

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In 2002 News of the Weird reported that H. Beatty Chadwick had served 6 1/2 years in jail in suburban Philadelphia for civil contempt of court for not producing \$2.5 million in marital assets that he was supposed to split with his ex-wife, with the U.S. jail record for contempt believed to be 10 years. As of October 2004, he is still in jail, closing in on the record, and the amount owed is up to \$4.2 million, with Chadwick sticking to his defense that the money had long since been spent. Said Chadwick's lawyer, "This (nonexistent) money is like the weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. We are the Saddam Hussein of the marital world." [Washington Post, 11-11-04]

Mr. Mount Lee Lacy, 21, was arrested for animal cruelty after his girlfriend's mother sent police to his apartment in Gainesville, Fla. Lacy's aggressive mastiff kept the officers at bay momentarily, but once inside, police noticed another dog, a Jack Russell terrier, that had a bloody paw, and eventually Lacy cheerfully told them that he routinely bit the dog. According to a police sergeant: "(Lacy) said that biting the dog was good punishment and that's how you train them, that dogs bite (and) so that's what they understand."

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1917, the United States broke off diplomatic relations with Germany, which had announced a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare.

In 1924, the 28th president of the United States, Woodrow Wilson, died in Washington at age 67.

In 1930, the chief justice of the United States, William Howard Taft, resigned for health reasons.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Mediocrity can talk; but it is for genius to observe."

BENJAMIN DISRAELI
BRITISH PRIME MINISTER (1804-1881)

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Shriver raised \$316K in 2004

Late start doesn't slow newest councilman, who may have set a Santa Monica record

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — City Councilman Bobby Shriver over the past four months raised more than \$316,000, mostly from \$250 donations, and said Wednesday he had no intention of letting up.

Records filed at City Hall this week show Shriver called upon his many business and personal connections to amass an amount that far exceeded what any other elected official raised in 2004. It could be the largest political war chest ever raised by a City Council candidate in Santa Monica history.

Phil Donahue, Michael Douglas, Catherine Zeta Jones, Steven Spielberg, Barbra Streisand and Oprah Winfrey were among the donors, as were William R. Hearst III, former Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan,

See **WAR CHEST**, page 8

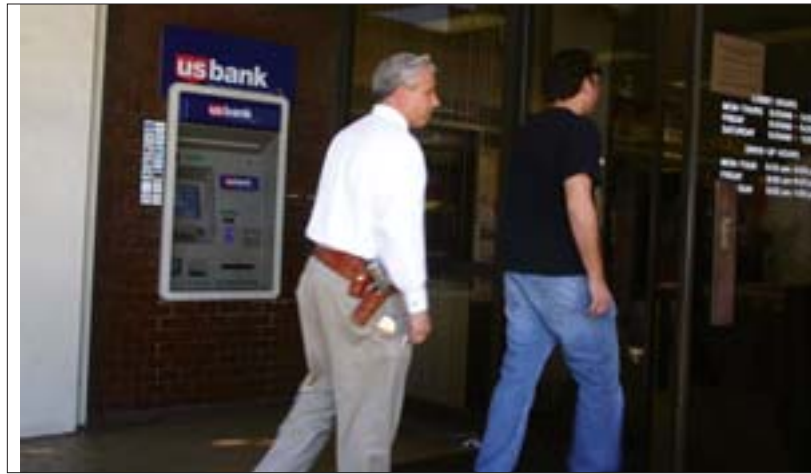
Pretty in pink



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

A shopper at the Wednesday Farmers' Market in downtown Santa Monica surveys the tulips on sale by Skyline Flowers, which is based in Oxnard.

Santa Monica Blvd. bank is robbed at gunpoint



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

A witness and a detective enter U.S. Bank on Santa Monica Boulevard Wednesday after it was robbed at gunpoint. The bank was closed for the day.

It's the third time the branch has been hit since July

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY — The U.S. Bank on Santa Monica Boulevard was robbed at gunpoint Wednesday morning, making it the second time the branch was robbed in less than a month and the third time in less than six months.

Santa Monica police responded to call from an employee at 10:24 a.m. reporting that the bank, located at 2221 Santa Monica Blvd., was being robbed by a man with a

gun. When officers arrived, the suspect had already fled on foot. A search was conducted in the area, but nothing turned up.

FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller said after the suspect entered the bank, he asked a guard to borrow a pen. The suspect took the pen from the guard, walked to the counter and wrote something on a note. When the guard approached the suspect to ask for his pen back, he pulled a gun from his waistband, pointed it at the teller's head and said "give me your money."

The suspect then went to a sec-

See **ROBBERY**, page 9

Sunset Park on alert after nine break-ins in two months

BY DIDIER DIELS

Special to the Daily Press

SUNSET PARK — A rash of recent burglaries has alarmed residents and prompted police to step up patrols after nine homes in this upscale part of town have been struck in less than two months.

After distributing information by e-mail and canvassing city

streets, high ranking police officials met with residents of Sunset Park Wednesday evening to discuss the Santa Monica Police Department's efforts to quell burglaries, and what residents can do to protect their properties.

"We don't know if it's a real trend because we don't have anything to link these burglaries," said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega. "These

burglaries appear to be occurring in the daytime hours, and residents come home to find they've been burglarized."

More than three dozen residents gathered at Mount Olive Church at 14th Street and Ocean Park Boulevard to hear Fabrega and SMPD Lt. Alex Padilla discuss the SMPD's Neighborhood Centered Policing program, which

puts each of the city's major neighborhoods under the personal watch of high-ranking police officers with the knowledge and power to affect change.

The officers meet regularly with community members and groups, and return to meet monthly with the police department's

See **SUNSET PARK**, page 10

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Let your mind and imagination merge. What you create could be very inspiring and unique. Some might want to play music to let themselves relax. Don't nix anything. Say "yes" to possibilities. A meeting might be most instrumental. Tonight: Break past patterns.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Work with others on an individual level in order to greet success. Your leadership, compassion and understanding encourage others to be open. Don't hesitate to unfurl those qualities, which are much needed. Tonight: Relax and chat over dinner.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Of all signs, you can handle the inundation of attention, requests and demands. Somehow you see beyond the obvious, thus adding to your ease and understanding. Others seek you out. They know you know. Tonight: Act on your innate resourcefulness.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Dig in and accomplish as much as you can. You will be quite pleased by what you accomplish. Think in terms of financial gains and investments. Understanding and compassion develop as you get to understand a key person in your life. Tonight: Don't worry. Work as late as you want.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Others demonstrate their innate creativity and positive thinking. For once you do not have to be the source of all solutions. In fact, you can just go along for the ride. Investigate new possibilities. You can add depth to a relationship. Tonight: Kick up your heels.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ You come from a secure spot, understanding a lot more of what is necessary to make others comfortable. Your professional resourcefulness allows you to give much more of yourself where it counts. Tonight: Bring extra work home.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Keep asking questions. If you feel a situation is changeable, you might need to stay on top of the volatility. Remember, you might not be able to control others. Your imagination flourishes. Share some of your wilder ideas. Tonight: Out and about.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You might have some crazy ideas. Although you might be amused by this wild train of thought, others won't get it. Deal with your finances without taking any risks. You could have a last-minute hassle. Others aren't on the same page as you. Tonight: Pay bills.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You are on a roll. Recognize that a family member or roommate could be reactive. Your intuition helps direct your energy. Your words draw others to you. Brainstorm and share. Stop and buy a plant or table fountain for your office. Tonight: Just ask.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Kick back, especially as the unpredictable runs riot through your life. You might feel like you are treading water. An inspired financial idea needs some checking and research. Don't nix it just yet. Tonight: Your treat.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Let your imagination color a discussion, especially during a meeting. Ideas run aplenty, but still be careful about coming to a monetary decision. What you think is self-evident about funds isn't as you see it. Tonight: Start your week-end early.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Take a stand. Worry less about what might be happening with others. You could reverse your direction once you see the problem. Others find you unusually unstable right now. Talk through your decisions more often. Tonight: Take a bow.



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1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • www.smdp.com

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com

EDITOR

Carolyn Sackariason sack@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER

John Wood wood@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

Robbie P. Plubeni rplubeni@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Rob Schwenker schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Stewart O'Dell stewarto@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II alex@smdp.com

EXECUTIVE TRAFFIC MANAGER

Brenda Casas brenda@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Mirella Reyes mirella@smdp.com

NIGHT EDITOR

Lori Luechtefeld lori@smdp.com

NIGHT EDITOR

Michael Tittinger moneysurf@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Keith Wyatt keith@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Glenn Bolan glenn@smdp.com

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com

MASCOT

Maya Furukawa maya@smdp.com

LOCAL



RAND: Some ads lead adolescents to the bottle

By Daily Press staff

Certain types of alcohol advertising may lead adolescents to begin drinking or increase their use of alcohol, according to a RAND Corporation study issued this week.

Researchers from RAND Health, based in Santa Monica, found that adolescents who more frequently viewed prominent beer advertising displays in grocery and convenience stores were more likely to begin drinking alcohol than peers who viewed fewer of these displays.

In addition, adolescents who had already tried alcohol increased their drinking as they viewed more alcohol in magazines and the more they saw beer concession stands at music and sporting events, according to the study.

Titled "Does alcohol advertising promote adolescent drinking? Results from a longitudinal assessment," the study appears in the Feb. 5 edition of the journal. *Addiction*.

"It appears that it's a combination of message and venue that helps influence adolescent drinking," said Phyllis

Ellickson, the study's lead author. "Advertising that links alcohol with everyday life — such as supermarket store displays — appears to have more influence on drinking initiation."

The study is among the first to examine the influence of alcohol advertising among adolescents over time, and examines more types of advertising than previous studies. It also accounts for differences among adolescents, such as exposure to peers and adults who drink, that might account for the effect of alcohol advertising on drinking.

The RAND study, supported by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, found no evidence that television beer ads encouraged adolescents to begin drinking or increase their use of alcohol. But researchers cautioned that more study of TV advertising is needed.

"We don't feel this is enough information to say that TV advertising does not have an effect on kids," said Rebecca Collins, a RAND psychologist and co-author of the study. "It may be that TV

See RAND, page 10



Los Angeles resident Joseph Fitzsimons is this week's mystery photo winner. The photo was taken at the vintage gas station in the Santa Monica Canyon. Fitzsimons has won a gift certificate to Izzy's Deli. Check out Monday's edition for the next mystery photo contest.



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SURF REPORT

The weather is ripping, but the surf isn't busting. Today the swell continues to back off with size dipping more towards waist-high, or slightly better at west-facing breaks. The last of the lagging periods from the NW swell trickle in on Friday. It's a smaller day, with size expected below waist-high — and inconsistent.

**Today the
water is:**

60°

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

	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

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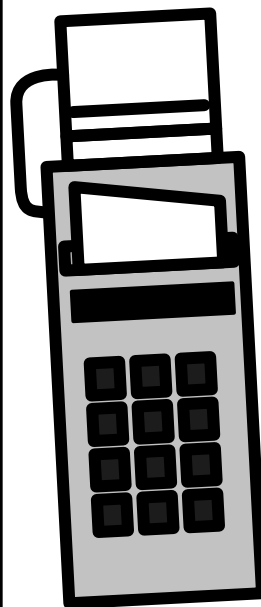
The **Q**Line

With all the rain Southern California has endured lately, the water quality of the bay has steadily declined. Officials have warned people to stay out of the water as bacteria levels will surely make them sick. But many people looking to catch a wave have ignored the warnings.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know,

"How concerned are you about the water quality of the Santa Monica Bay? Why?"

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



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OPINION



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Point that finger at a different City Hall

Editor:

On the front page of your Feb. 1 issue is a photo of the long under repair Santa Monica Canyon stairs. Long-time stair climber Teddy Hamilton admonishes your readers to “Tell City Hall to pull their finger out and get these stairs fixed.” I just want to make clear that if any fingers need to be “pulled out” you will find them at Los Angeles City Hall since the stairs are located in the city of Los Angeles and the repair project belongs to Los Angeles, not Santa Monica.

Craig Perkins

*Director of Environmental and Public Works Management
City of Santa Monica*

Homeless not OK, but Adelphia is

Editor:

Regarding “Homeless strategy has mixed results (SMDP, Jan. 19, page 1). This is the second article in a three part series and the third article “will examine the impacts of homelessness in Santa Monica.”

The second article in Jan. 19 issue states that although laws against public feeding has been passed, City Hall doesn’t know exactly how to enforce it. Perhaps they should ask the traffic department how they enforce the parking laws. They do it pretty well.

Why does City Hall pass so many laws they can’t enforce? The enforcement of any law should be considered prior to passing it, don’t you think? Or is it just City Hall’s version of giving lip service to the public’s concerns without actually having to do something about it?

And as for the groups like “Food not Bombs” and others who claim the law against outdoor feeding in public parks is unconstitutional, why don’t they hold their feeding programs in their own living areas in their own parks in their own cities? They come here from out of town to make our parks unfit for any other humans except the homeless. The children? Forget it. They can’t play in their city parks because there are transients lying all over, exposing themselves and going to the bathroom right in front of these children. Everyone is worried about the dogs using public parks and beaches for a bathroom. The city’s dog owners are responsible to pick up after them or get a hefty fine, as well they should. Who fines the humans for depositing their waste in plain sight of our children?

I would suggest that if someone wants to be feed these people that’s fine. But let them do it in their own towns, in their own parks, in their own yards — Santa Monica already has many well-funded programs that feed them.

If the third article is addressing the “impact of homelessness,” please don’t forget the little children who are afraid to walk on the sidewalks of Santa Monica, play in the parks or go to the Promenade because of their fear of these individuals.

Regarding Nesha DeAngelis’ letter (SMDP, Jan. 19, page 4) concerning Adelphia Cable losing Turner Classic Movies, HBO and Showtime. Not to cause general cable panic, it would have been better if you included the information that these channels will not be lost to those who have digital cable. It is only those who cling to the old system that may lose these channels. The old system will no longer be capable of picking up the signals. Sad but true. HBO, Showtime and Turner Classic Movies are mainstays and the bread and butter of Adelphia. And by the way, when I called today, I waited 4 and 1/2 minutes to speak to a representative and I can live with that.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica

Freedom on the march, column on the take

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



You read it right, on the take.

To avoid even the slightest appearance of conflict of interest it must be disclosed — your page 4 watchdog anti-Bush is now your page 4 lapdog pro-Bush, bought up like a cheap Hollywood streetwalker. But stay with me friends, cracking the code that allows entry into the American Dream is a good thing. Ask the nearest streetwalker.

News on the Edge thus joins a growing list of commentators and columnists nationwide who have been generously added to the federal dole for their uncompromising and hard-hitting pieces, ones that advocate the Bush agenda. Armstrong Williams was the first to come clean, followed quickly by Maggie Gallagher and Michael McManus, and Williams himself said they’re just the tip of the iceberg. One can only close one’s eyes and dream about the cash a guy like a Sean Hannity must be pulling down from Washington as he’s got this Bush idolatry thing down to a fine art — say it loud enough and often enough and watch it come true.

Here’s how it works. Take an issue, any issue. Go to something like georgewbush.com. or the Rush Limbaugh Show. Hone up on the president’s position on said issue. Write like there’s no tomorrow about the rightness — and righteousness — of that position. Do not forget the righteousness. A check from the Treasury of the United States could soon be in your mailbox and it won’t be your run-of-the-mill tax refund.

Take the war on Iraq ... please. (Strike that. No more bad Bush jokes allowed.) Seriously, 1,500 American soldiers dead? Not really all that bad a thing. My new job description compels me to go ahead and say that, after all, our very day-to-day safety while doing such mundane things as supersizing the gasoline for our Hummer tanks, is being bought for us with those young lives, and that’s a good thing.

Terrorists who have been wanting to kill all of us here are now over there, all of them, strapping bombs to their chests and blowing themselves, American GI’s and anyone else in sight to Nirvana, and that too is a good thing. At least they’re not in St. Louis as the president so deftly reminded us. In perhaps the most cunning strategic maneuver ever concocted by any known leader of any free world, the president lured them all into the recently rendered ruins of the ancient Mesopotamia, where the terror capital of the world has now come to be formed in the rubble, leaving our gas stations safe. Pure genius. And that’s a very good thing.

Free elections are now held there and although many candidates could not identify themselves for fear of their lives, they stand freely elected. Although scores of

innocent voters were killed at polling places while merely trying to cast a ballot for the unidentified candidate of their choice, they were at least free to give it a shot. Although it appears to be fundamentalist Shiite Muslim clerics like the Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani of Iran who will be running the show now in Iraq, well, welcome to democracy in action. And although Sistani is precisely the type we have held responsible for the 9/11 attacks on our homeland and went to war with Afghanistan to annihilate, the election that may have anointed him ruler of Iraq was a good thing.

Freedom is not on the march, boys, it is on the fly, and democracy will be rightfully installed in its contrails and plumes wherever they billow. I think my new boss will like that line. The leaders of Iraq may henceforth be bought and sold to the highest bidders as happens in all decent democracies from time to time, but that too is all good.

And weapons of mass destruction are good again. You heard me right, those useful instruments are always good in any righteous democracy, and look for the newly formed Democratic Republic of Iraq to go right on ahead and begin building and stockpiling the elusive things that got them into so much hot water with the resolute U.S. president in the first place. Come on in, the heavy water’s fine, our leader may well be telling them. In fact he may even be sending them the manuals, who knows? They’re good guys now, and that’s a good thing.

Printing those “WMD’s For Dummies” manuals in Arabic will cost some money, but no worries, this visionary president has put in for an additional \$80 billion to finish the job he’s started over there and that should easily cover the Kinko’s bill. In fact, to pay down the record federal deficit that’s being rung up to pay for the fancy boots that freedom marches in, I’m here to announce to you as part of my new Bush advocacy, a bold new initiative that was just e-mailed to me from my new employers. Following in the footsteps of the revolutionary plan to make Social Security rich again by dumping all that money into the stock market, my guys are proposing dumping the entirety of the military budget for the fiscal year 2005 into high-risk dot.com start-up ventures.

I know what you’re thinking — dot.com? That bubble burst and almost killed the economy, didn’t it? But that was Clinton’s fault, and friends, I know George W. Bush. George W. Bush is an employer of mine. And Mr. Clinton, you are no George W. Bush. Yes it’s risky, but this is a fearless administration, my kind of administration. Sources in high places who will be sending me a paycheck tell me that if we show some daring, we could be saying good-bye to the deficit and the entire national debt by next Christmas. If it’s good enough for Social Security, it’s good enough for the military.

(To reach Ron Scott Smith, e-mail to edgeofthewest@aol.com).

Business

What every woman entrepreneur needs to know

Starting a business takes planning and perseverance, but the first step begins with an idea. If it's time to cultivate your idea and launch a new venture, you'll be in good company. In fact, according to the Center for Women's Business Research, there are 10.6 million women-owned businesses in the United States — an increase of more than 4 million since 1992. As you prepare to join the ranks of your successful female counterparts, here are a few things to consider:

Learn from the experience of others. Before jumping in with both feet, it may be wise to talk with others engaged in the kind of business you are considering. Their first-hand experiences can provide you with a wealth of information. You'll want to ask questions like:

- How long have they been in business?
- How did they start their business?
- Would they do it over again?
- What would they do differently?
- What is the most difficult thing about being in their type of business?
- What does the future look like for their business?

If you find it difficult to identify local business owners with whom to chat, consider seeking out on-line news groups dedicated to women-owned businesses. You may be able to find answers to many

of your questions there.

Examine your current lifestyle. It's no secret that starting a new business can drain your time and budget. That's why it's important to realistically evaluate the amount of time you will need to devote to your new venture and determine your cash flow needs. If you are currently employed, consider how you will replace existing benefits like health insurance and retirement plans, as well as your monthly salary.

Take your idea to the marketplace. Your idea should not only take advantage of your skills and experience but also fulfill an untapped consumer need. Marketing research can help you determine if there is an opportunity in the marketplace.

For example, if you plan to open a retail outlet in a particular location, check out what your competition will be. If you determine that no such retail outlet currently exists, your chance for success increases if the location is highly populated with residents who match your target market characteristics. If your research results indicate that the marketplace is saturated with the type of business you plan to open, you may need to alter your product or service, or choose another location.

Prepare a written plan of action. Begin with a concise statement of your business

purpose. Then write down where you are now and your vision of where you want to be in six months, five years and 10 years — both personally and in your business. A well-crafted plan can also provide a reality check. The thought your plan requires will force you to take an objective, critical look at your project in its entirety.

Act as a performance tool. Your plan should help you establish benchmarks and set realistic goals for your company's performance now and in the future.

Become a motivational tool. Your plan is one of the best ways to communicate your vision for your business. Familiarizing new employees with it will get everyone reading off the same page and generate energy around making the organization successful.

It also serves as a management development tool. Creating your plan will give you practice in thinking, problem solving, assessing competitive conditions and recognizing situations that may be harmful to your business — skills that will help you develop as a manager and a successful leader.

Seek professional advice. With any new business venture, it's important to assemble a team of advisors, including an accountant, attorney and a personal financial advisor. Your qualified financial advisor can help you integrate your personal and business financial plans. In addition to first-time issues like licenses, insurance, business registration, a tax ID number, business structure and financing options, a professional financial advisor can help chart a course with your future needs in mind.

After you've laid the groundwork and turned your dream into reality, you can enjoy the gratification that comes with knowing you've created something worthwhile for yourself and your clients.

(Mo Barakat is a senior financial advisor in Santa Monica specializing in retirement planning, asset management and risk management. Barakat is a registered representative of American Express Financial Advisors, Inc., member NASD/SIPC. For more information call (310) 582-3500, ext. 242).

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STATE

Coast Guard seeks to protect ports with powerful sonar system

BY JEREMIAH MARQUEZ

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — The Coast Guard is seeking to protect the nation's ports from terrorist attacks by scuba divers with a sonar system so powerful it can distinguish swimmers from dolphins.

The security device, to be unveiled Wednesday, scans port waters and alerts authorities on land to any divers. A response boat then drops a second sonar below the surface for confirmation and sends back high-resolution images.

"Instead of alerting us to every sea lion, manatee or fish, this system will help us identify objects as a diver who just got lost or someone who intends on doing us harm," Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Alan Tubbs said Tuesday. "To date the Coast Guard's law enforcement has been mostly above water. This is just another capability."

Tubbs declined to discuss in detail how the system actually differentiates humans from animals, how far away it can detect divers or how many were being used. Cost estimates for the system, developed by Coast Guard researchers over the last 2 1/2 years with outside technology, were also unavailable, he said.

The device would only be deployed periodically and could prove especially useful to inspect waters during major public events like welcome ceremonies for mili-

tary ships returning to port.

Coast Guard crews have been operating the system along the West Coast over the past year as well as training with it along the Gulf of Mexico and the East Coast.

So far, the device has been nearly flawless during testing, said Petty Officer 2nd Class Jacob Smith.

"Our unit divers were out trying to trick the system, but we haven't been able to yet," Smith said.

Concerns about terrorist strikes by scuba divers were raised three years ago after the FBI announced it was investigating whether al-Qaida operatives took scuba training to help blow up ships at anchor, power plants, bridges, depots or other waterfront targets.

The Coast Guard has no information about any current underwater threats, Tubbs said.

Randolph Hall, co-director for the Center for Homeland Security at the University of Southern California, noted that sonars have long been used aboard submarines but he was unaware of any with sufficient resolution to tell divers and other objects apart.

He added that scuba divers could target ships with higher accuracy than a small explosive-laden boat like the one used in the USS Cole blast that killed 17 sailors in 2000.

"Small craft loaded with explosives ... are probably a bigger threat because it's easier to deploy a larger amount of explosives. But an underwater diver could put explosives at a more critical part of the ship," Hall said.

STATE BRIEFS

Sheriffs take flight

By The Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO — Supervisors approved spending \$7.8 million on three new Sheriff's Department helicopters to enhance patrol capabilities.

The new American Eurocopter AS350-B3s, which will arrive this spring, cost \$2.6 million each.

"This is something that we need to move forward on to keep the county safe," Supervisor Paul Biane said Tuesday.

The Sheriff's Department already has seven helicopters, including a military surplus helicopter that can't be used for patrol. Two helicopters are difficult to maintain because the manufacturer moved to the Netherlands, one of them out of service awaiting parts.

The other four helicopters work well for patrol but cannot handle search and rescue missions at high altitudes, aviation division Capt. Toby Tyler said.

"There are times when we don't have the helicopters to go up and do high-altitude rescue work," he said. "With the B3 helicopters, we will be able to safely fly at any altitude at any time of the year."

The department plans to sell three used helicopters, which are expected to fetch \$1.3 million.

Jury deadlocks in fondling case

By The Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO — Jurors deadlocked in the second trial of a former Riverside policeman charged with fondling his teenage niece for nearly four years at his homes in Mentone and San Bernardino.

The panel deliberated only day before telling a judge Tuesday they were unable to reach verdicts in the case against Vincent Paul Thomas, 42, who was charged with nine felony counts of committing lewd acts with a child between December 1998 and July 2001.

The panel said it was split evenly — six to convict and six to acquit — and Superior Court Judge Brian McCarville declared a mistrial.

Jurors also deadlocked in Thomas' first trial in November 2002, with two jurors holding out saying there was insufficient evidence to support a conviction.

"Obviously, I'm disappointed," Deputy District Attorney Laura Robles said, adding a decision hasn't been made on whether to press for a third trial.

During the weeklong trial, the now-19-year-old girl testified that Thomas began fondling her when she was 13 years old.

Book poor in the U.S.

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Textbook publishers charge American students more than those overseas with prices in the United States increasing at more than four times the rate of inflation, the California Public Interest Research Group said.

The nonprofit group's "Ripoff 101: 2nd Edition" report Tuesday also said new editions of textbooks average 45 percent more than used copies of the previous edition.

The report said textbook publishers charge American students 20 percent more than the same books sold in the United Kingdom.

The group surveyed textbook costs at 59 colleges and universities nationwide, including the University of California, Los Angeles, UC Berkeley, UC Davis and California State University, Northridge.

The Association of American Publishers challenged the report's conclusions, citing flawed methodology, selective use of data and lack of acknowledgement of recent research data.

"Tuition and students' fees have gone up at a much faster rate than textbooks," association president Patricia Schroeder said.

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STATE



Caltrans takes heat over proposed Bay Bridge design

BY TERENCE CHEA

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — State transportation officials faced intense questioning this week over their proposal to replace the eastern span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge with a less spectacular structure they say can be built faster and cheaper than the badly over-budget project currently planned.

Will Kempton, director of the California Department of Transportation, attempted to persuade skeptical lawmakers to scrap the approved design — a so-called single-tower suspension bridge — and instead complete the two-mile span with a towerless concrete skyway.

“We need to get a seismically safe bridge built as soon as possible,” Kempton told lawmakers at the Senate Transportation Committee hearing. “The skyway design is the easiest and fastest bridge type to build.”

But Kempton’s arguments didn’t appear to convince the legislators. At the end of the daylong hearing, Sen. Tom Torlakson, D-Antioch, who chairs the transportation committee, said he had not been persuaded to abandon the suspension bridge.

“What I have heard today is not a convincing set of arguments, facts and testimony that we should go with the redesign,” Torlakson said. “I believe staying the course is the safest way to get the bridge delivered in a timely fashion at a reasonable cost.”

During the hearing, Caltrans officials faced a barrage of questions about how the agency decided to recommend the redesign, how they arrived at their cost and time estimates and whether the skyway could withstand a major earthquake or terrorist attack.

Kempton’s statements were countered by bridge architects, engineers and seismologists, who said the suspension bridge could weather a large-scale seismic event better than a concrete viaduct. They also said the suspension bridge could be built faster because it has already undergone the lengthy approval process.

“Believe me, you won’t have an easy ride if you go with that viaduct,” said Donald MacDonald, an architect who helped design the suspension bridge. “Between the two bridges, the suspension bridge is the safer bridge.”

Tuesday’s hearing will help set the tone for negotiations between Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and state lawmakers over what kind of replacement span should be built and who should shoulder the costs.

Outraged lawmakers and members of the administration have been fighting over the design and cost of the eastern span since it was revealed that the construction budget had mushroomed. Costs have risen from \$2.6 billion to \$5.1 billion since 2001, when the Legislature approved the suspension design.

Last Wednesday, the same committee grilled Caltrans officials over their handling of the Bay Bridge project. That hearing focused on a state auditor’s report that criticized Caltrans for mismanaging the project, underestimating costs and being slow to report cost overruns to the

Legislature.

Caltrans officials acknowledged mistakes were made, but attributed the bulk of cost overruns to the suspension design’s complexity, repeated delays and rising prices for steel and other materials. On Monday, they released their own report that countered the state auditor’s conclusions.

Efforts to replace the eastern span began after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake destroyed a portion of the bridge, which carries about 275,000 vehicles each day between San Francisco and Oakland.

At issue is the 2,100-foot-span that will connect Yerba Buena Island to a 1.5-mile-long concrete skyway extending from the Oakland shores. Construction of that skyway is about 70 percent complete.

Kempton argued that the suspension bridge’s “extremely complex” design could result in further

delays and cost overruns. He said the skyway was much easier to build, could save between \$300 million and \$500 million and be completed 2012.

But some committee members questioned the reliability of Caltrans’s cost and time projections, citing the auditor’s report that criticized the agency’s management of the Bay Bridge project. Lawmakers grew increasingly skeptical of Caltrans’ estimates when Kempton told them the skyway design was only 5 percent complete.

Sen. Tom McClintock, R-Thousand Oaks, expressed outrage at how the seismic retrofit project’s costs had spiraled out of control.

“We’re looking at a disaster of monumental proportions,” McClintock said. “We have a responsibility to the people of California to find out what has gone so desperately wrong.”

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Shriver to continue fundraising

WAR CHEST, from page 1

Walt Disney Co. CEO Robert Iger, Santa Monica real estate magnate Dan Emmett, and three top executives from Macerich Co., the firm pushing to redevelop Santa Monica Place mall.

And that was just in the last 10 weeks. Since Labor Day, when Shriver formally entered the race for a seat on the City Council, the Kennedy family scion collected checks from hundreds of celebrities, entertainment and business executives, lobbyists, high-profile attorneys and others. He also was backed by several local unions, and his colleagues on city and college boards.

Candidates for local office since 1992 have been limited by law to accepting individual contributions of \$250 or less per calendar year, meaning Shriver had to cast a wide net in his fundraising efforts.

"What is the secret to my fundraising success? I guess that I'm an old man and I know a lot of people," Shriver, 50, said Wednesday. "I've worked with a lot of people and, when I ran, a lot of the people gave me some money. The real bottom line is that the money really allowed me to tell my story.

"If I hadn't been able to get my message out, people wouldn't have known about my message," he added. "They would have thought it was a campaign about the hedges."

It was after being threatened by City Hall with fines of up to \$25,000 a day for keeping too-tall hedges at his Adelaide Drive home that Shriver first walked onto the local political stage.

Shriver also benefited last year from endorsement mailers and canvassing paid for by local luxury hotels Casa Del Mar and Shutters on the Beach, though he denied any affiliation with their campaign effort. In total, the hotels raised more than \$350,000 in 2004, money they spent backing Shriver, along with candidates Matteo Dinolfo, Kathryn Morea and the incumbent Herb Katz, documents show.

Katz ranked a distant second in the fundraising among council candidates last year, loans not included, pulling in nearly \$88,000 in campaign contributions.

Denny Zane, a longtime political activist and co-founder of the powerful Santa Monicans for Renters Rights group, said Shriver's war chest far exceeded any in his memory. SMRR raised just \$136,110 in 2004, according to documents filed at City Hall this week.

"It's an awesome accomplishment," said Zane, who expected Shriver to win even without as much money. "I think Bobby was an attractive candidate apart from that. I think he could have won the election with a lot less. Certainly, spending that much money helps if you want to be a front runner. I think beyond that he was an attractive candidate for Santa Monica.

"He had liberal credentials," Zane added. "He had an issue of concern, and he was energetic. You put that together with a lot of money and you can win."

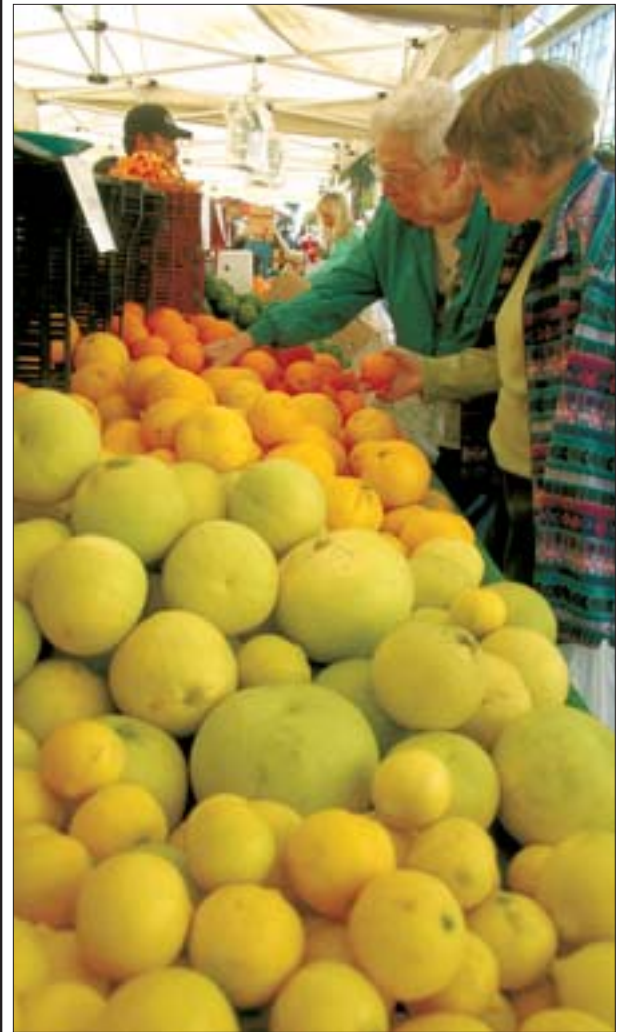
Fundraising won't slow down for Shriver, who after paying off \$100,000 he loaned his campaign, said he plans to hire an outside entity to study homelessness and look into regional solutions. That group likely would put together a coherent plan for transforming one or more empty buildings at the Veteran's Administration property in West Los Angeles into shelters. Though Shriver and a volunteer already are working on that plan, at some point he said it will need to be "professionalized."

"People in the city now are working on a lot of different things and, at least, I want to have focus brought to this thing from my own point of view," said Shriver, adding veterans make up as much as 30 percent of the local homeless population. "There are the empty buildings at the VA. To have empty buildings at the VA and homeless vets sleeping on the beach in Santa Monica seems to me to be an opportunity to do a good thing."

Shriver said he also is considering hiring an assistant to help him with city business.

"I may do that," he said Wednesday. "I am watching how things shape out. I'm straining right now. I guess I would say it's the amount of correspondence and if that continues at this current rate, I probably will hire someone to help me be responsive. I don't like it when I'm not responsive."

Fruit gazing



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

A couple surveys the organic fruits and vegetables at the Farmers' Market Wednesday morning on Arizona Avenue in downtown Santa Monica.

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LOCAL



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Santa Monica Police officers and detectives searched the vicinity near U.S. Bank on Wednesday in hopes of finding a suspect. Police stationed themselves at 23rd Street and Arizona Avenue.

Robberies at U.S. Bank continue

ROBBERY, from page 1

ond teller and demanded more money. He was last seen running toward 23rd Street on Santa Monica Boulevard and into a rear alley, Eimiller said. An undisclosed amount of cash was taken.

The suspect is described as in his late 30s, black, 5 feet, 9 inches tall, weighing 180 to 190 pounds, with a muscular build. He had a thin beard around his jaw line, short hair and a dark complexion. He was wearing a long-sleeve yellow sweater, blue jeans and carried a black pistol.

That particular U.S. Bank also was robbed on Jan. 8 when a white man in his late 50s handed a note to the teller, threatening a weapon, saying “give me all of your hundreds and fifties,” Eimiller said. And last July, police cordoned off four square blocks for five hours after the

bank’s security guard apparently chased the suspect, who exited the back door with an undisclosed amount of cash, to the area of 23rd Street and Arizona Avenue, authorities said.

The suspect entered the bank and handed a piece of scratch paper to the teller that said in black pen or pencil that he had a weapon. He then verbally told the bank teller, “Open the drawer. I have a gun. Put the bills in the bag. Put the twenties in,” Eimiller said. The teller complied and the suspect fled on foot.

Police described the suspect in the July robbery as a black man, between 34 and 40 years old, six feet tall, 170 to 175 pounds, with a slender build, black hair and a dark complexion. He was wearing a blue shirt, blue washed-out jeans, a green or light blue baseball cap and carrying a dark bag.



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Police are offering free home security inspections

SUNSET PARK, from page 1

command staff, which reassigns resources as needed.

With no residents having reported contact with a burglar, the SMPD has yet to form a description of any possible suspects. However, SMPD detectives said they were working with state parole and county probation officers to help identify leads.

Besides striking in the daytime, the burglars have taken mostly items small enough to fit into a bag, backpack, or pocket. Police urged residents to immediately report any suspicious persons stopping or loitering in the area, believing suspects might be on foot.

The nine burglaries have affected an area of Sunset Park stretching from Pico Boulevard to Ocean Park

Boulevard, and from 20th Street to 25th Streets. Three have occurred in December and six in January.

"If you're away from home all day, what can you do?" said Zina Josephs, leader of Friends of Sunset Park, a neighborhood group. "We have moms at home with young children — the ones I've heard from are extremely worried."

Josephs canvassed her area Tuesday night with flyers distributed by the SMPD, which were prompted by three residents reporting burglaries on Monday, Jan. 31.

One of the burglaries occurred at the 2400 block of 23rd Street and another at the 2100 block of Hill Street. The same day, a third resident reported a garage burglary at the 2200 block of 21st Street, which had occurred between Jan. 18 and Jan. 21, Fabrega said.

"I've been living in the same house for going on six years, and I can't remember one before now," said Sunset Park resident Bill Dawson. "Sure we're concerned, but I think the police is taking adequate steps."

Beyond the beefed up patrols — by car as well as on foot and bicycle — police will be working with Friends of Sunset Park to organize community watch efforts and get the word out that residents should lock doors and gates at all times, not store hidden keys outdoors, and try to keep outside lights on at night. Undercover officers also are patrolling the neighborhood.

Police also are performing free security inspections of people's homes, which can be requested at (310) 458-8474, Fabrega said.

"These crimes can be prevented," Fabrega said.

RAND study tracked 3,111 South Dakotans

RAND, from page 3

beer advertising has a cumulative effect over a longer period of time or may have an influence on younger children. These are two issues we didn't examine."

Researchers also found that adolescents who took part in an evidence-based drug and alcohol prevention program called Project ALERT were less likely to drink and to be influenced by alcohol advertising than their peers who did not receive the instruction. One component of the education program uses alcohol advertisements to teach adolescents about the pressures to use alcohol and how to resist such pressures.

The RAND study followed 3,111 South Dakota adolescents from seventh grade to ninth grade, collecting information about their alcohol use, television viewing and exposure to several types of alcohol advertising.

"We looked at advertisements young people are likely to see across a variety of settings," Ellickson said.

About half of the youths in the study were enrolled in an updated version of Project ALERT, a school-based program that provides lessons to seventh and eighth graders about alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana. It targets those three substances because they are the ones that middle-school youth are likely to try first.

Researchers found that the Project ALERT program curbed overall drinking and also countered the impact of store advertising among adolescents who had not begun drinking before the program was implemented. But the program did not alter the impact of advertising on adolescents who already used alcohol.

Project ALERT is an acronym for Adolescent Learning Experiences in Resistance Training. Widely known as one of the most effective prevention programs in the country, ALERT was developed in the 1980s by RAND with the support of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and tested in a large-scale experiment involving 30 school districts in California and Oregon.

RAND researchers have been studying the general effectiveness of an updated version of the Project ALERT program among students from more than 50 middle schools in South Dakota for several years. The state ranks among the top 10 states in rates of alcohol and drug dependence and binge drinking among adolescents and young adults.

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NATIONAL



Colorado pulls Spanish-language guide from Web

BY COLLEEN SLEVIN

Associated Press Writer

DENVER — Colorado has yanked a Spanish-language guide for new immigrants from a state Web site following criticism that it encouraged illegal aliens to take advantage of government benefits.

Gov. Bill Owens, who had earlier endorsed the guide posted on the state education site, said Wednesday he wasn't aware some of its advice seemed targeted at those living in Colorado illegally. It was removed Monday after Rep. Tom Tancredo, a fellow Republican and outspoken proponent of tighter controls on immigration, wrote to Owens criticizing it.

The pamphlet contains information about everything from how to get a driver's license to domestic abuse laws. It also says health clinics don't have to see immigration papers before providing treatment and that children born in the United States can qualify for certain

health benefits even if their parents are here illegally.

The medical director of a Colorado clinic that helped put the pamphlet together said he was disappointed.

"I think it's folding to political pressure and fear-mongering," said Tillman Farley of the Salud Family Health Centers, based in Fort Morgan.

He said the advice is aimed at legal immigrants but conceded the information could be used by those here illegally. He said it merely explains existing law and that all Colorado residents benefit if, for example, the children of immigrants are immunized and pregnant women get medical care.

Farley said it's not fair to compare the pamphlet to the comic book guide published by the Mexican government giving tips to people who decide to enter the United States illegally. He said the Colorado pamphlet doesn't encourage people to immigrate but simply helps those who are already here become famil-

iar with American customs and laws.

"It's just like the 'Welcome to Colorado' sign on the highway. It doesn't exclude anybody," he said.

Tancredo spokesman Carlos Espinosa said clinics like Farley's have an interest in defending illegal immigration because they receive federal aid to care for immigrants. He said illegal immigrants don't pay income taxes, and the sales taxes they contribute doesn't cover the government

services they use.

"Clearly they don't put in what they take out," he said.

Owens, who signed a bill into law Wednesday that restores Medicaid benefits to legal immigrants, said he supports helping newcomers who pay taxes and play by the rules.

"I want to encourage those who are here legally to assimilate and become part of American life," he said.

Resource Council says oil and gas wells not being inspected enough

BY SUE MAJOR HOLMES

Associated Press Writer

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Oil and gas wells in New Mexico and four other western states aren't being inspected often enough, and the inspections that are done are more likely for production rather than environmental concerns, an environmental group said Wednesday.

The Western Organization of Resource Councils said in a report that New Mexico, Colorado, Montana, Wyoming and North Dakota have 79 percent of the active wells on Bureau of Land Management land nationwide, but only 26 percent of the inspectors.

Inspections do not keep up with the rapid pace of oil and gas development, few enforcement actions are taken even when problems are identified, and citizens' complaints often are ignored, the report said.

Oscar Simpson, president of the New Mexico Wildlife Federation who also identified himself as a Republican, a member of the National Rifle Association and a former state regulator, contended regulations are being bent to help the oil and gas industry, because less money spent on regulation and environmental cleanup means more in profits for oil and gas.

Simpson said oil and gas development is hurting New Mexico's environment by fragmenting wildlife habitat; reducing the ability of public lands to support other uses, such as recreation and grazing; and polluting the environment.

Budgets for environmental protection in regulatory agencies are minimal and the overriding objective is voluntary compliance rather than enforcement, he said.

The council recommended the BLM require annual environmental inspections for active wells; not issue new drilling permits unless inspection goals are met; set clear policies on enforcement; and encourage the public to report perceived violations and investigate those complaints. It also said there

should be enough inspectors so each is responsible for no more than 300 active wells.

And it said inspections should be often enough and fines high enough to ensure compliance.

The report said the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division issued 1,940 notices of noncompliance or violation in 2003, while the Farmington BLM office issued 503. The state agency collected seven fines; the BLM office none.

Joanna Prukop, head of the New Mexico state natural resources agency, said that while she has not had time to analyze the data, "it's true that like the other states and the BLM, we are challenged by the number of people and the number of resources that we have to inspect. ... We're definitely challenged to keep up."

The state has only 12 field inspectors to monitor facilities, she said, but a budget proposal before the Legislature would fund more inspector positions.

But Hans Stuart, a spokesman for the BLM in New Mexico, said the federal agency has a relationship with the oil and gas industry that allows it to handle problems before they're serious enough to mean fines.

Steve Henke, manager of the Farmington BLM office, said his office resolves issues at the lowest level — a noncompliance report — so they don't escalate to penalties or suspending a lease.

"Even though the report was critical ... we are achieving compliance" without drastic measures, he said.

He also said working with the industry before problems become significant can have a big impact. For example, if one operator has a problem at one site, the BLM can require it to fix that problem at all the company's sites.

The report said BLM has made substantial improvements to inspections and enforcement, but that efforts have targeted production rather than environmental compliance.



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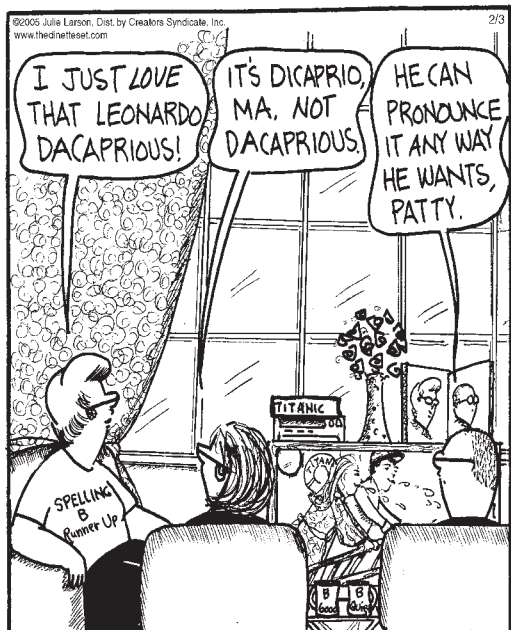
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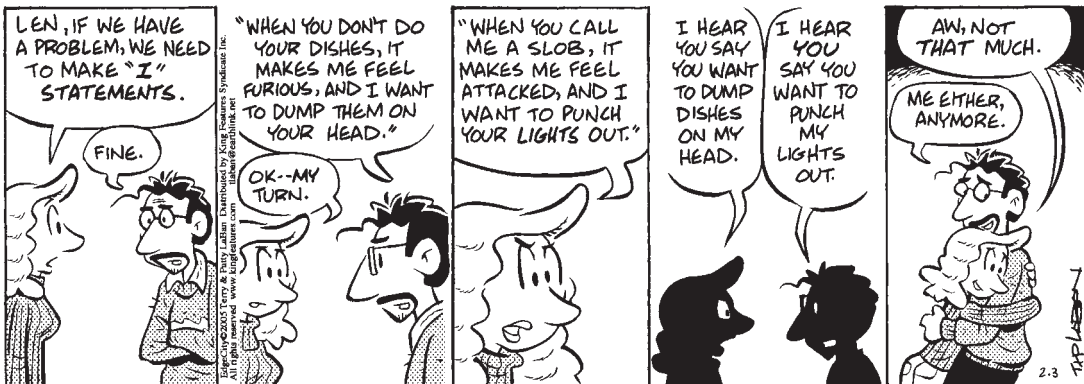
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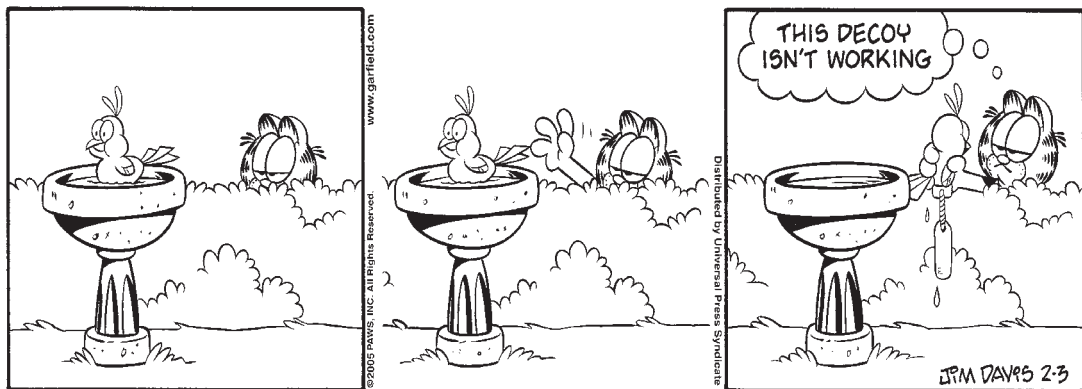


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2-3

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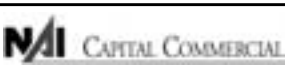
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Probate Citation

SURROGATE'S COURT – SULLIVAN COUNTY
CITATION
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
BY THE GRACE OF GOD FREE AND INDEPENDENT

TO: Drew Reiber, spouse of decedent, Denise Paolano Reiber a/k/a Denise L. Reiber, who died on August 15, 2000, whose address is unknown, if living, and if he be dead, his respective distributees, executors, administrators, beneficiaries, assigns, successors in interest, all of whose names and places of residence are unknown, being all persons who might have an interest in the estate of said decedent as a distributee or derived through any such distributee.

A PETITION HAVING BEEN DULY FILED BY Michael R. Paolano, WHO IS DOMICILED AT 816 Delano Village Old Liberty Rd., Monticello. NY 12701.

YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE BEFORE THE SURROGATE'S COURT, SULLIVAN COUNTY, AT COURT HOUSE, 414 BROADWAY, MONTICELLO, NEW YORK, ON March 15, 2005 AT 2:00 O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON OF THAT DAY, WHY A DECREE SHOULD NOT BE MADE IN THE ESTATE OF Denise Paolano Reiber a/k/a Denise L. Reiber, LATELY DOMICILED AT 816 Delano Village Old Liberty Rd., Monticello, NY, ADMITTING TO PROBATE A WILL DATED August 2, 2000, AS THE WILL OF Denise Paolano Reiber a/k/a Denise L. Reiber, DECEASED, RELATING TO REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY, AND DIRECTING THAT

[x] LETTERS TESTAMENTARY ISSUE TO: Michael R. Paolano

DATED, ATTESTED AND SEALED BURTON LEDINA, SURROGATE January 13, 2005, Lu Ann P. Hering, Chief Clerk

Oshman & Mirisola LLP, by Sharon Elmaleh-Schoenman (ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER) 212-233-2100 (TELEPHONE NUMBER) 116 John Street New York, NY 10038 (ADDRESS OF ATTORNEY)

This citation is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of Hon. Burton Ledina, Surrogate, at Monticello, New York and filed in the Office of the Chief Clerk of the Surrogate's Court at the Government Center, 100 North St., Monticello, New York. This is a proceeding for letters testamentary to be issued to Michael R. Paolano in the estate of Denise Poalano Reiber a/k/a Denise L. Reiber.



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