

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

7 12 16 26 40
Meganumber: 21
Jackpot: \$21 Million

FANTASY 5

7 9 22 26 36

DAILY 3

Daytime: 0 4 8
Evening: 7 9 8

DAILY DERBY

1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 10 Solid Gold
3rd: 07 Eureka!

RACE TIME: 1:47.15

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Among recent troubling news: After Rafer Wilson crashed into a parked car in Sydney, Australia, his blood-alcohol content (according to evidence at his trial in December) was tested at an almost death-defying .462, nine times the legal presumption of impairment. (Three weeks later, in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, doctors said a 67-year-old man had produced a blood-alcohol reading of .914, which supposedly stood up through four re-tests, and have stuck with the story despite worldwide alarm.) And Gary W. Rodgers was arrested in November in Lexington, Ky., and according to the county's offender database, it was his 96th arrest for public drunkenness in 2004.

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1972, the California Supreme Court struck down the state's death penalty.
In 1988, Anthony M. Kennedy was sworn in as the 104th justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.
In 2001, auto racing star Dale Earnhardt Sr. died from injuries suffered in a crash at the Daytona 500; he was 49.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Nothing great in the world has been accomplished without passion."

GEORG WILHELM FRIEDRICH HEGEL
GERMAN PHILOSOPHER (1770-1831)

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Supervisor urges leaders to back bus-only lane on Wilshire Blvd.

Plan is sure to stir controversy, but could significantly shorten the time it takes to travel around the Westside, says Zev Yaroslavsky

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

CULVER CITY — A proposal to restrict one lane of Wilshire Boulevard during rush hour for buses only from downtown Los Angeles to Ocean Avenue in Santa Monica was put forward Thursday by Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.

Yaroslavsky at a quarterly meeting of Westside city leaders pressed for simple and effective solutions to the region's growing traffic problems, despite an anticipated backlash from commuters and Wilshire Boulevard merchants.

"I don't think there's any question in anybody's mind that traffic is the No. 1 issue in this area," Yaroslavsky said during a meeting held at City Hall in Culver City. "It's particularly acute between the 405 and the ocean ... It is insane."

While transportation officials seek funding for a \$650 million light rail line to connect downtown Los Angeles and Santa Monica, Yaroslavsky said more immediate, "bite-sized" efforts to reduce traffic on the Westside are critical.

He proposed extending a pilot

program in place for nearly a year on the one-mile stretch of Wilshire Boulevard between Federal and Centinela avenues. That program restricts one lane of traffic during peak travel times for use by buses only. The buses cover that mile an average of two minutes faster than cars do, according to Yaroslavsky.

**"I'll back you up.
I'll give you political
cover ... I'll take the
heat for this."**

- ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
LA County Supervisor

"For that (program) to have any meaning, it's got to go east and it's got to go west," Yaroslavsky told the city leaders. "It's got to go to Santa Monica."

Yaroslavsky said he had encountered apoplexy among transportation officials at Santa

See **BUS LANE**, page 6

Local environmentalists to manage millions for cleanup

By Daily Press staff

Two Santa Monica environmentalists have been appointed by Los Angeles Mayor Jim Hahn to manage how a \$500 million bond is spent to clean up area waters.

Heal the Bay Executive Director Mark Gold and Craig Perkins, City Hall's environmental and public works director, were appointed this week to the Proposition "O" Citizens Oversight Advisory

Committee. The committee was created to ensure that \$500 million of voter-approved bond money is spent specifically on cleaning up Los Angeles City storm water, rivers and beaches.

Prop. O was passed by Los Angeles City voters in November. The proposition called for the creation of an oversight committee to monitor the bond's programs, projects, budgets and schedules, and to advise and report its status to

Foul play



Nicky Five Aces/Five Aces Photo

Santa Monica College guard Jun Nakanishi calls time out while being accosted from behind by a Bakersfield College player during a thrilling 84-83 Santa Monica victory Wednesday evening. The Corsairs improved their record to 2-9 in the conference and 11-15 overall.

Westside takes step toward regional homeless solution

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

After years of lobbying for regional support in the struggle to reduce homelessness, Santa Monica officials applauded a Thursday decision by a group of Westside city leaders to consider partnering in the quest for a year-round homeless shelter.

It was the first time since the Westside Cities Council of Governments was convened two years ago that city leaders from Beverly Hills, Culver City, Los Angeles, Santa Monica and West Hollywood made any joint action on the hot-button issue.

Members of the group agreed

to return to their respective governing bodies with a draft statement that outlines an intent to make homelessness a mutual priority, and to seek out the property and money needed for a year-round, 24-hour shelter.

Though no official partnership was forged at the midday meeting at City Hall in Culver City, officials said the discussion was a marked improvement over those at previous meetings. City officials previously had opted to focus solely on circulation issues.

"Just a little baby step for the other cities," said Jean Sedillos, a long-time Santa Monica activist.

See **HOMELESS**, page 6

Jacquie Banks

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Santa Monica Daily Press



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult

 **ARIES (March 21-April 19)**
★★★ Take time to smell the flowers rather than race around full-speed ahead, not enjoying your life. Sometimes you take a lot for granted. Use the next month to review the past year and what might add to the quality of your life. Tonight: Mosey on home.

 **TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
★★★★★ Aim for what you want most, no matter what realm of your life you are dealing with. If you ask for what you want, you are likely to have it tumble into your lap. Jump over any obstacles. Tonight: Join friends for munchies and a drink.

 **GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
★★★ Use the morning to discover what is key to your well-being. Visualize and create what you ultimately want. Community commitments and volunteering might play significant roles. Tonight: Make it your treat.

 **CANCER (June 21-July 22)**
★★★★ Your energy builds to a peak this afternoon. Your determination and exuberance make you close to unstoppable. You glow as only a Moon Child can. Tonight: Your wish is another's command.

 **LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
★★★ Use the daylight hours to achieve your most important goals. Review recent happenings more realistically. Sometimes you let others get away with a lot. In the next month, make it a point to schedule quality alone time. Tonight: Head for home.

 **VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**
★★★★★ You swing from heavy responsibilities to a lot of fun. An afternoon meeting becomes a social event. Lunch could merge with happy hour. Don't complain about not getting this and that done; rather, let go and relish the moment. Tonight: Party the weekend in.

 **LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
★★★ You could be confused by what appears to be changeable. Just don't try to pigeon-hole others. You like flexibility. Others appreciate the same. Your responsible attitude and understanding breed a nurturing atmosphere. Tonight: Out and about in the limelight.

 **SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
★★★★★ You work well with individuals this morning. By the afternoon, your mind could be drifting to the weekend, tonight's plans or whatever knocks your socks off. Hop on the computer or phone. Finish what you must. Tonight: Follow the music.

 **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
★★★★★ Others impact your day more than usual. In fact, you might feel as if you are catering to everyone. The truth is that you are. Save the afternoon to work with one other person. You want to get ahead. Tonight: Plan on dinner for two.

 **CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
★★★★ Finish errands early, because you will want the afternoon for lighter and happier happenings. Many of you will christen the weekend early, getting together with friends, associates or whoever wants to play. Tonight: Go along with another's ideas.

 **AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
★★★★★ Your spunky step defines the moment and the day. Nevertheless, you could get hung up in the afternoon with a last-minute snag. Hopefully you find a way to profit from what happens. Become more fiscally conscious. Tonight: Relax. It is important for you.

 **PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
★★★★★ Though you might start the day with purpose, it quickly dissolves. You cannot help it. You love having a good time. Let the weekend and your social life take over. You have a good time wherever you are. Tonight: What would you most like to do?



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Angel Flight West: Non-stop across the parking lot

By Daily Press staff

Angel Flight is gaining altitude.

Angel Flight West will relocate across the parking lot at the Santa Monica airport and will host a grand opening this weekend.

"Our opportunities to serve those in need have increased exponentially over the past several years," said Angel Flight Executive Director Jim Weaver. "This new office will allow Angel Flight West to respond to these expanded challenges with a wider range of resources."

Angel Flight West is a nonprofit organization that provides free air transportation for medical care or other compelling human needs. The organization has been in service for more than 21 years. To date, 22,241 flights have been provided. In 2004, Angel Flight West flew a record 4,300 missions.

The grand opening and open house of the new office will be Sunday, Feb. 20, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The event will feature a dedication of the office and Jim Long Boardroom at 2:30 p.m.

For more information, call (310) 390-2958, or e-mail to jimw@angelflight.org.

Big Blue Bus passes by UCLA transit center

By Daily Press staff

Beginning Sunday, Feb. 20, on weekdays before 7 a.m. and after 1 p.m. and on weekends, trips previously beginning and ending at the UCLA Transit Center on Hilgard will begin and end at the Ackerman Terminal.

For details, see the new printed schedules marked with an effective date of February 2005, call customer service at (310) 451-5444 or TTD (310) 395-6024, or visit www.BigBlueBus.com.

What's good about being a girl?

By Daily Press staff

'Tween girls get to learn about growing up.

How does the moon affect your life as a girl and woman? What are some of the emotional and physical changes that occur as you grow? How do magazine ads and commercials influence you? Girls aged 11 to 13 can explore these and other questions at a three-part workshop, entitled "Moon Magic: Growing Up and Loving It."

Lack of information increases the likelihood that girls will feel embarrassed or out of control during puberty. The goals of this workshop series are to give age-appropriate information about the positive aspects of being female, to help girls examine the interplay between individual needs and cultural values, and to offer a rite of passage to promote female pride and power. Activities led by Kesa Kivel include discussions, interactive activities, butterfly art project, videos and a red jellybean party.

The workshop series, part of the YWCA Santa Monica/Westside's Girls in Action program, will be held at the YWCA Santa Monica/Westside, 2019 14th St. on Wednesdays, Feb. 23, March 2 and March 9 from 3:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Admission is free. Registration is required and space is limited. Call the YWCA at (310) 452-3881 to register.

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SURF REPORT

On Friday the mix of southern hemi ground swell and NW ground swell should keep most breaks in waist- to chest-high surf. But, the NWS is calling for rain, so conditions are questionable. Saturday the rain might continue.

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

Today the water is:

59°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	5:29	1.0	5:41	0.3	11:24	4.6	N/A	N/A
SUNDAY	6:32	1.1	6:12	1.1	12:11	5.0	12:30	3.7
MONDAY	7:53	1.2	6:41	1.8	12:53	4.8	1:42	2.9
TUESDAY	9:40	1.0	7:07	2.4	1:43	4.7	4:35	2.5
WEDNESDAY	11:20	0.7	8:50	2.9	2:49	4.6	7:33	2.9
THURSDAY	12:24	0.2	11:08	3.0	4:08	4.6	7:54	3.2
FRIDAY	12:24	0.2	11:08	3.0	4:08	4.6	7:54	3.2

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The Q Line

As elected leaders embark on a mid-year budget review, they have begun prioritizing what should garner financial attention in 2005-06. The majority of City Council members last week picked quelling gang violence in an eastside neighborhood and addressing homelessness throughout the city as top issues.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "What

do you think deserves financial priority in the city next year? 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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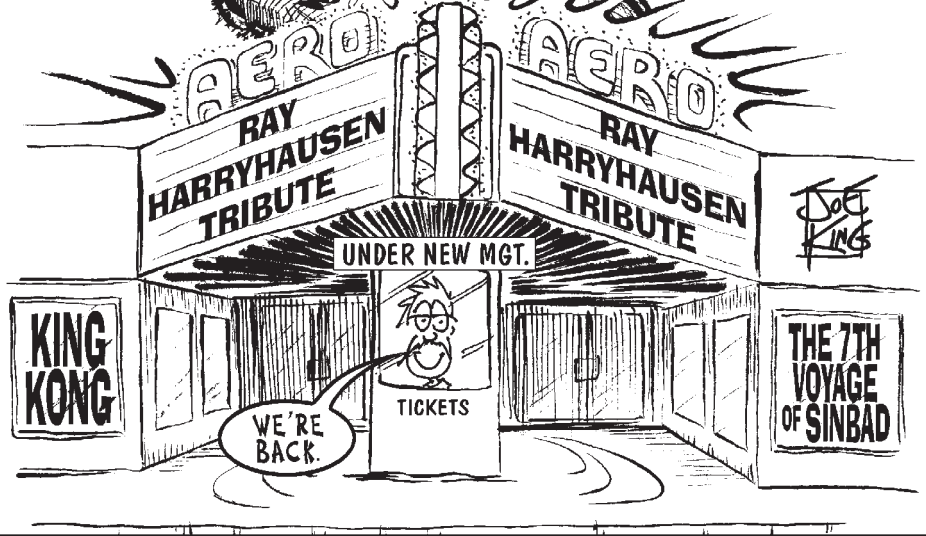
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OPINION

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ON WITH
THE SHOW
THIS IS IT!"



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A splinter in the Fisher story

Editor:

I'm writing to clarify the context in which the city purchased the Fisher Lumber site.

Fisher's corporate parent decided to close the business and sold the property to a private real estate company in 2002. Fisher only had the right to operate on the site through early 2005.

The new landowner put the property on the market, and several private developers were interested in purchasing it. None of them planned to re-lease the site to Fisher. They wanted the property for private residential or commercial development. The City Council made the decision to purchase the site for public use — such as an expansion of the adjacent Memorial Park. If the city did not buy it, the site would have been sold to a private developer. The decision to allow Fisher to continue operations was not on the table, as Fisher's corporate parent had already made the decision to close it.

Certainly the closing of Fisher Lumber is a great loss to the Santa Monica community, and it will cause hardship for many of Fisher's employees. But given the choice between private development or public use of the site, I believe the council made the right decision.

Ken Genser

City Councilmember

A little insight on Incites: Be fair

Editor:

Regarding Ed Silverstein's Incites column (SMDP, Feb. 16, page 4), Ed, by whatever measure you choose to hold President Bush culpable for the months he was in office before 9/11 you must hold President Clinton culpable for the years since the original World Trade Center bombing.

You twist the facts to make it sound like President Bush was the only politician to find Hussein dangerous and in possession of WMDs. Be fair. There are many sound bites of Hillary Clinton, John Kerry and most prominent Democrats saying the same thing.

Did Hussein have WMDs? I don't know. But certainly many from each side of the aisle thought he did and was dangerous.

You state, "This administration never seems to run out of lies or gullible Americans. The latest myth trotted out by the president is that this war was about bringing freedom and democracy to Iraq and the region."

Let me remind you that stated reason for our own Civil War was "States' Rights." Lincoln wanted to preserve the Union. The secession of 11 southern states led to shots fired on Fort Sumter in 1861. The Civil War began. As it dragged on, Lincoln become very unpopular.

Only over time did the goal of the war evolve into freeing the slaves. Does that make Lincoln a liar? Did it make the slaves any less free?

We are now at a similar time in Iraq. Just as our own Civil War wasn't neatly over when it was over, so this one will have its setbacks. But with the election, a tremendous victory has been won and a momentous step toward democracy has been taken.

Lastly, I'm sorry you and most of SMDP's columnists seem to be worried about what the rest of the world thinks. I'm just glad Lincoln wasn't.

Eric Cooper
Santa Monica

City Hall outgrowing environmental footprint



OUR TOWN

BY TED WINTERER

Santa Monica last fall celebrated the 10-year anniversary of its "Sustainable City Plan," a set of policies promoting sustainability in our community.

Just what is sustainability? It's a nebulous concept that defies easy definition. The city's Web site states only a guiding principle: To "meet current lifestyle needs without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same."

I'm reminded of the 1964 Supreme Court's struggle to describe obscenity and Justice Potter Stewart's subjective standard: "I know it when I see it." And I guess I have my own gut sense of what constitutes sustainability.

Our city is recognized nationally for its pioneering efforts to promote sustainability and rightly so. We do quite a bit very well for the sake of future Santa Monicans. Still, we fall short in many ways. For instance, the new fire station at Hollister Avenue and Second Street has such intense air conditioning that burly fire men open windows in the summer to bring in warm air: My gut says that's not sustainable. And the gardens where I live generate more than 100 gallons of clippings and prunings per week, all trucked to a landfill because City Hall won't allow multi-family residences to recycle yard waste.

There are more significant ways in which City Hall seems to ignore its own Sustainable City Plan. One goal is reducing traffic congestion. Does anyone think the development policies of the last decade have reduced the number of intersections with unacceptable service levels? Another aim of the plan is a balance between jobs and housing in Santa Monica, as much of our traffic derives from too many workers and not enough beds. So why are more office buildings being erected all over town?

Then there's the first objective listed in the plan: Resource conservation. The mantra of conservation is to first reduce consumption, then reuse goods and finally recycle a product. Thus, it's no accident that the National Resources Defense Council, a leading environmental advocacy group, chose to remodel an old building for their new headquarters in downtown Santa Monica. The result was that the consumption of new resources was reduced and an older resource was reused.

Likewise, a seminar last fall at the Green Building Resource Center, partly funded by City Hall, emphasized that the most sustainable approach to green building is to refurbish rather than tear down a structure.

So what really sticks in my craw is City Hall's insistence on demolishing buildings to build newer and bigger ones, instead of reducing its demand for more space and reusing the buildings it owns. The old Main Library is gone, soon to be replaced by a new one. The Big Blue Bus building, a mere 15 years old, will be torn down for a larger structure. There's talk of razing the City Hall annex and erecting a new city services building. And soon Rand Corp.'s old headquarters will be leveled when it could have been a component of a more artful reworking of our Civic Center.

Yes, all these new structures will be marvels of energy efficiency and resource conservation. But it will take a lot of fluorescent fixtures and double-flush toilets to make up for the environmental impact of this new construction.

Suppose you want to reduce pollution and conserve fuel, so you're thinking about buying a hybrid to replace the vehicle you bought in 2000. As the average car's life span is over a dozen years, you'd actually reduce your consumption of the resources used to make cars if you held onto your old ride a bit longer. And it'll take quite a few years of driving a hybrid to offset the pollution and energy that built it.

Now, imagine I invented a way to install a hybrid engine in the car you own today (and imagine with my new riches I then bought this paper and ran my column on the front page). It might cost you more to retrofit your car than to buy a new hybrid, but for the extra money you'd conserve the resources that go into a new chassis, body, windows, seats, etc.

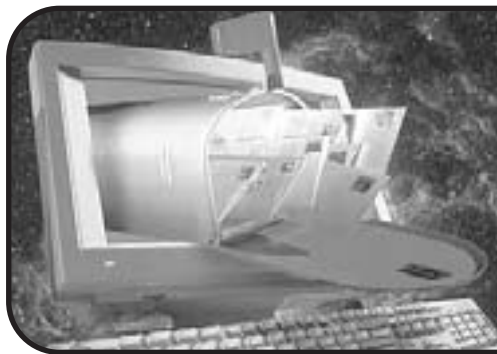
So far no one seems to be offering hybrid retrofits for cars (and for now "Our Town" will stay in the middle of this paper where it belongs). But certainly one can adaptively reuse old buildings and retrofit them to green building standards. It's the approach that least compromises future generations, even if it costs more.

But it's not City Hall's approach. Maybe the folks in charge want to drive a sexy late-model Prius that makes a self-congratulatory statement rather than a retrofit that looks like just another Taurus.

(Ted Winterer is a writer and lives in Ocean Park. 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



Our governor giveth and he taketh away



GUEST COMMENTARY

BY STATE SEN. SHEILA KUEHL
(D-SANTA MONICA)

(Editor's note: This is the first essay written by State Sen. Sheila Kuehl [D-Santa Monica] in 2005. Kuehl regularly writes essays for e-mail subscribers, and they are generally not reported by the media. Today she focuses on Gov. Schwarzenegger's recent State of the State address and his proposed budget.)

K-12 education is taking a pounding from Governor Schwarzenegger this year, although he has maintained the opposite. Generally, the budget does not reflect last year's agreement between the governor and the education community. Consequently, the word "trust" has become central to the discussion.

The governor is fond of the word "trust." From the day he was sworn in, he has repeatedly asked us to "trust" him on a number of issues: Changing workers' compensation benefits, the need for a spending cap in the budget, getting rid of the influence of "special interests," for example. Last year, in the first two of these areas, closer analysis showed that his original proposals were extremely one-sided and the Legislature convinced him to ameliorate them. In the area of "special interests," the governor seems to reserve the label only for those who are not supportive of him. Those who contribute to his committees or who form independent committees to carry out his directives are not, apparently, so special.

The governor has also strongly urged us to "trust the people" in his State of the State address, and told the Legislature that if we don't enact his directives, he will ask the people to do it for us. On closer view, however, his idea of direct democracy looks more like directed democracy. That is, trust the people only when they do what the governor tells them to do. Do not, however, according to the governor, trust the people when he doesn't agree with them.

One example of problems created by the "trust me" and "trust the people" conflict areas is manifested in the way he treats K-12 education this year.

THE EDUCATION "DEAL" OF 2004

In an agreement with teachers and school boards last year, the governor suspended the minimum funding requirements of Proposition 98 and underfunded schools by \$2 billion on what was supposed to be a one-time basis in order to help balance the budget. He agreed to restore the funding in the 2005-06 budget. During the current budget year (2004-05), new revenues would have added another \$1.1 billion to the schools under the Prop. 98 minimum. That also was not paid.

Now, in his proposal for 2005-06, the governor neither restores the \$2 billion nor the \$1.1 billion extra, which should

go to the schools. It is clear he has no intention of keeping his promise to the school communities. Instead, surprisingly, he has decided to attack Prop. 98 itself, an initiative overwhelmingly adopted in a statewide vote of the people, and proposes amending it to reduce the guarantee of monies for the schools even further. So much both for "trust me" and "trust the people."

ACROSS-THE-BOARD CUTS

Instead of the aminimum guarantee, the governor proposes a constitutional amendment to change the state's budget process by requiring an automatic across-the-board reduction in every area, including education, when state revenues are less than state expenditures. The governor's director of finance would be the person to declare when that happens, without regard to other factors of timing and revenue.

The governor also wants to completely eliminate the maintenance factor built into Prop. 98. Maintenance monies already owed to the schools, almost \$4 billion to date, would be paid off over a 15-year time period, but there would be no new money. This means billions of dollars in lost opportunities in investment in our schools and community colleges.

THE PHANTOM "INCREASE"

The governor has also maintained that his budget for K-12 is more than last year. That fudges the truth because it ignores what the budget should have been with the \$2 billion given up by the education community and the \$1.1 billion that should have been added as the economy improved this year. Taken this way, if you look at what the minimum guarantee of Prop. 98 would have required, the funding is actually a decrease.

THE GOOD NEWS: GROWTH AND CATEGORICALS

The budget does propose to adequately fund proposed growth in numbers of students and increases funding for categorical (special, targeted) programs by almost 4 percent, while giving school boards more flexibility in spending that money. But districts must pick up state teacher retirement.

Everything the budget gives to education, as indicated above, it takes away in spades. It reduces non Prop. 98 state general fund contributions to the California State Teacher's Retirement System (CalSTRS) by \$560 million. This eliminates all general fund support for CalSTRS and shifts all the costs to the school districts and to teachers — to pay how? The governor also projects an additional "savings" of \$100 million because not giving general fund money to CalSTRS saves administrative costs — no contributions, no paperwork.

(The next essay will focus on higher education. If you wish to receive these essays on a continuing basis at no charge, send an e-mail to Sheila.Kuehl@sen.ca.gov, titled "subscribe.")

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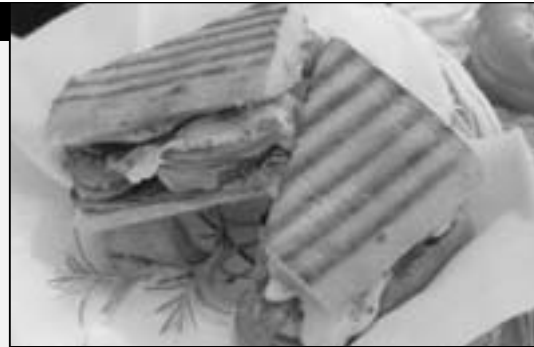
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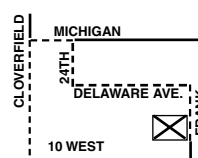
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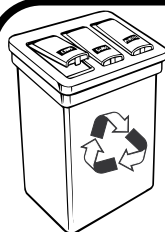
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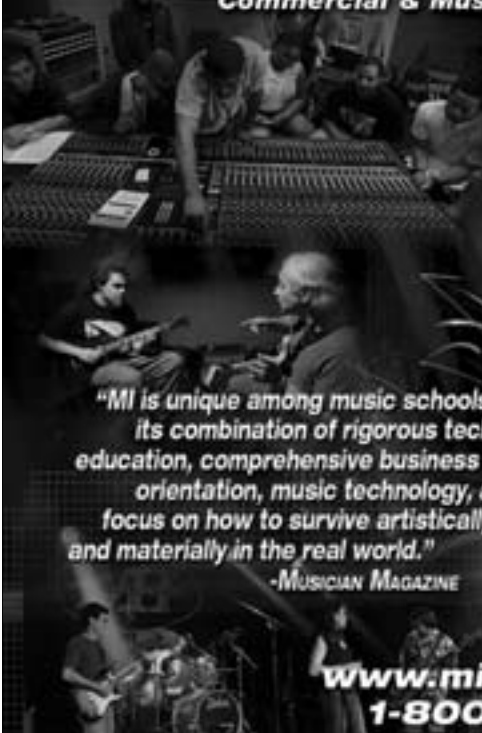
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LOCAL

Wilshire traffic proposal to be researched by cities

BUS LANE, from page 1

Monica City Hall, who were concerned about a negative reaction from commuters and merchants along the heavily traveled east-west corridor.

To temper the anticipated political backlash, he suggested officials study limiting the bus-only lane to where traffic is worst, perhaps ending it at 15th Street or 20th Street instead of extending it all the way to Ocean Avenue.

Yaroslavsky added a similar program in Sydney, Australia, had been hugely successful, despite early resistance. On-street parking spaces were removed in Sydney to create a lane exclusively for buses and taxis, Yaroslavsky said.

City Councilman Richard Bloom, one of two dozen regional city leaders attending Thursday's summit of the Westside Cities Council of Governments, said he understood the resistance to the proposal, but added that permanent lane closures that are part of the transit mall on Santa Monica Boulevard and Colorado Avenue in downtown Santa Monica had been successful.

Echoing a statement from Yaroslavsky that sacrifices need to be made to increase traffic circulation, City Councilman

Bobby Shriver said he personally would be interested in riding the bus if he could move through the Westside more quickly.

"My office is in Beverly Hills," Shriver said after the meeting. "If I could ride a bus from Ocean Avenue, where I live, to Beverly Hills in 15 minutes, I would be very interested in it, myself. Now somebody will say, 'Shriver will never get out of his Mercedes,' but I would. I just spent an hour driving from Beverly Hills to the Ken Edwards Center."

The suggestion to close a lane of Wilshire Boulevard, which is being studied by the Metropolitan Transit Authority, is expected to be researched in great detail by staffers in all of the affected cities. Officials said the idea also might require synchronizing stop lights, a complicated undertaking.

Yaroslavsky said he knew the idea would stir controversy, but encouraged community leaders to remember it would be a pilot program that could be dropped.

"I'm asking you, really, to go back and get excited about this," he said. "I'll back you up. I'll give you political cover ... I'll take the heat for this."

"What's the worst that could happen?"

Cities consider partnering

HOMELESS, from page 1

"It's encouraging. At least they're saying they want to do something."

Added Santa Monica City Councilman Bobby Shriver: "These guys had never done that before ... The sort of discouraging news is that it took two years to do just that. Maybe I need to get used to the timeline in the public sector."

"It's very important to get to the second step right away: Finding locations in some of the cities that have excess land to build these shelters."

Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky said he would help coordinate the effort, and added that county officials for the first time ever have earmarked \$2.5 million annually for year-round homeless shelters. An additional \$3 million might become available, Yaroslavsky said, though all funding is shared by the county's five districts.

"We can do this," said Yaroslavsky, who also agreed to seek out additional state funding. "This is not rocket science. We just have to find the right site."

One site currently being studied is the Veteran's Administration property in West Los Angeles. Shriver, who has met with VA officials and social-service providers in an effort to convert vacant VA buildings into shelters, asked the Westside city leaders to narrow the scope of the current effort to serving homeless veterans at the VA property.

Leaving the statement of intent broad, Shriver argued, would put off VA administrators, who are reluctant to host non-veteran services.

"All I'm trying to do is one thing," he told the city leaders. "What they (VA officials) will get from this, and I promise

you, is that you don't know who they are ... that's the real world."

Despite Shriver's concerns, the group of city leaders agreed to move ahead with broad language, with the document serving as an over-arching mission statement. Keeping it open, officials argued, gave the group maximum flexibility.

"I really feel the broad statement is the statement that needs to be made here," said Santa Monica City Councilman Richard Bloom.

Bloom sits on a board of leaders from throughout Los Angeles called "Bring LA Home," which was formed in response to President George W. Bush's direction to draft a plan to end homelessness in 10 years. A proposal is expected to be unveiled later this year.

In the meantime, officials said a smaller, concerted effort among Westside cities would go a long way toward reducing the pervasive problem.

"If they pitched in even proportionately to what Santa Monica is doing, we'd have the potential to do something really meaningful," Santa Monica City Councilman Kevin McKeown said. "Santa Monica will continue to lead, but we won't carry the burden alone anymore."

Yaroslavsky said despite the historic lack of coordination between the Westside cities, he was confident the groups would work together.

"I don't think it's a matter of helping Santa Monica," he said after the meeting. "I think most of these cities, most of these officials — and I don't mean to sound Pollyanna-ish about it — but these are officials who want to do the right thing."

"What is Santa Monica's problem today could be Beverly Hills's problem tomorrow."

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 2!

LOCAL



Bond money earmarked to clean up beaches

CLEANUP MONEY, from page 1

former member of the California Coastal Commission; Francine Diamond, chair of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board; Pacific American Volunteer Association (PAVA) founder Tiger Kang; and MTV Environmental Consulting founder Teresa Villegas.

"By selecting this group of environmental leaders, Padilla and Mayor Hahn are demonstrating their commitment to clean water," said Gold, who has led Heal the Bay since 1994. "I strongly believe in the improvements this bond money can

accomplish and am excited to work with a group of people known for their successful efforts in environmental protection."

For 20 years, Heal the Bay has made Southern California waters safer and healthier for people and marine life through an approach that combines science, advocacy and education. As one of the largest non-profit environmental organizations in Los Angeles County, with more than 10,000 members, Heal the Bay inspires environmental stewardship by educating communities and individuals about ways to transform their neighborhoods and improve their local water quality.

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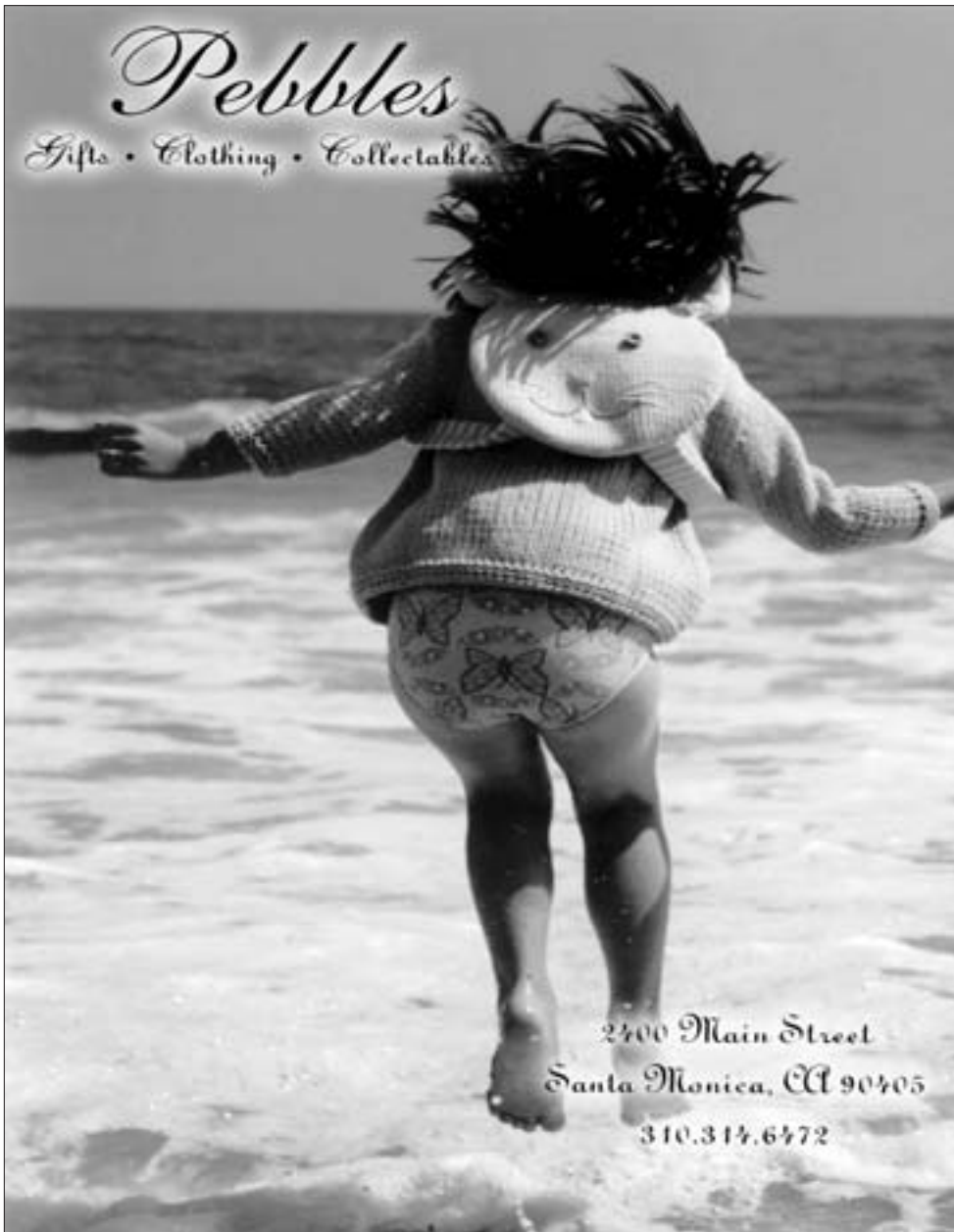
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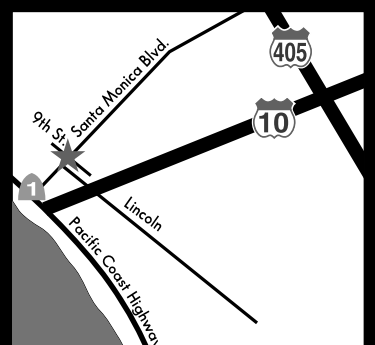
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Entertainment

What’s playing

By Dan Dunn
Special to the Daily Press

HITCH

Smith and James make a good team and hit all the right comedic notes working with very funny material.
Starring: Will Smith, Kevin James, Eva Mendez

BRIDE & PREJUDICE

American audiences will be captivated by Aishwarya Rai, Bollywood's most popular female star.
Starring: Aishwarya Rai, Martin Henderson

INSIDE DEEP THROAT

A provocative, highly entertaining look inside the “Deep Throat” phenomenon and the indelible impression it made on the cultural landscape.

THE WEDDING DATE

Why do fools fall in love? Maybe for the same reason they make half-baked chick flicks ... cuz some people never learn.
Starring: Debra Messing, Dermot Mulroney

RORY O'SHEA WAS HERE

Dramatically charged, funny, and most of all uplifting, This is the first best movie of 2005.
Starring: Steven Robertson, James McAvoy

HIDE AND SEEK

What is, for a solid 80 minutes or so, a pretty hair-raising and suspenseful thriller, falls apart more quickly and embarrassingly than a drunken “Real World” cast member.
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

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

‘Winn-Dixie’ not made for all shoppers

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Exceptionally adorable newcomer AnnaSophia Robb and a flocculent Picardy shepherd star in this fuzzy family flick based on the best-selling novel about a girl and her dog ... in this case, a mutt that young India Opal Buloni (aw, even her name is cute) finds tearing

Review

up the supermarket for which she names him in the fictional backwater town of Naomi, Fla. (portrayed with convincing “booniness” by Napoleonville, La.). Directed by Wayne Wang (“The Joy Luck Club,” “Smoke”) from a screenplay by tyro scribe Joan Singleton, “Winn-Dixie” is the story of a broken-down town inhabited by a cast of likable if not unoriginal lost souls such as the eccentric librarian and town historian (Eva Marie Saint, on hand to constantly remind young Opal that things were better in the old days), the guitar-playing drifter (singer Dave Matthews), the town “witch” (Cicely Tyson in the movie’s best supporting role) and Opal’s heartbroken single dad (Jeff Daniels), a preacher who sure knows his way around a sentimental homily. Opal and Winn-Dixie make their daily rounds, spreading hope while stirring up the occasional bit of harmless mayhem. Some might be put off by the film’s anachronistic unreality and manifest righteousness, while others will no doubt revel in the quixotic Bushiness of it all. Make no mistake, Hollywood has taken notice of the Red State of affairs in this country, and “Because of Winn-Dixie” is a prime example.

(Rated PG for thematic elements and brief mild language. Running time: 109 minutes)



The evil of ‘Constantine’ overpowers the good

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

The way most Catholics see it, there is good and evil here on Earth, and for its inhabitants, the promise of vastly different otherworldly retirement communities depends on which virtue is embraced with greater fervor. It is this final destination angst that fuels the hole-y narrative of “Constantine,” a visually spectacular yet emotionally barren, at

Review

times gratingly inconsistent, comic book adaptation (boy, we haven’t seen one of those in a couple of weeks, eh?) from hotshot music video director turned Hollywood golden boy du jour Francis Lawrence. There’s a pervasive, effective noirishness to “Constantine,” from the shadowy production design to the Bogie-Bacall-like rapport between stars Rachel Weisz and Keanu Reeves, channeling his Neo character and decked out like a long-lost Blues Brother. But the back story is convoluted, the platitudinous moralizing quickly grows tiresome, and seemingly every time things appear to be getting interesting, Lawrence chickens out and instead offers some clichéd convention of a franchise-in-the-making. John Constantine is a typical matinee anti-hero. Born with the “gift” to see the half-breed angels and devils that walk among us for what they really are, he reluctantly battles Satan’s minions for the selfish purpose of regaining the salvation he lost after attempting suicide as a boy (that’s a mortal sin, according to the official rulebook). He’s a drunken, disillusioned loner whose affinity for cigarettes has led to terminal lung cancer. Time is running out for him to save his soul, and Constantine isn’t getting much help from either God’s androgynous agent, Gabriel (Tilda Swinton) or Hell’s most dapper emissary, Balthazar (rocker Gavin Rossdale). He does get a hand from Angela Dodson (Weisz), a tough yet vulnerable LAPD detective who’s mourning a twin sister who might or might not have committed suicide. Weisz is an underrated talent, and here she provides some much needed magnetism to counter-balance Reeves’ phlegmatic take on the title character. Together they make a valiant stand in the war between Heaven and Hell, but the filmmakers’ didn’t provide them with quite enough ammo to make “Constantine” a winner.

(Rated R for violence and demonic images. Running time: 121 minutes)

Drama a bit overboard in ‘Imaginary Heroes’

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

What starts out as a kind of poor man’s “Ordinary People” quickly deteriorates into an unintentional comedy of errors filled with virtually every staple of the after-school special genre. It wasn’t all that long ago that first-time writer-director Dan Harris was actually *in* high school, and his film is filled with the sort of unrestrained cynicism and angst you’d expect to find scribbled in the average disaffected suburban teenager’s diary. Harris piles on one crisis after another, gradually undermining the film’s flimsy foundation until the entire bathetic mess collapses. It’s too bad, because two solid performances by Sigourney Weaver and Emile Hirsch — as a mother and son in a dysfunctional family that also includes dad Jeff Daniels and daughter Michelle Williams — get lost in the emotional schizophr

phrenia. In addition to the teen suicide that sets the family-in-turmoil plot in motion, “Imaginary Heroes” features a host of other increasingly implausible inciting incidents. After a party in which a gal-pal discovers he’s being physically abused, Hirsch gets into a drunk driving accident; he’s also having serious issues coming to terms with his sexuality, leading to an uncomfortable ecstasy-fueled encounter with his best friend/neighbor; Weaver gets hooked on pot, then gets busted trying to buy some; Daniels quits his job and spends his days zoned-out on a park bench; Williams falls for a mental patient who hits on her mother; there’s another suicide (by one of Hirsch’s random classmates); infidelity; distraught teens quoting Pearl Jam lyrics; the suggestion of incest ... name the misfortune, it’s in “Imaginary Heroes.” It’s like getting 10 overwrought dramas for the price of one.

(Rated R for substance abuse, sexual content, language and some violence. Running time: 117 minutes)

Head for the hills and tap Elivette



THE IMBIBER

BY DAN DUNN

February is "Official California Wine Month" here at Imbiber Headquarters, and had I not been so beat up from the rigors of January ("Official Shots of Hard Liquor Month"), I'd no doubt have remembered that and written about vino instead of beer and vodka the past two weeks. Oh, well, better late than never, right? And if we must extend our exploration of west coast wines into March, so be it. March is "Official Who Gives a

Damn? Month" anyway.

We begin our journey in Napa Valley at Spring Mountain Vineyard, a picturesque 845-acre estate in St. Helena where tastings are held in a 19th century Victorian home called Miravalle that trivia buffs and my mother will recall as the setting for the '80s primetime soap "Falcon Crest." They make great wine there, too — none more appealing, in your Imbiber's oft-pilloried opinion, than the 2001 vintage Elivette. Comprised mostly of cabernet grapes with a hint of merlot and petit verdot, the Elivette is an exceptional product of one of the best growing season's Northern California has had in many years. This wine, which spent 21 months maturing in French oak before

bottling, has got brawn. I'm talking Lorenzo Lamas as Lance Cumson in "Falcon Crest" type muscle. Elivette is a big bold red that is still coming into its own — in fact, I'd suggest cellaring it for a year or so, then serving it up with the finest filet you can get your hands on. At \$90 a bottle, the 2001 Spring Mountain Elivette isn't cheap. Heck, for that kind of scratch you could probably own all nine seasons of "Falcon Crest" on DVD. I say go with the wine. For more information on Spring Mountain Vineyard wines, visit www.springmtn.com.

(E-mail questions, comments or suggestions for the Imbiber to ddunn@metro.us.)



Musicians unite for AIDS awareness

By The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Annie Lennox, Brian May and India. Arie will perform at Nelson Mandela's next concert to raise awareness about the AIDS pandemic.

The March 19 event in the Eastern Cape city of George, to be hosted by actor Will Smith, will highlight the plight of women and girls, who are six times more likely than men to become infected here, Mandela said Thursday.

May and Roger Taylor of Queen will collaborate with Bad Company's Paul Rodgers.

"We do not treat our women with enough dignity and respect," Mandela said. "We must mobilize to act, and act soon, before it is too late."

Since stepping down as South Africa's first black president in 1999, Mandela has championed the cause of AIDS victims, especially in Africa where about 25 million of the world's 40 million HIV-infected people live.

While organizers are still recovering the cost of the first concert — held in Cape Town in November 2003 — through CD and DVD sales, they hope this year's more modest event will raise funds for AIDS charities in South Africa.

Mandela's eldest son recently died of an AIDS-related illness.

NEW YORK — Christina Aguilera says she was shocked when a Valentine surprise turned into a marriage proposal.

The 24-year-old pop diva says music executive Jordan Bratman, her boyfriend of two years, popped the question at Big Sur, Calif., last Friday after recreating a romantic dinner the two had while touring India in the fall.

"It was unbelievable," Aguilera told *Us Weekly* magazine. "Every cute thing he did, I totally thought was just a Valentine's Day surprise — he got me!"

"He sent me on a scavenger hunt," she said. "My mom used to do scavenger hunts for me when I was a kid, so it had sentimental value. Each clue was a poem — and in the final clue

he proposed!"

The 26-year-old Bratman gave Aguilera a 5-carat diamond ring designed by jeweler Stephen Webster, who also made wedding bands for Madonna and Guy Richie.

"I'm finishing my album, so we haven't set a date yet," Aguilera said. "But it's definitely given me inspiration to make my best record ever."

Her hits include "What a Girl Wants," "Genie in a Bottle" and "Beautiful."

VIENNA, Austria — Donatella Versace will present a fashion show and appear at the annual Life Ball, a charity gala dedicated to raising funds to fight AIDS.

Organizers hope to raise awareness with the May 21 event at City Hall. The Life Ball, regularly attended by singer Elton John, is known for the extravagant costumes of the thousands of guests.

"We want to give the event a new look, to create new excitement," Versace said Thursday. "We can barely wait to reach our shared goal — \$1.3 million — purely in proceeds for the Life Ball 2005."

Other designers who have presented creations at the Life Ball include Jean Paul Gaultier, John Galiano, Thierry Mugler, Paco Rabanne, Vivienne Westwood, Moschino, Missoni and Gianfranco Ferre.

LOS ANGELES — Canadian Alanis Morissette is now an American citizen.

The 30-year-old singer was among some 4,500 people who took the citizenship oath during a ceremony last week at the Los Angeles Convention Center. Morissette isn't turning her back on Canada — she's maintaining dual citizenship.

"I will never renounce my Canadian citizenship," Morissette said in a statement Wednesday. "I consider myself a Canadian-American."

"There was a turning point during the ceremony where I felt connected to this country in

a way that I didn't quite expect," she said. "America has been really great to me and I have felt welcomed since the day I came here."

Morissette's songs include "Ironic" and "You Oughta Know."

BERLIN — Daniel Day-Lewis says he's become increasingly cautious about taking on new movies as he allows himself to be "distracted by life."

The actor was at the Berlin International Film Festival Tuesday to present "The Ballad of Jack and Rose," directed by his wife, Rebecca Miller. Day-Lewis' lead role is his first movie appearance since "Gangs of New York" three years ago.

"It's not that my love for the work is diminished in any way," said Day-Lewis, 47.

"I probably approach it with greater caution than I used to, and the test is a more severe one," he told reporters. "I always had a feeling that it was a job that you had to feel compelled to do."

"I'm distracted by life for periods of time," the actor said.

In "The Ballad of Jack and Rose," Day-Lewis plays Jack Slavin — the last hippie living in a commune off the East Coast of the United States in the mid-1980s. Suffering from a degenerative illness, Jack struggles to cope with his only companion, 16-year-old daughter Rose (Camilla Belle).

Day-Lewis said Miller first sent him the story nine years ago, before the couple met.

The film "required something of me that I didn't feel able to give at that time," he said. Having children "probably helped me a lot" to play the part, he added. (Day-Lewis has three sons; two with Miller.)

The husband-and-wife team said their closeness helped in making the movie.

"You understand each other very quickly without a lot of words," said Miller, the daughter of the late playwright Arthur Miller. The film is showing outside the main competition at the Berlin festival, which ends Sunday.

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STATE

Senators charge Sempra manipulated energy market

BY TOM CHORNEAU

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Traders at Sempra Energy manipulated California's energy market during the 2001 energy crisis and later lied about it to state investigators, two state senators said Wednesday.

Sens. Joe Dunn, D-Garden Grove, and Debra Bowen, D-Redondo Beach, said they're sending to the Sacramento district attorney documents they said prove officials from Sempra Energy Trading Co. lied under oath three years ago about trading tactics that drove up electricity prices and delivered huge company profits.

"Sempra ripped off ratepayers and then lied about it," said Dunn, who chaired the select Senate committee that investigated the energy crisis. "From the very beginning of our investigation I said we'd hold anyone accountable who lied under oath and reviewing the evidence, it appears that Sempra lied."

A spokesman for Sempra denied the allegations, contending that written answers it gave to Dunn's committee have been presented in an incomplete form.

"Sen. Dunn has cut and pasted together partial responses by the company and, in doing so, presented a distorted and inaccurate picture to the press and public," said Doug Kline, director of public relations for the San Diego-based firm.

At issue are trading tactics most notably used by traders for the defunct energy giant Enron Inc., that helped contribute to the rolling blackouts and soaring

power prices four years ago. Dubbed with colorful names as "Fat Boy," "Death Star" and "Ricochet," the strategies exploited the state's deregulated system to avoid market rules and generate profits.

State officials said Californians lost as much as \$9 billion to market manipulation during the crisis.

Regulators discovered the trading schemes during congressional hearings in May 2002 in which an internal Enron memo detailing the strategies was released.

Dunn said the Enron memo led him to send a detailed questionnaire to other companies asking if they used the same tactics. The responses were sworn to be true under penalty of perjury.

According to documents released by Dunn, company executives answered no on each question about manipulation.

But Dunn also released two internal Sempra e-mails and another sent to the company by a state agency that appear to show that Sempra used each of the three trading schemes.

"We believe the evidence is black and white, that's why we are taking this step," Dunn said.

However, Sempra released letters that show more detailed descriptions of how its traders worked in response to market conditions.

Kline said the company's responses to state and federal investigators were accurate and the company has cooperated fully.

Also, he said, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has already investigation such claims and it

reached a settlement with Sempra in October 2003 to resolve the issue.

Dunn said Sempra was attempting to confuse the public. "They are going to put this issue into the hands of their attorneys. The fact is that they lied when asked about it."

Bowen, who was then chair of the Senate Energy Committee, said Dunn's committee needed to put energy traders under oath because federal regulators had failed to fully investigate the issues.

Documents from the Senate probe were expected to be delivered to Sacramento District Attorney Jan Scully sometime Wednesday for a possible criminal investigation. A spokeswoman for Scully said the documents had not been delivered and could not comment.

Dunn also said he wanted to take a contempt charge against Sempra to the Senate Energy Committee, which could go to the full Senate for possible sanctions.

Such sanctions are unusual but not unprecedented. Enron refused to comply with an Energy Committee in 2001 and faced a \$1 million-a-day fine from the Senate. The threat was withdrawn after company executives complied.

Dunn said other energy traders may also face the same charge of perjury and possible sanctions.

California Attorney General Bill Lockyer is also investigating Sempra over energy trades, spokesman Tom Dresslar said. Just last week, Lockyer filed a suit against a Canadian company, PowerEx, claiming the firm helped manipulate California's electricity market to create phony supply shortages that cost California \$850 million.

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NATIONAL



Bush fence-mending efforts continue in Europe

BY TERENCE HUNT
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The fence-mending trips, makeup meetings and friendly photo ops spread over the past two years have failed to repair problems between President Bush and European leaders.

The president's visit to Europe next week holds the promise of better relations for the simple pragmatic reason that disgruntled allies know they have to work with him for four more years.

Bush is unpopular in Europe for ordering the invasion of Iraq and pursuing what is widely seen as a foreign policy that ignores the views of other countries. Many leaders did not hide their hope that Democratic Sen. John Kerry would win the presidency in November.

Bush's victory, coupled with expanded Republican power in both houses of Congress and successful elections in Iraq, have forced European leaders to adjust their strategies to deal with reality.

"I think there is a recognition this president has got his mandate and speaks for a lot of Americans," said John Bruton, the European Union's ambassador to the United States.

Bush extended an olive branch at a news conference Thursday. He said he would reassure Europeans that "as we move beyond the differences of the past, that we can work a lot together to achieve big objectives." He said security is a primary concern for the United States after the Sept. 11 attacks but "we also care deeply about hunger and disease."

European countries are not expecting any major changes in U.S. policy as a result of Bush's visit, Bruton said. He said they hope Bush will listen to them with an open mind "with a view to possibly a change in position if their arguments are good enough."

"What they are hoping for is an increase in the level of trust," Bruton said. "I think we're going through a phase of intense rapprochement" and that leaders on both sides of the Atlantic were trying to "put right what went wrong."

European countries are not expecting any major changes in U.S. policy as a result of Bush's visit, Bruton said.

Bush will fly to Brussels, Belgium, on Sunday for a three-night stay. He will hold a dinner with French President Jacques Chirac, the most vocal critic of U.S. policy in Iraq. Bush also will meet with NATO leaders and visit the headquarters of the European Union, the political organization representing 25 countries with a population of 450 million people. The visit to the EU headquarters is seen as an important sign that he takes the European Union seriously.

Bush also will stop in Germany for talks with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, another prominent critic of the United States in Iraq, and will meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Slovakia. The Slovakia meeting will be closely watched for any sign that Bush scolds the Russian leader for retreating from democracy.

Bush has made clear that he is looking for a fresh start with European allies after heated differences over Iraq. Leaders on both sides of the Atlantic say they are committed to the reconstruction of Iraq. There are big differences over the role that individual countries will play and how much they will pay.

Bush sent Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to Europe to mend fences, and her recent visit was well received. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld was uncharacteristically humble as he helped set the stage. Visiting Munich last weekend, Rumsfeld belittled his own description of "Old Europe" opponents of the Iraq war.

"Oh, that was the old Rumsfeld," the secretary said.

Bush and the Europeans are expected to clash over a European proposal to lift a 15-year-old arms embargo on China. Europeans also are disappointed that Bush has not

offered more support for their negotiations to get Iran to halt its suspected nuclear weapons program.

When Bush meets with European leaders over dinner Tuesday night, the allies need to get a sense that the president is "buying in" to their Iran strategy, even if he is unwilling to talk about it publicly, Bruton said. He said Iran would have little incentive to reach a deal unless it knew the United States would support it.

European leaders will be looking for Bush to speak about the problems of global warming even though he opposes the Kyoto climate treaty that took effect Wednesday. While the 35 participating industrial nations have committed to reducing carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and other compounds to below their levels of 1990, the United States is the single biggest source of so-called greenhouse gases.

Bush offered no apologies for opposing the Kyoto treaty that Europeans embraced. "They thought the treaty made sense. I didn't." Still, he said there are new technologies to help achieve a better environment.

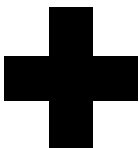
The fact that Bush is willing to engage on the subject during his trip "will be seen as a sign Europe has been listened to," Bruton said.

Bush said Syria will be a prominent subject in the talks as a result of Monday's assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, who had protested Syria's influence in his country. The president also said he would talk with allies about a strategy to persuade Iran to abandon its suspected nuclear weapons program. He said it was important to speak with one voice. Yet he declined to support Europe's strategy of negotiations with Iran.

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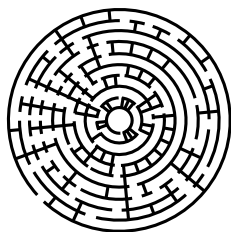
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13. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2000; 283: 2689-2696.

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