

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

2 9 13 20 44
Meganumber: 27
Jackpot: \$7 Million

FANTASY 5

6 14 25 36 38

DAILY 3

Daytime: 4 8 2
Evening: 0 8 7

DAILY DERBY

1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 11 Money Bags
3rd: 03 Hot Shot

RACE TIME: 1:42:19

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Brigham Young University's Newsnet reported in November on Marilyn and Elton Pierce of Provo, Utah, who because their telephone number is easily confused with a BYU information line, estimate they have received 25,000 wrong-number calls in 14 years (averaging to five per day). Marilyn, in her 70s, said she didn't have the couple's number changed because she doesn't mind the calls and in fact rather enjoys talking to people.

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1974, newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst was kidnapped in Berkeley, Calif., by the Symbionese Liberation Army.

In 1976, more than 22,000 people died when a severe earthquake struck Guatemala and Honduras.

In 1983, singer Karen Carpenter died in Downey, Calif., at age 32.

In 1997, a civil jury in Santa Monica, Calif., found O.J. Simpson liable for the deaths of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"La vida es duda, y la fe sin la duda es solo muerte." (Life is doubt, and faith without doubt is nothing but death.)

MIGUEL DE UNAMUNO
SPANISH PHILOSOPHER (1864-1936)

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John Wood/Daily Press

CROSS-STREET RIVALRY: Janet and Pat Good, top, from The Shack, a die-hard Philadelphia Eagles bar, plan to host 350 for Sunday's Super Bowl game. They have a friendly wager with Jim Conners and his crew, including manager Julie Mitchell, below, at Sonny McLean's, a raucous New England Patriots bar just across Wilshire Boulevard.

A tale of two bars

Football fans at two Santa Monica watering holes prepare for a 2005 Super Bowl blowout

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY — The seats were sold out days ago, extra kegs of beer have been ordered, and cases of champagne are chilling on ice.

This Super Bowl Sunday, Wilshire Boulevard in eastern Santa Monica will serve as the great divide between die-hard fans of the New England Patriots and the

Philadelphia Eagles.

Beyond championship rings, bragging rights and beer-soaked revelry, this year's Super Bowl match-up for the owners of two Santa Monica watering holes is about fresh lobsters or Philly cheesesteaks.

Loser cooks.

Jim Conners, 34, owner of Sonny McLean's on the north side of Wilshire

See **BARS**, page 6

School board to consider new, smaller SM schools

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

DISTRICT HDQRTS. — The joint Santa Monica-Malibu school board this weekend will begin a discussion over whether up to 1,000 students deserve an alternative to Santa Monica's flagship high school, which now accommodates some 3,500 students.

A plan to create as many as five new schools in Santa Monica, each serving 200 to 300 students, already has the enthusiastic backing of Schools Superintendent John Deasy and Samohi Principal Ilene Straus. Both of the top educators argue Samohi is overcrowded and new, smaller schools could be tailored to offer a diverse portfolio of options.

"They'd have their own name, their own place, their own graduation," Deasy said Thursday. "It's very common. There are small schools in every major city in California, and around the country."

Where to put the schools will be a major question if the school board decides at its weekend work session to pursue the idea. Deasy said he hopes to make the small schools open to all students, space permitting. He added the schools likely would have their own themes.

Examples of possible themes, Deasy said, range from schools focused on internships around subjects such as social justice or the environment, to schools with a curricular focus on the sciences, mass media or other academic fields. Though no details have been set, Deasy said there might be possibilities of partnering small schools with local businesses.

One possibility would be to establish an internship school at the Colorado Center in eastern Santa Monica, where Yahoo! will set up a major presence this summer. Another option would be to make an arrangement with Pixar Animation or other studios.

"It's very symbiotic," Deasy said. "Both sides benefit

"Samohi is a small city with over 3,400 students and 200 adults on the campus every day, not to mention the use it gets from the community at large. The wear and tear is tremendous."

- **CHERI ORGEL**
PTSA co-president, Samohi

See **NEW SCHOOLS**, page 7

Jacquie Banks

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Through these 27 tips, you will discover how to protect and capitalize on your most important investment, reduce stress, be in control of your situation, and make

the most profit possible.

In this report you'll discover how to avoid financial disappointment or worse, a financial disaster when selling your home. Using a common-sense approach, you get the straight facts about what can make or break the sale of your home.

You owe it to yourself to learn how these important tips will give you the competitive edge to get your home sold fast and for the most amount of money.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your free copy of this report, call 1.888.465.4534 and enter ID#1023. You can call any-time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Foreign ideas open your eyes. Many of you will decide to revolutionize your approach. Others will want more eye-opening experiences and will sign up for a workshop or course. Walking in another's shoes works well too. Tonight: Your call.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★ What you can accomplish with one other person could be surprising to even you. In fact, what happens today could revise your thoughts about this relationship or your interaction with someone else. Let yourself be serious. Tonight: Flex with another's needs.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Others simply cannot get enough of you. How very nice! Explore options rather than close doors. Network, socialize and stay open. Right now, new avenues of thought expand your life opportunities. Tonight: Start the weekend whirlwind.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You plunge into work, determined to clear out as much as you can. In fact, the sense of accomplishment you gain will be well worth a couple extra hours. When you leave work, your mind can relax and not worry. Tonight: Run errands but also get some exercise.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Why you're so upbeat isn't as important as the fact that you are upbeat. With this attitude, you can take on the world. The good news is just how much you can get done. Calls and actions have an impact. Go to it and get as much done as possible. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You are building a greater sense of security, which will help manifest more of your desires. Just because your cash levels are growing doesn't mean you need to spend or invest immediately. Take your time and do needed research. Tonight: Watch the long version of a favorite movie.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Wherever you put your energy works. What might be important is not to overextend or spin off into too many areas. Funnel your attention to one matter at a time, keeping your goal in mind. Your Libra charm helps diminish any resistance. Tonight: Favorite person, favorite place.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Others find you to be a wizard with money. Your intuition helps you make the right decision at the right time. You don't need to flaunt your success. Others notice. Resist giving others advice even though you feel that you know more than many. Tonight: Splurge and buy something new.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You beam, and others respond. Notice how much you draw to you. Make choices that serve you not only at this moment but also in the long run. Don't diffuse your winning streak. Use it well. Tonight: Smile and get what you want.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Take your natural place in the order of life. Be a leader. What you do could bring positive results not only immediately but also in the long run. Your sixth sense points you in the right direction. Tonight: Reassess your direction.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Friends push you in a new direction or in a way that feels positive. Your sign is about friendship and caring. You're in your element during meetings. You love taking time to visit with associates and to network. Tonight: You are a walking happening.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Maintain a steady pace. Others misread your smiling and positive attitude. Reach out for associates and steer the course that is best for you. Responsibilities weigh on your shoulders. Your way of handling a problem works. Tonight: A must appearance.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Schwarzenegger appoints woman from Pacific Palisades

By Daily Press staff

Eight Californians have been appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to the California Economic Strategy Panel, including one Pacific Palisades resident.

Jill Werner, 55, is the co-president and chief executive officer of Federated Linen and Uniform Services, a linen and uniform supply company with more than 900 employees nationwide. Previously, she served as a planner for Chemical Bank. Werner is a Democrat.

The position is unpaid and does not require a senate confirmation. Werner will serve with other California business executives, managers and developers

Buddha visits Santa Monica

By Daily Press staff

Relics from the Shakyamuni Buddha will be on display at the Santa Monica First Presbyterian Church this weekend.

The relics come from a collection that was released for world exhibition in 2001. Since then, the relics have been all over the world on the "Heart Shrine Tour." Relics from the Buddha's disciples, along with saints and spiritual masters from the Indian, Chinese and Tibetan Buddhist tradition, will be on display.

The pieces include crystalline and pearl-like deposits, as well as bone collected from the ashes of spiritual masters after cremation and fragments of writings.

The exhibit is free, and Santa Monicans of all cultural and religious backgrounds are invited. Bring a small jar or vial if you would like to receive water blessed by the energy of the relics.

The relics can be seen on Feb. 5 and Feb. 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 1220 Second St. Parking is available in several parking structures on Second Street.

For more information contact the Santa Monica Karma Kagyu Study Group at (310) 451-4368 or www.SantaMonicaKKSG.org.

Local girl takes wrestling gold

By Daily Press staff

The 105-pound Jazzy Green, a sophomore at Santa Monica High School, recently took first place in the 2005 California Girls State Wrestling Championships.

Green is Santa Monica's first state wrestling champion. She competed in Vallejo, Calif., where more than 300 top female Californian wrestlers participated.

Green is the only girl on the Santa Monica High wrestling team, and usually wrestles boys at high school competitions. Although this is only her second year wrestling, her athletic background includes gymnastics, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and Krav Maga. Under the coaching of Mark Black and Brent Wright, Green is undefeated against girls this season, winning the Southern California regional competition last week.

At the state finals, Green won all four of her matches. The final match was against California's top-seeded wrestler, Maria Angara from Vallejo.



Photo courtesy

Jazzy Green, a sophomore at Santa Monica High School, is the school's first state wrestling champion, as well as the only girl on the wrestling team.



SURF REPORT

Our latest NW swell started to back down Thursday. Today the last of the lagging periods from the NW swell that hit on Tuesday trickle in. It's a smaller day with size expected to be below waist high and inconsistent. Smaller surf is on tap this weekend.

Next week starts out with a light mix of SW ground swell and NW wind swell, but then it looks like we'll see an increase in NW swell by Wednesday.

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

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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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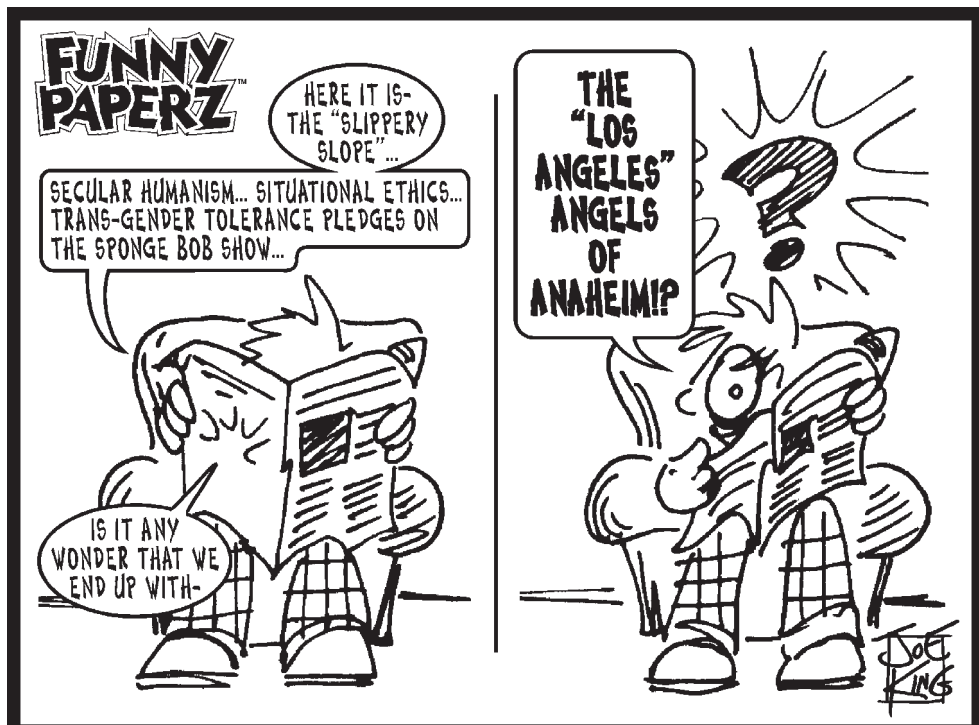
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OPINION



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Changing state law not illegal or wrong

Editor:

Letter writer Ben Jacobs (SMDP, Jan. 28, page 4) paints a dramatic but inaccurate picture of Councilmember Shriver and me leading a pack of defiant dog guardians onto the beach in "disregard of state law."

In fact, we are exploring appropriate means to change state law and/or policy, within the constitutional process of petitioning government for redress.

Article 1, section 3(a) of the California constitution guarantees, "The people have the right to instruct their representatives, petition government for redress of grievances, and assemble freely to consult for the common good."

Your Santa Monica City Council often acts on citizens' behalf to advocate changes in state law. Our efforts have resulted in many housing, environmental and other improvements.

Kevin McKeown
Santa Monica Councilmember

Money thrown out the window

Editor:

Why do we give away hundreds and thousands of Santa Monica treasury taxpayers' hard-earned dollars?

That's right, we give to nonprofit organizations that are based outside of Santa Monica every year and hundreds of thousands of dollars that could be better spent right here. After all it is Santa Monica taxpayers' money.

Why doesn't anyone see that the "work" they say they do is not in line with the evidence presently observed of what is happening. There are so many examples, but here's a quick recent one. A man went, at my direction, to one of these organizations that say they help disabled people.

This single organization gets \$145,000 last year alone, from you and me — Santa Monica (Santa Claus) taxpayers. An organization that pays their director more than the grant itself. Then when this organization gets contacted to assist a severely disabled man to get Medicare, they say they don't have the time. The true event occurred last week at this very expensive organization at the tune of \$145,000. What do we get for this?

Well, they eh, make referrals. Great. That's what all organizations do! Well ah, they are knowledgeable. Great. Let them impart their knowledge. We can still learn anything we need to know with one well placed phone call.

What do we get for all this money we throw out the Santa Monica coffers window? Something we could buy from subcontractors on a person-by-person basis for 25 percent of the overall cost.

Derek Lantzsich
Santa Monica

Agreement flies in face of development etiquette



OUR TOWN
BY TED WINTERER

Back in November the Macerich Co., owners of the struggling Santa Monica Place mall, unveiled plans to redevelop the site with new retail space, offices, luxury condos and apartments. The design featured three 21-story towers, and the Macerich Web site boasted that the new mall would "create the ultimate decadent shopping experience (for) the affluent to the super-rich."

Not surprisingly, the public response to Macerich's plan was largely negative. Folks didn't like skyscrapers in a beach community that treasures light and views. They didn't care for the density and traffic from such an intensification of land use. And they didn't much cotton to a shopping experience touted to rival SoHo and South Beach. Apparently the opportunity to ogle Bentleys and Rolls Royces while stuck in near-gridlock at Fourth and Colorado didn't thrill many.

Echoing these sentiments, various City Council members decried the proposal, with one going so far as to describe it as "DOA."

Two months later, Macerich appeared before the City Council with a presentation displaying towers of a height "to be determined after community input." Macerich asked the City Council to consider a development agreement, an arrangement by which a developer may dodge some of the constraints of our zoning ordinance in return for public benefits.

So what did the City Council do? It voted unanimously to enter into negotiations for a development agreement.

I was shocked. My first thought was that it was a bit like watching a middle-aged Lothario seduce a naive young woman. Then I realized, no, that's not right: Our City Council members lost their innocence a long time ago.

Instead, the more apt analogy is the way professional sports teams threaten to move if municipalities don't fund new stadiums that generate additional luxury suite revenues. You see, Macerich is asking that the city, which owns the admittedly ghastly garages at Santa Monica Place, pony up for new underground parking. And no one seems to know what this cost will be, just that it's extremely expensive.

Basically Macerich told our City Council that if it didn't negotiate to help build a new stadium, we'd get a minor league team instead of a major league one: A refurbished mall without the

pedestrian thoroughfare from the Promenade to Sears and the affordable housing the council covets. Our council looked across the poker table and folded to the bluff.

Yes, the towers won't be 21 stories. Yes, the council insisted on extensive public input during planning for the new development. Yes, the current mall is an ugly monolith with no curb appeal. But there's too much about this process that doesn't pass the sniff test:

■ Macerich asserted that the City Council needed to rush into negotiations because Macy's and Robinsons-May couldn't wait, and would renovate their existing clunkers instead of opting for new stores. There's only one problem: No one from the parent companies of the two stores spoke at the City Council meeting. In a court of law, such testimony would be deemed hearsay and not allowed by a judge.

■ In fact, Federated and May, owners of these two department stores, are in merger talks. According to Sanford C. Bernstein, a prominent market-research firm, chances of the merger being consummated are about 50/50. Wouldn't it be prudent to wait to see if a reorganized owner of these two stores has different expectations for the site?

■ Macerich now says it considers public opinion vital to its proposed development — but only after it got egg on its face from its initial proposal. If they're so gung ho on community involvement, where was the outreach to the public during the two years in which they formulated their original plans? Does it trouble anyone to enter negotiations with an outfit that does one thing and then says another?

■ Current zoning for the area adjacent to Santa Monica Place limits building heights to 56 feet. But in an 11th hour move with little public process, City Hall moved the development site into the Civic Center Plan, which allows potentially taller buildings. I'm sorry, but that sort of tactic reminds me too much of Congress trying to add Arctic Refuge drilling to an education spending bill.

Fortunately, nothing's been agreed to but negotiations. Let's keep an eye on our City Council. And remind its members that there's local precedent for saying no. Los Angeles rejected the NFL when the league wanted public monies to finance a new football stadium. Seems like no one's missed the NFL, just as I imagine no one would miss another Rodeo Drive in downtown Santa Monica.

(Ted Winterer is a writer who lives in Ocean Park. He's quite content to root for the New York Giants from the comfort of his living room. He can be reached at ourtownsmdp@aol.com.)

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

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COMMENTARY



GUEST COMMENTARY BY ELAN JOURNO

Rewarding the MVPs of the business world

As millions of Americans watch the New England Patriots take on the Philadelphia Eagles this weekend, every minute of the game will be scrutinized, with slow-motion replays and a torrent of statistics. But, amid the cheers and groans, don't expect to hear complaints from fans about the players' multi-million dollar salaries — \$5.4 million on average for starting quarterbacks, and far more to exceptional players. Fans know just what the players had to accomplish to reach the Super Bowl and recognize that the players have earned their pay, that the MVPs are indispensable to their teams, that it is morally proper to reward achievement.

But that spirit of justice disappears by springtime, when corporations file their financial statements. It is then that we learn how much America's CEOs got paid last year. In a ritual now sadly as commonplace as Super Bowl parties, CEOs are annually reviled as overpaid fat-cats. The 25 highest-paid CEOs in 2003 earned an average of \$32.7 million — and there were a good number whose compensation packages approached the \$100 million mark. Astonished to learn that what an average worker earns in a year, some CEOs earn in less than a week, some people ask themselves: "How can the work of a corporate paper-pusher be worth so many millions of dollars?"

The answer is that successful CEOs are as indispensable to their companies as Super Bowl-winning quarterbacks are to their teams. They earn their rewards.

How big an influence can one man have on the fortunes of an entire corporation? Consider the impact of Jack Welch on General Electric. Before his tenure as CEO, the company was a bloated giant, floundering under its own weight. Splintered into dozens of distinct and inefficient business units, GE was scarcely making a profit. Welch turned it around. He streamlined and reorganized the company's operations and implemented a sound business strategy yielding more than \$400 billion worth of shareholder wealth.

In business, as in football, success requires long-range thinking. But CEOs must project a game plan in terms not merely of a single game or season, but of years and decades. A biotechnology company, for example, might spend 15 years and billions of dollars developing a new cancer-fighting medicine. Success is impossible without the business acumen of its CEO. For years before a marketable product exists, he must raise sufficient capital to sustain the research. What long-term business model will attract venture capital? Should the company accept partial short-term sponsorship from a large

drug manufacturer in exchange for a modest royalty on the drug in the future — or risk going it alone and possibly running out of funds? It is on such decisions that a company's success is made — and lives of cancer patients might depend.

In order to be successful in the long range, the CEO's strategy must encompass countless factors. He must devise a game plan to grow the business in the face of competitors, not only from its own league, but from all the leagues around the world. The CEO calls the plays, but for a team of tens (and sometimes hundreds) of thousands of workers. Every action of every employee and every aspect of the business must be coordinated and integrated to produce the cars, computers or CAT scanners that yield profits to the company. It is the CEO who is responsible for that integration.

To successfully steer a corporation across the span of years by integrating its strengths for the purpose of creating wealth requires from the CEO exceptional thought and judgment. Excellent CEOs are as rare as NFL-caliber quarterbacks. And in the business world, every day is the Super Bowl. There is no off-season or respite from the need to perform at one's peak.

Given the effect a CEO can have on a company's success, we can understand why their compensation packages can be so high. One way employers (like team owners) reward excellence is through bonuses. For many CEOs, bonuses amount to a large portion of their earnings. And as with quarterbacks, the CEO's pay package is calculated with an eye on the competition. Companies pay millions of dollars to a valuable CEO, one whom they judge will produce wealth for the shareholders, in part so the CEO will not be hired away by a competitor.

Americans can see with their own eyes the merits of star quarterbacks. Though the efforts of CEOs are not televised to the whole nation on a Sunday afternoon, their achievements are just as real and have a profound benefit to all our lives. Just as we admire a quarterback's athletic prowess and understand the importance of rewarding him accordingly, so we should learn to appreciate the work of successful CEOs and recognize that they too deserve every penny of their salaries.

(Elan Journo is a junior fellow at the Ayn Rand Institute [www.aynrand.org] in Irvine. The Institute promotes the ideas of Ayn Rand — best-selling author of "Atlas Shrugged" and "The Fountainhead" and originator of the philosophy she called "objectivism.")

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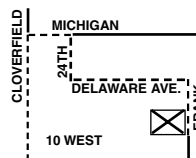
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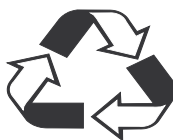
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Super Bowl: A battle for lobsters and cheesesteaks

BARS, from page 1

Boulevard, faces off against Pat Good, 42, owner of The Shack, on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard.

Both bars for years have drawn droves of fans of the two football teams. Sonny McLean's, an Irish joint with a Boston bent, was the site of riot police and helicopters after last year's World Series. The Shack for a decade has been the home of Eagles fans hungry for victory.

Every seat in both bars is reserved. At The Shack, Good is setting up a tent in the

rear parking lot that will host an extra 200 people over the 150 regulars that have dibs on bar stools. At Sonny McLean's, Conners is bracing for some 200 people and a long line, starting early in the morning, of people hoping to find standing room.

The two bars share an amicable rivalry that dates back to well before the two teams were pitted against each other in the Super Bowl. Workers and customers compete in weekend flag football games. They visit each other's bars during halftime to take shots and rib one another.

New England Patriots fans, who will file into Sonny McLean's early Sunday, hope for a victory to complement the Boston Red Sox's World Series win. After that momentous curse-breaking series, Boston fans cried, broke benches, danced on tables and crowd surfed.

Doorman Sam Fusaro, 21, said one man was so elated he stood on his bar stool and poured a pitcher of beer over his head. Another man, slightly tipsy, proposed to his girlfriend on a live news broadcast in front of the bar. Champagne stains still mark the ceiling.

"Our fans are really loud," said manager and bartender Julie Mitchell, 30, as she fielded calls Thursday afternoon from Patriots fans still hoping for a seat. "The whole building was rumbling."

Across the street at The Shack, the pre-game buzz was palpable. Husband-and-wife team Pat and Janet Good were rushing around Thursday afternoon as they prepared for the influx of Eagles fans who have made the bar their home for some 10 years.

"I can't even breathe, I'm so excited," Janet Good said.

The bar started 10 years ago as a place to watch all the NFL games. Now only Eagles games play on the bar's TV screens.

"I'm from Philly, I grew up there, and of course I want to watch my own games," Pat Good said. "I thought it would take off, but I had no idea it would take off as big as it did."

Over the past 10 years, the Goods have hosted Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie over beers. And they pride themselves on having connected at least two couples of Philly-lovers who now are married. They also have turned strangers into comrades-in-sport, and on weekends arrange Philadelphia-themed outings, renting buses to carry their customers out of town.

Long-time regular Peter Block, 71, said before the first game of the season last year, some 50 cars had to be turned away after the bar filled up. Every Sunday is a party, Block added.

"It's the wildest thing you could imagine," he said.

The Goods hope to avoid sending away too many fans this year by setting up their 50-foot-by-30-foot tent, where a \$25 door charge, or \$20 in advance, will buy Italian hoagies and hot dogs with sauerkraut, and proceeds will go partly to a charity for multiple sclerosis. Regulars will pay \$10 for their seats in the bar, slots that have been reserved for days.

"It's a huge celebration," Pat Good said. "Huge."

If the Eagles win in Sunday's Super Bowl match-up, Good and 11 friends will head to Sonny McLean's for a lobster dinner, courtesy of Conners. If the Patriots win, Conners and 15 friends will sit down for Philly cheesesteaks at The Shack.

Only one thing is certain, beyond the fact that many wieners will be washed down with beer: One set of fans will walk away victors at the end of the game, and the other set will not.

"Losing is not good, especially the Super Bowl," said Mitchell, an Indiana native who said she's been adopted by the Sonny McLean's family. "You can tell in the tips when they lose, you can. When they win it's like, 'Yeah!' They're not very good at losing."

It's a feeling the Goods know well, after consecutive Eagles losses in divisional championship games.

"There have been days when people walk out with their heads hung low," said Pat Good, who after previous losses piped songs such as "On the Way to Cape May," "Philadelphia Freedom" and the theme from "Rocky" over the bar's PA system. "We've had some good years, anyway."

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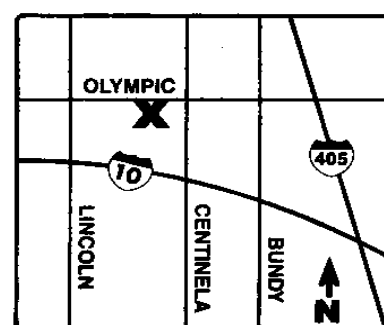
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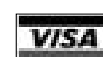
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New schools might have specialized themes

NEW SCHOOLS, from page 1

tremendously.

"The students would all go to college, but they will have already gotten the work experience, so that when you go to college you are already on the fast track to get you into that type of work," he added. "I think colleges would find it very desirable."

Asked what might happen if demand exceeded available desks, Deasy said he hoped the district would consider waiting lists and lotteries, with the goal of being equitable.

Although the smaller schools would offer a more intimate and focused learning environment, they would not be the best option for all students, educators said. The smaller schools would not be able to match Samohi's variety of elective courses, such as sports, theater, music and language.

Straus, who said she hoped the smaller schools could be open by fall of 2006, said they would alleviate the physical burden on Samohi, while expanding options for students. Samohi last year split into six different "houses," each with its own principal and counselors, but Straus said the full benefits of that transition will take years to be realized.

"Thirty-five hundred students is too much for a large campus," said Straus,

adding even a school of 2,500 students is large. "Houses are beginning to make an impact in some areas of knowing students better, but you still put 3,500 people on a campus and add that number of different people, and the interactions, and it creates more energy than smaller communities.

"Research has proven that small schools provide many opportunities for students — in knowing kids better, safe environment, positive spirit and morale, better academic achievement," she added. "I think I'd like different options. So I wouldn't like one structure to be the same for all of us."

While the school board prepares to discuss the idea and decide if a formal proposal should be put forward, at least some parents expressed optimism it would proceed.

"Santa Monica High School has so many great programs to offer because of its size, but a large, comprehensive high school isn't for everyone," said Cheri Orgel, co-president of the Samohi Parent Teacher Student Association, who spoke as an individual because the PTSA has not discussed the idea.

"Samohi is a small city with over 3,400 students and 200 adults on the campus every day, not to mention the use it gets from the community at large," Orgel added. "The wear and tear is tremendous. I welcome this current thinking."



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STATE

Commission rejects bid to list migratory songbird as endangered

BY MICHELLE MORGANTE

Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — The state Fish and Game Commission on Thursday rejected a recommendation by its own biologists to temporarily extend endangered-species status to the tricolored blackbird, a migratory songbird known to nest near dairies and in rice fields throughout central California.

In a separate action, the four-member commission unanimously rejected a petition to remove from endangered species status coho salmon in coastal creeks south of San Francisco.

Citing a dramatic decline in tricolored blackbird populations and breeding colonies, the Department of Fish and Game scientists had endorsed a petition by the Center for Biological Diversity to make the blackbird a candidate for full protection under the state Endangered Species Act. A positive vote by the commission would have triggered a one-year review period, allowing the bird to be protected pending further study.

But coalitions of farmers and landowners spoke against the petition, saying there was insufficient evidence to show the blackbirds' numbers are at a crisis point. They also said landowners should be allowed to continue voluntarily "collaboration" in efforts to protect nesting areas and habitat rather than be forced to comply with government restrictions.

"Positive incentives" should be encouraged, "not fear of a regulatory hammer," said Bill Gaines of the California Waterfowl Association.

The opponents said population studies cited by the Fish and Game biologists and the Center for Biological Diversity were based on faulty data. Those studies estimated tricolored blackbird numbers fell from 370,000 in 1994, to 240,000 in 1997, to 162,000 in 2000.

In the 1930s, the birds were so abundant they were hunted as food in large numbers. A 1934 survey reported a single colony of 300,000 adult birds in Glenn County.

The Fish and Game evaluation cited a 2003 report that the bird is "North America's most rapidly declining songbird."

But the opponents argued that a 2004 survey suggest the bird's numbers may be greater than believed and more surveys are needed.

Noelle Cremers of the California Farm Bureau said imposing even temporary protections would burden farmers and landowners with government restrictions, such as prohibiting harvesting of silage — feed for dairy cows — when birds are nesting there.

Monica Bond of the Center for Biological Diversity said that is exactly why such regulations are needed. She suggested the three commissioners who rejected the petition chose "politics over science" and said the center would consider a legal challenge.

"I desperately fear for the future of the tricolored blackbird," she said.

On the petition to remove coho salmon south of San Francisco from endangered status, the four commissioners agreed with Fish and Game biologists that continued protection is warranted.

The Central Coast Forest Association and residents of San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties argued that the region is not a native habitat for the fish, contending the salmon were introduced to the area for fishing around 1900.

Fish and Game biologist Gail Newton, however, stood by species samples taken in 1895 indicating the coho are native to four creeks there.

Homer "Bud" McCrary, whose family has lived near Scotts Creek for 136 years and has operated Big Creek Lumber since 1946, said local residents and businesses will now legally challenge the coho's endangered species status.

The government's recovery plan, he said, eventually will restrict use of creek water that locals depend on. He already is prohibited from taking lumber from areas as far as 150 feet from the creek.

"And that's where all our timber is," he said.

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Polygamist cop challenges Utah bigamy law

BY TRAVIS REED

Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — A former police officer and convicted polygamist challenged Utah's 100-year-plus ban on plural marriage before the state Supreme Court Thursday, calling it an infringement of his right to practice his religion.

Rodney Holm, an officer in the polygamous community of Hildale, was convicted of bigamy and illegal sex with a 16-year-old girl that he had taken as a third wife.

His lawyer, Rodney Parker, argued Thursday that polygamy is essential to Holm's religion, and barring him from practicing it violates his First Amendment rights.

Polygamy was among the teachings of Mormon church founder Joseph Smith. But the practice was abandoned by the mainstream Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1890 as the Utah territory sought statehood.

Still, it remains a prickly issue. It's believed that thousands across the West continue the practice, which some splinter sects consider the highest form of religious exaltation.

Many of them are members of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, which is

based in the isolated twin border towns of Hildale, Utah, and Colorado City, Ariz.

"It's a large group of people, and your decisions in this case should not be based on stereotypes and anecdotal evidence That's all the state has," Parker told the court.

Besides simply banning bigamy, as most states do, Utah law allows prosecutors to file bigamy charges when people are spiritually, but not legally, married and cohabitating. Parker said that makes the law unconstitutionally vague, because it could subject roommates to criminal prosecution.

That brought questions from several of the Utah justices.

Chief Justice Christine Durham asked Assistant Attorney General Laura Dupaix if Utah's bigamy law could be endangered by a 2003 U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down statutes against gay sex as a violation of an individual's right to sexual privacy.

Durham also suggested the law as written would subject people to criminal charges if they were separated but not divorced, and dating.

"How could you avoid ... the statute would apply to people who are shacking up?" Durham asked.

And the century-old debate over polygamy could have

a new twist since Utah voters passed a constitutional amendment in November to ban gay marriage and limit the institution to "one man and one woman."

"If it's one man and one woman, doesn't that mean a man and three women isn't marriage?" Justice Michael Wilkins asked.

Dupaix argued Holm "did everything to make it a marriage except get a license," and insisted the state was not persecuting Holm for his religious beliefs. She said he was prosecuted because he was a 32-year-old man having sex with a 16-year-old girl.

The law does not violate Holm's religious freedom by prohibiting polygamy because he can believe whatever he wants, she said. He simply can't act on beliefs that run counter to state law. She noted that white supremacists have a constitutional right to hold racist views — but not the right to harm minorities because of them.

"Nobody's telling Mr. Holm he can't be in a church that believes in polygamy," Dupaix said.

Attorney General Mark Shurtleff has vowed a get-tough attitude toward polygamists who engage in abuse or illegal sexual behavior, but said outside the courtroom Thursday his office doesn't have the resources or inclination to prosecute cases in which there's no child abuse.

Utah student suddenly discovers she is not a legal U.S. resident

By The Associated Press

LOGAN, Utah — Until she returned from a brief visit to Mexico, Utah State University student Heilit Martinez thought she was a 20-year-old legal resident of the United States.

But since being detained by border officials, she has learned she is 18 and an illegal resident.

"When I was in junior high, I felt the way most Americans do about the Mexicans crossing the border," said Martinez. "I felt all the illegal aliens should be deported. My parents would laugh when I said that."

Martinez said she had known one of her parents was a Venezuelan and the other was a German citizen.

"Up until I was 12, I thought I was an American," she said. When she found out she wasn't a U.S. citizen, her parents told her she was a legal resident.

"I look like everyone else. I have no accent when I speak English. I know as much U.S. history as the average Joe, if not more," Martinez said.

At USU, she landed a job as a resident assistant in Valley View towers. In October, she attended a conference in New Mexico and she and the other USU student made a quick trip across the border to Mexico.

When they returned and were questioned by U.S. border agents, she said she was a German citizen. The border officials could not find her listed in a database of permanent foreign residents. She was taken into custody and was told she was in the United States illegally.

"They said, 'Right now we are waiting for your passport to come to deport you. You don't belong here and you have no right to be here,'" Martinez recalled.

Martinez said she tried to call her parents and they hung up on her.

She then contacted a sister and an uncle, who told her the immigration officials were right.

Sen. Orrin Hatch has introduced a bill that would give her an immigrant visa or otherwise make her a legal resident. If the bill doesn't pass, the 18-year-old Martinez will be deported, possibly to Germany or Venezuela.



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Starring: Robert DeNiro, Dakota Fanning

ALONE IN THE DARK
A deliriously edited special-effects cannonade featuring a once-semi-respectable movie star slogging through a morass of detritus left over from seemingly every bad sci-fi flick ever committed to celluloid.
Starring: Christian Slater

ARE WE THERE YET?
Ten minutes into this hapless family comedy, you’ll be wishing you were anywhere but there.
Starring: Ice Cube, Nia Long

COACH CARTER
Succeeds thanks to an inspirational story, some highly realistic and exciting basketball action, and a winning performance from Samuel L. Jackson.
Starring: Samuel L. Jackson, Rob Brown, Ashanti

RACING STRIPES
There’s only so much referential humor, genre conventions and excrement gags a reasonable human being can tolerate, and here we get too much of all that plus some middling talent.
Starring: Frankie Muniz, David Spade

WHITE NOISE
There are a few moments that’ll make you jump — none more so than the one when the final credits begin to roll and it’s time to get the heck outta the theater.
Starring: Michael Keaton

THE AVIATOR
The second-best biopic Scorsese has helmed, behind the exalted “Raging Bull.” DiCaprio’s portrayal of Hughes stands out as the finest work of his career.
Starring: Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett

LEMONY SNICKET’S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
Inspired adaptation of the wildly popular kids’ book series that ‘tis a hell of a lot more naughty than nice.
Starring: Jim Carrey, Meryl Streep

SPANGLISH
James Brooks is one of the best in the business at harvesting fresh perspectives on the human condition.
Starring: Adam Sandler, Tea Leoni

MILLION DOLLAR BABY
At its core, this is a heart-wrenching story about overcoming impossible odds and realizing dreams.
Starring: Hilary Swank, Clint Eastwood, Morgan Freeman

FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
This one’s all about the action, and the actors have grasped that and have fun with it.
Starring: Dennis Quaid, Giovanni Ribisi

THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU
Filmmaker Wes Anderson’s fourth feature is the ne plus ultra of whimsical cerebration, and fans of his work will no doubt be lifted into the empyrean.
Starring: Bill Murray, Angelica Huston, Owen Wilson, Cate Blanchett

OCEAN’S TWELVE
When taken — not too seriously — as a pastiche of beautiful people, exotic places, groovy tunes and loosely comic set pieces, this sequel is a snazzy delight.
Starring: Julia Roberts, Brad Pitt, George Clooney, Catherine Zeta-Jones

BLADE: TRINITY
Third installment in a series running two films too long is the latest cacophonous calamity to roll off the action flick assembly line.
Starring: Wesley Snipes, Jessica Biel

CLOSER
The sum of this tragicomedy’s competing parts adds up to the best-looking portrait of moral depravity on the big screen this year.
Starring: Julia Roberts, Jude Law, Natalie Portman, Clive Owen

Rory O’Shea the best film to hit screens in 2005

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Kudos to director Damien O’Donnell (“East is East”) for steering clear of mawkishness and commiseration in this moving, at times hilarious, buddy picture about a pair of physically disabled young Dubliners who draw strength from each other in an

Review

arduous journey toward independence.

In his feature-film debut, Steven Robertson is excellent as Michael Connolly, a 24-year-old afflicted with cerebral palsy who, after being abandoned by his influential father, has spent most of his life confined to a wheelchair in the sterile Carrigmore Home for the disabled. Michael’s palsy significantly affects his speech, and the folks at Carrigmore have long since given up trying to communicate with him. But everything changes when Rory O’Shea (a terrific James McAvoy channeling Sid Vicious and Jon Voight’s character from “Coming Home”) arrives loudly on the scene, armed with a rebellious attitude and the ability to understand Michael clear as day. Rory suffers from a degenerative condition called Duchenne muscular dystrophy that deprives him of the use all but two fingers and his mouth, from which emanates a nearly constant stream of cutting commentary. Rory’s disruptive antics, of course, don’t sit very well with the facility’s no-nonsense supervisor, Eileen (Academy Award-winner Brenda Fricker), who seems far more interested in preserving the status quo than in indulging her charges’ adventurous ambitions.

After a boozy, Rory-orchestrated exploit in a nightclub opens Michael’s eyes to a world he’s never known, the pair strikes out on their own, using government assistance and guilt-money from Michael’s father to secure a flat and the services of a personal assistant named Siobhán (Romola Garai in a winning performance). The beautiful and charming Siobhán initially bolsters the guys’ spirits and newfound feeling of empowerment — especially a hopelessly smitten Michael — but ultimately her presence underscores the physical obstacles to their emotional fulfillment. Dramatically charged, funny and most of all uplifting, “Rory O’Shea Was Here” is the first best movie of 2005.

(Rated R for language. Running time: 104 minutes)

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Don’t bother making a date for ‘The Wedding Date’

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Debra Messing and Dermot Mulroney star in this tepid role-reversed takeoff of “Pretty Woman,” with Messing filling the role of the “John” who finds love with a comely streetwalker. Strapped for a date for her sister’s London wedding, Messing’s Kat Ellis forks over \$6,000 for the services of New York’s most celebrated and sani-

Review

tized male escort, Nick Mercer (Mulroney). Before you can get through the buttery portion of the popcorn, the pair jet off to jolly Old England, instantly convince everyone they’re lovebirds, then — having said nary a word to each other — go for a roll in the hay. Nick’s apparently not the sort of prostitute who does that sort of thing (at least not on the first “date”), so gosh-darnit, he must be smitten. After a brief squabble about some ridiculous matter or other, the two go ballroom dancing and Kat hangs her heart out on her sleeve as well. But wait, where’s our syrupy “falling in love” montage? Bullocks!

Conflict arises later when Kat learns of a past indiscretion involving her obnoxious sister, but Nick is able to quickly diffuse the tension by flexing his pecs, rendering the ladies totally ga-ga. Plus, there’s effective comic relief courtesy of chirpy Brit TV star Sarah Parish, on board as Kat’s joke-cracking cousin T.J.

In an effort to sell this implausible scenario, director Clare Kilner (“How to Deal”) glosses over burning questions such as why someone as good-looking and hip as Kat would need to pay six grand for a date. How does a gal who holds some sort of mid-level management position at an airline afford such an extravagance? And while we’re at it, why do fools fall in love? Maybe for the same reason they make half-baked chick flicks ... ‘cuz some people never learn.

(Rated PG-13 for sexual content including dialogue. Running time: 90 minutes)

The Vic jazzes up Main Street

By Daily Press staff

There’s a little-known place on Main Street that emanates some of the best jazz in Los Angeles.

The Vic has announced its 2005 Jazz Series, which encompasses two shows every Thursday at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m., and late-night jazz from midnight to 2 a.m. Here’s this month’s lineup:

Feb. 9

Grammy Foundation Jazz Ensemble. Featuring some of the most talented young musicians. Joining the jazz orchestra will be eight gifted vocalists. Jon Secada will make a special guest appearance. The performance starts at 8 p.m., \$15 cover. Reservations required.

Feb. 10

Taylor Eigst. This 20-year-old’s star is rising. Dave Brubeck said: “He’s the most amazing talent I’ve ever come across. Remember him.” Eigst is joined by Tony Dumas (bass) and Nate Wood (drums)

Late-Night Jazz

Josh Nelson/Ludvig Girdland Group. Josh Nelson (piano), Ludvig Girdland (violin), Harish Raghavanl (bass) and Matt Slocum (drums).

Feb. 17

Annie Sellick. Sellick will be celebrating the release of her new CD “A Little Piece of Heaven.”

Annie Sellick (vocals), Gerald Clayton (piano), Dan Lutz (bass) and Kevin Kanner (drums).

Late-Night Jazz

Alan Hampton Sextet. Alan Hampton (bass), Arpad Olah (piano), Gilad Ronen (sax), James Westfall (vibes), Dontae Windslow (trumpet) and James Alsanders (drums).

Feb. 24

Tierney Sutton. Sutton has toured the world this past year. Tierney Sutton (vocals), Christian Jacob (piano), Trey Henry (bass), and Ray Brinker (drums).

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NATIONAL



Distance learning: Cutting-edge or diploma mill?

BY MEAD GRUVER

Associated Press Writer

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — The campus of American Capital University has no shady quadrangle, no stately old buildings or libraries, neither classrooms nor fraternity houses — not even a coed curled up with a textbook in a quiet corner.

There's just a middle-age man who sits at a computer in a tiny, undecorated, windowless office in the basement of a downtown building.

But in a sense, this fellow — Bill Allen, American Capital University's chief academic officer — has lots of company: Wyoming licenses 10 other online schools that have no mainstream accreditation and maintain only a token physical presence in the state.

Defenders of such schools say Wyoming is forward-thinking for accepting a relatively inexpensive way for working adults to get degrees in their spare time through mail and Internet courses. But others say the state has become a haven for diploma mills.

"People start to giggle if you say Wyoming-licensed school, if you know about accreditation," said George Gollin, a University of Illinois physics professor and crusader against diploma mills, schools that offer degrees for little or no academic achievement.

Because of lax state requirements, more online schools are popping up in Wyoming than anywhere else, according to Steven Crow, executive director of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the regional school accreditation agency.

"Most other states have enough rigor in how they determine who can operate as a college and grant degrees that it's not as easy for places to get started," he said.

Cheyenne alone is home to six distance-learning schools, five within a few blocks of each other. A typical example is Paramount University of Technology, with a couple offices in the basement of a sleepy downtown mall. At the end of the street, American City University occupies a couple rooms of an ornate, Victorian-era building that once housed a brothel.

Perhaps best known is Kennedy-Western University, focus of a U.S. Senate Governmental Affairs Committee investigation last year. Claudia Gelzer, a committee staffer, testified that Kennedy-Western gave her 43 percent of the course credit toward a master's in environmental science based on her bachelor's in journalism and 12 years in the Coast Guard.

"In other words, Kennedy-Western was prepared to waive six master's-level classes in engineering based solely on my claims of professional training," she told

the committee.

Only an open-book, multiple-choice test with 100 questions was required for Hazardous Waste Management; same with Environmental Law and Regulatory Compliance.

"With just 16 hours of study, I had completed 40 percent of the course requirements for a master's degree," she said.

Kennedy-Western spokesman David Gering said the committee did not invite the school to defend itself, and did not note that Kennedy-Western requires final papers, theses and dissertations of 100 to 200 pages.

Moreover, 80 percent of Kennedy-Western's professors hold doctorates from accredited universities, Gering said, while the rest have master's degrees from accredited schools.

"In order for us to maintain our licensure, we have to offer a very academically rigorous program," he said.

Wyoming's private-school licensing laws forbid schools from granting degrees based solely on life experience. All faculty must have at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited school, and at least half must have at least a master's degree from an accredited school.

The schools must maintain an office in the state, pay a \$10,000 licensing fee and post a \$100,000 performance bond.

Gering said online education enables working adults to earn degrees. And though Kennedy-Western is not accredited, the school has lobbied in support of requiring it, he said.

The only accreditation recognized by the U.S. Department of Education would come from either the North Central Association, which covers 19 states, or the Distance Education Training Council. To date, the North Central Association has accredited one online-only school — Jones International University, in Centennial, Colo. — while the DETC has accredited 52.

The University of Wyoming, which offers a handful of online programs, is Wyoming's only four-year college accredited by the North Central Association.

In December, state lawmakers abandoned a bill that would have required private schools to have proper accreditation by 2010. That was after Sen. Kathryn Sessions, D-Cheyenne, and another member of the Joint Interim Education Committee, Sen. Jim Anderson, R-Glenrock, were guests of Cheyenne-based Preston University on an expenses-paid trip to Preston campuses in Pakistan and Dubai.

Sessions supports tougher Education Department rules for distance learning but

doesn't think accreditation is necessarily the answer.

"I just don't believe that the good should be thrown out with the bad," she said. "And I'm a little bit tired — I know how much money accrediting institutions charge universities and colleges — and I'm a little bit tired that they think they're the end-all."

But Crow and state Superintendent Trent Blankenship, who supported the accreditation bill, said accreditation ensures that a credible third party has reviewed a school. "We don't have to reinvent the wheel on a lot of things," Blankenship said.

The day after Blankenship was interviewed by The Associated Press, lawmakers

submitted legislation that would require federally recognized accreditation of any private school doing business in Wyoming. The bill would also eliminate the \$100,000 bond requirement.

If approved, it would follow a law last year that removed Wyoming's licensing exemption for religious schools that offer secular degrees. At least one of Wyoming's online schools suspended operations because of that law.

Some states go even further by penalizing people who use degrees from unaccredited schools. North Dakota, Oregon and New Jersey have criminal or civil penalties for people who apply for certain jobs and list academic credentials the state doesn't recognize.



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NATIONAL

Bush campaigns for plan to remake Social Security

BY DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — President Bush challenged a wary Congress on Thursday to “put partisanship aside and focus on saving Social Security,” promoting his idea that would combine reduced government benefits for younger workers with the prospect of higher retirement checks from personal investment accounts.

Bush, in a speech in Fargo, N.D., noted that that Democrats grumbled and groaned at his assertion that Social Security will require higher taxes, big benefit cuts or massive borrowing unless something is done to fix its finances.

“Some of them didn’t see the problem,” the president said at the first stop on a two-day, five-state trip to sell his program. Each state he visits is represented in the Senate by at least one Democrat the

administration hopes to sway on Social Security.

“I expect people in Congress, when they see a problem, to then come up with solutions,” Bush said, insisting that all options are on the table except raising payroll taxes.

“In other words, we’re not going to play politics with the issue,” he promised. “We’re going to say, ‘If you’ve got a good idea, come forth with your idea.’ Because now is the time to put partisanship aside and focus on saving Social Security for young workers.”

Bush was accompanied on Air Force One by several members of Congress, including Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D. The president spent much of the flight talking with the lawmakers.

“He’s saying we’ve got to take more money out of Social Security to start private accounts and borrow the money,” said Conrad, a target of Bush’s travels. “I just think it’s very unwise.”

Other Democrats said Bush’s program could reduce guaranteed government benefits for younger Americans by 40 percent.

Bush offered no information on that point Wednesday night as he outlined his plans in broad strokes in the State of the Union address. Aides said that by leaving many key details vague, he intended to give GOP congressional leaders room to piece together legislation that can command a majority.

He laid down a few markers saying he will not agree to increase payroll taxes and wants provisions to keep lower-income Americans above the poverty line during retirement.

“We must guarantee that there is no change” in current or promised benefits for anyone age 55 and older, he said in a move to neutralize opposition from older Americans.

In a 53-minute speech, Bush also blended the conservative with the compassionate, and gave no ground on his policy on the war in Iraq in which more than 1,400 American forces have died.

He renewed his call for a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, and announced an increase in the use of DNA evidence to prevent wrongful convictions.

Social Security was the centerpiece of the speech, and Bush called for far-reaching changes in a program that was established in 1935 and remains one of the enduring legacies of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal.

Republicans and Democrats in Congress must “strengthen and save” the program, Bush said, warning that without action, it was headed for bankruptcy.

Official estimates predict that benefits will exceed tax receipts beginning in 2018. In 2042, these estimates predict the trust funds will be exhausted, and benefits will have to be cut to 73 percent of current levels.

The president noted that a variety of solutions have been proposed over the years — such as limiting benefits for wealthy retirees, raising the retirement age, indexing benefits to prices rather than wages, discouraging early collection of Social Security benefits and changing the ways benefits are calculated — and said all are “on the table.”

“He made it clear to the American people why we must strengthen the Social Security system, and gave the American people a realistic plan for how to do it,” Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said.

“Before the president’s opponents get too worked up solely to scare seniors and play politics, I would hope both parties take the details of tonight’s speech to heart,” added Rep. Dennis Hastert, R-Ill.

Democrats, who argue that Bush is depicting the problems as grimmer than they are, attacked as soon as he finished speaking.

“There’s a lot we can do to improve Americans’ retirement security, but it’s wrong to replace the guaranteed benefit that Americans have earned with a guaranteed benefit cut of 40 percent or more,” said Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid, who delivered his party’s formal response along with House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi.

Pelosi, referring to Bush’s travels over the next few days, said that “When the president goes out there to beat the drum for his privatization to undermine Social Security, I think he will be greeted throughout the country by people who are affected by it every day of their lives.”

In addition to North Dakota, Bush had Montana, Nebraska, Arkansas and Florida on his itinerary.

Neither the House nor the Senate has announced a schedule for hearings or drafting legislation, and there is lingering unease among some Republicans fearful of political repercussions.

The AARP, a powerful advocacy group for Americans age 50 and over, renewed its opposition to a key feature of Bush’s plan.

According to officials who were briefed in private by the administration, the guaranteed Social Security benefit would be cut for all workers under 55, more so for those who decide to establish a personal account than for others.

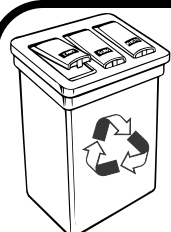
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NATIONAL



Styling class gives prisoners marketable skill

BY JEFF JONES
Associated Press Writer

HOBBS, N.M. — Thomas James Gallegos lightly slipped a comb through J.Lo’s dark hair, prepping it for a perm.

J.Lo stared blankly at the mirror with what might have passed as a faint smile.

J.Lo is Gallegos’ nickname for one of the 10 Miss Suzie-Kin mannequin heads inside a new hairstyling-school classroom at the Lea County Correctional Facility. And Gallegos, who has less than two years left on his 12-year prison stretch for dealing cocaine, says the first-of-its-kind hair program at the state lockup is his ticket to a new, legit life away from the drug scene.

“I sell dope — I don’t have a job skill. I don’t want to come back to prison,” the 32-year-old Gallegos said as he worked his coiffure magic. “This is what I’m banking on when I get out.”

The 1,231-inmate privately operated prison teamed up last summer with the nearby New Mexico Junior College to begin offering the classes to selected inmates.

Every workday, an instructor from the junior college’s cosmetology department passes through a series of steel doors and chain-link gates at the lockup to teach hairdos and hairdon’ts. The instructor, Kevin Dean, has about 15 prisoner-students in two separate classes and may soon be teaching a third class of inmates.

To be accepted into the program and remain enrolled, prisoners must stay out of trouble and have earned a high-school diploma or its equivalent. Since the program will take at least two years or so to complete, the prisoners must also have enough time left on their sentences to finish the course.

The 1,200-hour program costs more than \$7,000 per inmate, although the New Mexico Corrections Department picks up the tab for inmates who are indigent.

Other lockups in the New Mexico prison system have inmate barber shops where prisoners — some self-taught and others who were formally trained before getting locked up — cut hair. But the Hobbs prison hasn’t had a barber shop for inmates since 1998, when a prisoner was stabbed to death after being summoned for a trim.

“That ended the barber-shop experience,” said Sandra McFadin, programs warden at the lockup.

In the meantime, Hobbs prisoners said they have been cutting one another’s hair with small beard trimmers and with full-sized hair clippers that can be checked out from prison staff.

McFadin said current state corrections chief Joe R. Williams asked her in late 2002 to look into starting up a formal training program that would teach prisoners to cut hair and give them a marketable skill once they left prison.

Less than two years later, the first students sat down in Dean’s class.

Dean’s classroom looks like many other haircut shops: Pictures of smiling, pretty people sporting snazzy hairstyles dot the walls, and there are eight barber chairs and two shampooing stations.

The scissors that the students use, however, remain locked in a heavy-duty, metal-mesh cage until they’re needed.

The behind-bars classes are much like those offered at the college — perming, coloring, curling, cuts for men and women, shaving and facials are all covered. Dean said he has made some changes from the standard out-of-prison curriculum: He spent some of his first class day explaining the importance of not swearing. And pupils who drop their hairstyling implements — a barber no-no — do 10 pushups.

During one morning class late last year, Dean had some of his students buried in books studying the anatomy and physiology of the face and head while others perfected their perming techniques.

Eddie Tafoya, a 30-year-old convicted murderer, said he began informally cutting hair years ago.

“I look forward to it every morning,” Tafoya said of the class. “It’s going to help me stay out of prison and do something productive.”

A few barber stations away, Eugene Foster, a fellow convicted murderer, did the same perm work on his mannequin head.

The word “hate” is tattooed on his right hand, while “love” adorns his left hand. Like the other inmate stu-

dents, Foster worked with a surprisingly soft touch.

Hairstyling is “probably one of the few things I do that I’m good at,” he added as he worked. “When I leave the pod and I come in here, it’s like I’m coming to work or something. There’s no bars.”

Some of the students recently began cutting other inmates’ hair in the class, and Dean said those coming in for the cuts are “loving it.”

At the conclusion of the program, the inmates will have to pass a state test to be eligible for licensing by the New Mexico Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists.

They’ll also have to do something other barber hopefuls don’t: Convince the state board they are suitable for licensing despite their criminal pasts.

Greg Biehler, chairman of the nine-member board,

said the board can refuse a state license to anyone who has been convicted of a crime involving “moral turpitude.”

“Generally, it’s defined as a vile or base act,” Biehler said.

He said he didn’t know of a single case in which the board has approved or denied a license for a known felon.

Biehler said the board will take licensing of the prison trainees on a case-by-case basis and will look at information including the nature of the crime, the time they served and recommendations of parole officers.

“The state policy and the board policy is to allow individuals to gain employment to become useful members of society,” Biehler said. “If we can do that without jeopardizing the public, it’s something we think is a good thing.”

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INTERNATIONAL

Mubarak keen to be boss in Mideast peace process

BY PAUL GARWOOD

Associated Press Writer

CAIRO, Egypt — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, whose mantle as the region's main mediator has been tested by four years of Israeli-Palestinian violence, is trying to reassert his role by inviting the leaders of Israel, the Palestinians and Jordan to a summit to push the rein-vigorated peace process.

The 76-year-old president, Egypt's ruler since 1981, has gone from leading the Egyptian air campaign against Israeli jets in the 1973 regional war to urging Palestinian militants to stop suicide bombings and describing Israeli Premier Ariel Sharon as a peacemaker.

Mubarak's praise of Sharon marked a huge shift. Since 2001, the Egyptian had refused to meet with the Israeli leader, and less than two years ago Mubarak dismissed Sharon as a man with no "intention to start working for peace."

In the wake of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Nov.

11 death, Mubarak recognized an opportunity for an end to the cycle of Palestinian-Israeli bloodshed sparked by Sharon's September 2000 visit to a revered Muslim shrine in Jerusalem.

"Mubarak wants to be in charge of trying to end the Middle East conflict, because this has always been the main problem for the Arabs," said Mohammed Salah, Cairo bureau chief of the leading pan-Arab newspaper Al-Hayat.

"It is important for him to be able to say to the people that 'I solved this problem, I am the only Arab leader that could do it.'"

Mubarak took a step in this direction Wednesday, inviting Sharon, new Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Jordanian King Abdullah II to a summit next week in the Sinai resort of Sharm el-Sheik to capitalize on the revived peace hopes.

The summit, which has been welcomed by the White House, is expected to focus on the fate of Palestinian fugitives and a West Bank troop redeployment.

Speculation is also circling around the possible return of Egyptian and Jordanian ambassadors to Israel.

On Thursday, Israeli Vice Premier Shimon Peres said his nation and the Palestinians are working to iron out the terms of a cease-fire to be declared at the summit.

Israeli Cabinet ministers on Thursday approved the release of 900 Palestinian prisoners and a withdrawal from the West Bank town of Jericho, officials said. About 500 of the prisoners will be released immediately after the summit.

Peres said he did not know whether the truce would be a signed, written agreement, but said the goal was to declare the end to four years of violence.

The timing of Mubarak's announcement also coincided with high-level talks between Egyptian officials and Syrian-based leaders of the Palestinian militant groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Cairo to try and secure a Palestinian cease-fire in attacks against Israelis.

Egypt has been the lead player in trying to make Palestinian militants lay down their weapons. It has also tried to get Palestinian security forces increased in the neighboring Gaza Strip ahead of a planned Israeli withdrawal expected later this year.

Egypt, which once controlled Gaza, has said it would take responsibility for securing its own border with the volatile coastal strip, which has been the scene of heavy fighting and fierce Israeli military reprisals during the Palestinian uprising.

"There is no agreement yet on a truce" with Israel, Islamic Jihad spokesman Nafez Azzam said in a phone interview from Gaza. But the talks are "taking place in a positive atmosphere."

Militant leaders say any final agreement depends on Israel's willingness to make crucial concessions, including ending targeted killings of Palestinians leaders and releasing Palestinian prisoners.

Israel has resisted pledging to halt attacks on Palestinian militants, but its officials have said they will "respond to quiet with quiet."

Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal, currently in Cairo for talks with Egypt's intelligence chief, told Arab TV station Al-Jazeera that a Palestinian cease-fire was not "dependent on a summit," but on Israeli willingness to offer concessions.

Egypt believes a truce can revive the U.S.-backed "road map" plan for Israeli-Palestinian peace and wants to ensure calm in the Gaza Strip after Israel carries out its planned military withdrawal.

George Joffe, a British expert on Middle Eastern affairs and professor at London's King's College, said Mubarak wants to ensure his role in the peace process remains integral.

"Mubarak can't bring the conflict to an end but he can be the mediator, and that for him is crucial, particularly as he has felt shut out since Sharon came to power and that no one has really listened to Egypt in the past three or four years," Joffe said in a telephone interview.

Success for Mubarak in mediating between the conflict's foes, says Joffe, will ensure "he becomes pivotal in the U.S. process to push the peace process forward."

Strong ties with the United States, the source of more than \$2 billion worth of military and civil aid per year since Egypt signed its 1979 peace treaty with Israel, are crucial for Cairo, particularly as the Bush administration remains committed to reforming Middle Eastern regimes like Mubarak's.

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INTERNATIONAL



Deadliest attacks since Iraqi elections kill 28

BY JASON KEYSER

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Insurgents struck back with a vengeance following a post-election lull, killing at least 26 Iraqis and two Marines in new attacks, and the first partial election results, released Thursday, showed the Shiite cleric-endorsed ticket running strong as expected.

The partial results came from 1.6 million votes counted so far in Baghdad and five others of Iraq's 18 provinces. The United Iraqi Alliance, which is backed by the country's most influential Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, had 1.1 million votes, and the list led by interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's list was second with more than 360,500 votes.

The figures showed the alliance leading over Allawi in all six provinces but were too small to indicate a national trend. The results came from 25 percent of the votes cast in Baghdad and partial counts from five Shiite-dominated provinces, where the Alliance had been expected to do well.

The commission has said it could take up to seven to 10 days from Sunday's election to produce full official results. So far, tallies from 10 percent of the country's polling stations have been counted, it said.

Seats in the 275-member National Assembly will be allocated by the percentage of the nationwide vote that each faction wins. Around 14 million Iraqis were eligible in the election, but turnout is still not known, so it was not known what percentage of the total vote 1.6 million ballots would be.

Iraqi election officials said Thursday they sent a team to Mosul to look into allegations of voting irregularities in Ninevah province, a largely Sunni region. Complaints have included polling stations running short of ballots, confusion over the poll locations and ongoing military operations. It was not clear how many voters were affected.

Shiites turned out in large numbers in Sunday's balloting, eager to turn their majority into political power.

Many in the Sunni Arab minority stayed away, raising fears the outcome could further alienate them and continue to fuel the Sunni-led insurgency.

Insurgents had eased up on attacks following the elections, when American and Iraqi forces imposed sweeping security measures. But starting Wednesday night, guerrillas launched a string of dramatic attacks.

In the deadliest incident, insurgents stopped a minibus south of Kirkuk, ordered army recruits off the vehicle and gunned down 12 of them, said Maj. Gen. Anwar Mohammed Amin. Two soldiers were allowed to go free, ordered by the rebels to warn others against joining Iraq's U.S.-backed security forces, he said.

The assailants identified themselves as members of Takfir wa Hijra, the name of an Islamic group that emerged in the 1960s in Egypt, rejecting society as corrupt and seeking to establish a utopian Islamic community.

Elsewhere, gunmen fired on a vehicle carrying Iraqi contractors Thursday to jobs at a U.S. military base in Baqouba north of the capital, killing two people, officials said.

A suicide car bomber struck a foreign convoy escorted by military Humvees on Baghdad's dangerous airport road Thursday, destroying several vehicles and damaging a house, Iraqi police said. Helicopters were seen evacuating some casualties, witnesses said. There was no immediate comment from the U.S. military.

Insurgents ambushed another convoy in the area, killing five Iraqi policemen and an Iraqi National Guard major, police said.

Also, the bodies of two slain men wearing blood-soaked clothes were found in the western insurgent stronghold of Ramadi. A handwritten note tucked into the shirt of one of the men claimed the two were Iraqi National Guardsmen.

Car bombs also targeted a house used by U.S. military snipers in Qaim, near the Syrian border, a U.S. convoy in Mosul and British troops in the southern city of Basra. Two soldiers were wounded in the Mosul blast. Scattered clashes erupted between U.S. troops and insurgents in Mosul throughout the day, and an anti-tank mine struck a U.S. Stryker armored vehicle, but there was no word on casualties.

Other attacks in Baghdad, the northern town of Tal Afar and the southern city of Samawah killed four Iraqis. A roadside bomb exploded near the car of the governor

of Anbar province Thursday in Ramadi. Gov. Qaoud al-Namrawi was not harmed, but a woman was injured when his guards opened fire.

Both Marines were killed in clashes Wednesday in Anbar province, which includes such restive cities and towns as Ramadi, Fallujah and Qaim.

The post-election lull in attacks had prompted Allawi to declare that the vote's success dealt a major blow to the insurgency.

"The coming days and weeks will show whether this trend will continue," he told Iraqi television. "But the final outcome will be failure. They will continue for months but this (insurgency) will end."

Iraqis turned out in large numbers to vote for the National Assembly, provincial councils and a regional parliament for the autonomous Kurdish north. But in large areas of the country where the Sunni Arab-led insurgency still roils, few went to the polls, either because of objections to the holding elections under foreign occupation or for fear of retribution.

The results released Thursday represented partial counts from six provinces, ranging from 25 percent of Baghdad's votes to 70 percent of the votes in the sparse-

ly populated province of Muthanna.

According to the count, the Alliance was running first and Allawi's list second in all six provinces. In Baghdad province, for example, the Alliance was leading 3-1 over Allawi. It was not clear what districts of Baghdad the partial results came from.

The other provinces were Dhi Qar, Qadisiyah, Najaf and Karbala, which like Muthanna are the Shiite heartland in southern Iraq.

Kurdish political leader Jalal Talabani said he would seek the office of either president or prime minister when the National Assembly convenes.

"We as Kurds want one of those two posts and we will not give it up," Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said at a news conference alongside the other main Kurdish leader, Massoud Barzani.

Jockeying has begun for leadership positions even before the balance of power in the assembly is known. The assembly must elect a president and two vice presidents by a two-thirds majority, then it must approve the prime minister chosen by the three. Kurds voted in large numbers, and the ticket led by Talabani and Barzani is expected to win a sizeable bloc of seats.

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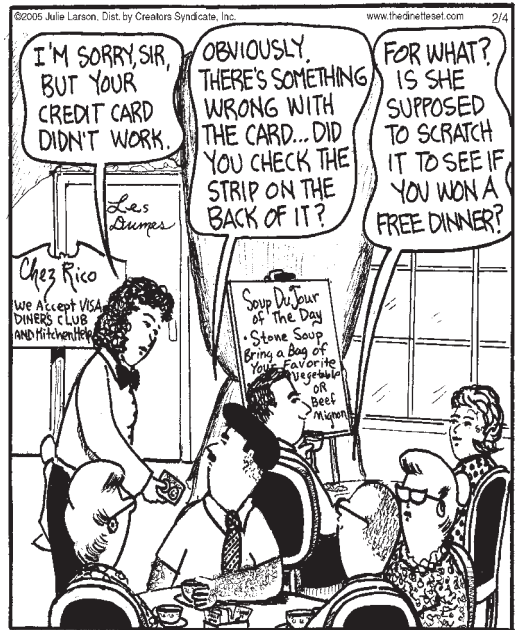


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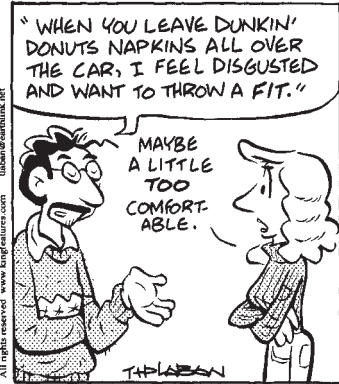


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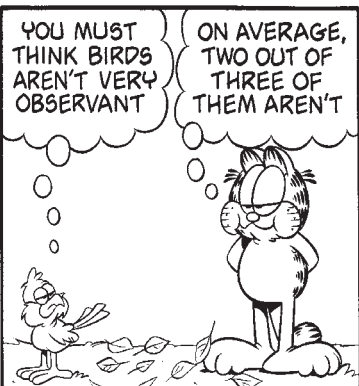
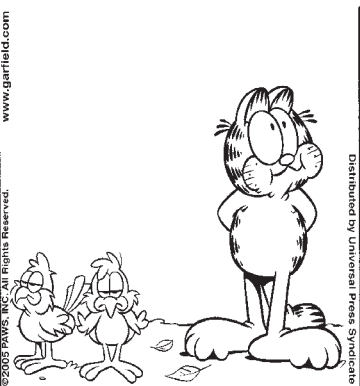
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



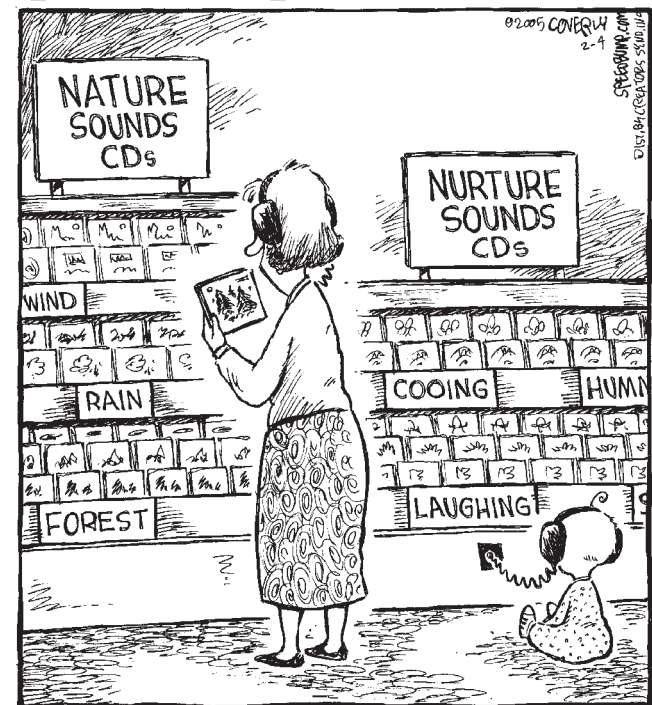
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ACROSS

- 1 Highway exits
- 6 Goblet parts
- 11 Left at sea
- 12 Grown girl
- 13 Shade
- 14 Singer Baker
- 15 Under the weather
- 16 Perfectly behaved
- 18 Crafty
- 19 Cribbage need
- 20 Printer buy
- 21 Matador's foe
- 23 Clear the windshield
- 25 Not Dem. nor Rep.
- 27 Fish eggs
- 28 Snide expression
- 30 "Hey, you!"
- 33 Cocoa container
- 34 Machinery part
- 36 Pot fill
- 37 Like many a bride
- 39 Mess up
- 40 Sedate

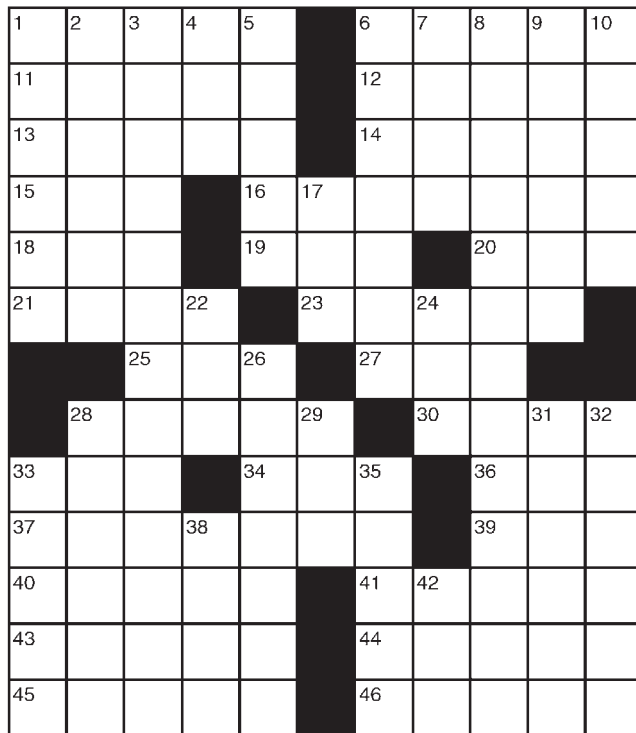
- 41 Bile producer
- 43 Soothing lotion
- 44 Singer Cara
- 45 Llama's place
- 46 Stunned

DOWN

- 1 Bigot of a sort
- 2 Artemis' twin
- 3 "The Breakfast Club" co-star
- 4 Paid player
- 5 Bra part
- 6 Cockiness
- 7 Muscle quality

- 8 "The Breakfast Club" co-star
- 9 Winning at chess
- 10 Nosh
- 17 Newsmen Potter
- 22 Low bill
- 24 Dandy
- 26 Acts the judge
- 28 Basking goal
- 29 Go bad
- 31 Peaceful
- 32 Fixed the road
- 33 — beat (falter)
- 35 Freezing
- 38 Workers' home
- 42 Bank offering

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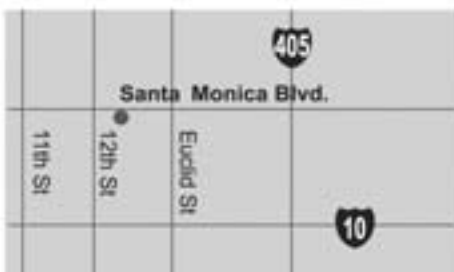
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