. Don't miss out on the opportunity to meet 25-30 sexy singles! Parties sell out fast so don't hesitate & RSVP today @ fast-dater.com

Obituaries

GARY ALAN BRUMFIELD 1935-2005

Kind friend to many, beloved father of Kelly Brumfield Woods, Kristin Brumfield, Carrie Brumfield; beloved grandfather of Dean Alan Brumfield and Hadley Frances Woods, passed gently from this life to more life on Wednesday, January 26, 2005, with his family at his bedside. A lifetime resident of the Westside, he was preceded in death by his mother Norma, his brother Paul, and his father Alvin Anderson Brumfield, Battalion Chief, Santa Monica Fire Dept. He graduated from S.M. High School in 1953; earned Pharm.D. from University Southern California in 1958. He was a trusted pharmacist in Malibu, Santa Monica and Marina del Rey. From 1970 to 1985, he operated a respected commercial real estate firm on the Westside. A memorial service will be held at 4:00 pm on Monday, January 31, 2005, at Brentwood Presbyterian Church, 12000 San Vicente Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90049. In lieu of flowers, donations may be directed to Alzheimer's Disease Center, UCLA Geffen School of Medicine Dept of Neurology, Attention: Dr. Jeffrey Cummings, Reed Neurological Research Center, 710 Westwood Plaza, L.A. CA 90095-1769.

**YOUR AD
COULD RUN HERE!
CALL US
TODAY AT
(310) 458-7737**



Discover Opportunity...

Just two hours away, Downtown San Diego is booming.
Minutes to dozens of world class golf courses, parks and the historic Gaslamp District...and the best ocean views in Southern California!



2 bed 2 bath + den 1,680 sqft ocean views!\$750,000
2 bed 2 bath 1,221 sqft Ocean Views!!.....\$550,000
2 bed 2 bath 1,700 sqft Prime water view location.....\$1,265,000
2 bed 2 bath + den Penthouse level. Water Views!!!\$1,425,000



Prudential
California Realty

Chris Warren
(619) 818-1666



warren@prusd.com • www.sandiegohomesdowntown.com



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Newlywed Palmer gets back in the swing of things

By The Associated Press

KAHUKU, Hawaii — At 75, Arnold Palmer feels like a kid again after saying, “I do.”

Palmer married fiancée Kathleen Gawthrop in an intimate beach-side ceremony on Oahu’s North Shore. “I feel like a 25-year-old,” he said Thursday.

The couple were married Wednesday evening in a beach cottage near the Arnold Palmer Course at the Turtle Bay Resort, where the four-time Masters champion was to play at this weekend’s Champions Tour event.

“She’s a great lady. I’ve known her for a long time. We’ve been engaged for some time and dated before that,” Palmer said. “She’s just very special.”

The wedding ceremony, held as the sun set over the Pacific Ocean, was private and small. “The minister, the bride and the groom. That was it,” Palmer said.

And it wasn’t entirely on a whim.

“The timing may be a little spontaneous, but we’ve been looking for a way to get married quietly and this presented that opportunity,” Palmer said.

This is Palmer’s second marriage. His wife of 45 years, Winnie, died in 1999.

MOBILE, Ala. — One of the contestants on the new season of “American Idol” was in jail when his bizarre performance aired Tuesday night.

Leroy Wells’ audition for the Fox television talent competition was taped last summer in New Orleans.

He bounced onstage while talking about sandblasting paint for a living at a shipyard near his home near Mobile.

“American Idol” judge Randy Jackson told Wells: “Dog, you ain’t right for this, man, but listen, we love

you.”

A stunned Simon Cowell called the performance “ridiculous.”

Wells, 22, of Grand Bay, was arrested Jan. 5 on charges of assault and firing a weapon. Jail records show he’s also awaiting trial on drug charges and has pleaded guilty to marijuana possession in 2004 and disorderly conduct in June 2003.

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Nickelback is down a drummer following the departure of Ryan Vikedal.

“At this time, no replacement for Vikedal has been named and the band wishes Ryan all the best in his future endeavors,” said a statement recently released by EMI, Nickelback’s record label.

Nickelback is nominated for a Grammy Award in the best hard rock performance category for “Feelin’ Way Too Damn Good” from the album “The Long Road.”

The band, based in Vancouver, rose to acclaim with songs such as “How You Remind Me” and “Too Bad.”

NEW YORK — While training for the boxing drama “Million Dollar Baby,” Hilary Swank was nearly TKO’d — by a foot infection.

Swank, nominated for a best-actress Oscar for her performance in the Clint Eastwood-directed film, says a blister on her foot nearly led to her downfall.

After popping the blister, Swank continued her rigorous workouts. But soon she was in intense pain and knew something was wrong.

“I couldn’t believe the pain,” the 30-year-old actress says in an interview to air Sunday on CBS’ “60 Minutes” newsmagazine. “It was unbelievable and I looked down, there were streaks going to my foot.

“So, I went to the doctor’s that second and he looked

at me and he said, ‘This is really serious. And if you would have waited two more hours, you would have been in the hospital for three weeks _ and if it gets to your heart, that’s it.”

Swank says she was diagnosed with a bacterial infection but never told Eastwood, also her co-star in the movie, because it wouldn’t have been in character.

Instead, she took several days of medicated rest and then returned to the ring.

“I didn’t tell Clint,” she says. “The producers don’t know ... because in the end, that’s what happens to boxers: They get blisters, they get infected. They have injuries, and they keep pushing through it.”

Swank won an Oscar in 2000 for “Boys Don’t Cry.”

LONDON — The singer formerly known as Cat Stevens will headline a fund-raising concert in Indonesia for victims of the Asian tsunami.

Yusuf Islam will have top billing at Monday’s concert in Jakarta that will raise money for victims from Indonesia’s Aceh province, according to his Web site.

Islam has composed a new song, “Indian Ocean,” and recently recorded it with musicians including A.R. Rahman, Magne Furuholmen and Neil Primrose. The song will be released in February to raise money for children orphaned by the Dec. 26 disaster.

“Like everyone else, I was so shaken by the enormity of this human tragedy, and the song just came without effort,” the 56-year-old singer said in the statement.

The track includes the use of instruments, which Islam has avoided since embracing Islam, but he cautioned: “It’s not a return to Cat Stevens, I see it more as a natural response to express my concern as a Muslim and as an artist; I believe both can exist side by side particularly when the cause is right.”

FISHER LUMBER CO.

GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE

30% AND MORE OFF

ALL MERCHANDISE

ALL SALES ARE FINAL - NO REFUNDS OR EXCHANGES - NO OTHER DISCOUNTS APPLY

1601 14TH STREET - (310) 395-0956

Hours: Monday - Friday: 7:00AM - 5:30PM Saturday: 8:00AM - 5:00PM