

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

23, 28, 34, 35, 11

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 9, 9, 9

Evening picks: 4, 3, 3

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 4, Big Ben

2nd Place: 5, California Classic

3rd Place: 10, Solid Gold

Race Time: 1:45.40



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Former policeman George Giffilan won the equivalent of about \$155,000 in an Edinburgh, Scotland, court in August against a widow for a neck injury he suffered when his patrol car collided with the widow's late wife's car, which had gotten in the way of Giffilan's pursuit of a drunk driver. Giffilan won the money even though the judge said he was going too fast and even though part of the money was for Giffilan's "depression" over witnessing the woman die.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I used to work in a fire hydrant factory. You couldn't park near the place."

— Steven Wright



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Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

(Top) Actress Jamie Lee Curtis (center) marches downtown on Thursday with Rev. Sandie Richards, grocery store workers and supporters before a planned rally at Vons on Lincoln Boulevard and Broadway.

(Below) Union workers and community members block the entrance to Vons during a civil disobedience demonstration. Eleven people were arrested shortly after.

Strikers, supporters 'let it shine' at sit-in

Local police arrest 11 in civil demonstration

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — Eleven people were arrested in front of a Santa Monica grocery store on Thursday after taking part in a civil disobedience protest to support union strikers.

Among those arrested were Santa Monica residents and local activists fighting for a living wage ordinance to benefit low-wage workers. The group of both activists and union workers sat down in front of the entrance to Vons on Lincoln Boulevard and sang "This Little Light of Mine," before being arrested by Santa Monica Police.

The arrests were pre-planned between the United Food Commercial Workers Union and the SMPD to ensure that no one was harmed in the incident. The arrests also were part of demonstrations held simultaneously at three other grocery stores across Southern California.

"These are people who are well known in the community and felt the fight was important enough to stick their

neck out for us," said UFCW secretary and treasurer Richard Cowan, who works at the union's Santa Monica office.

Described as "heroes" by Cowan, Santa Monica activists Denny Zane, Maria Loya, Vivian Rothstein, Abby Arnold, Ann Hiller, Jim Smith and Dolores Press were among those taken into custody. They were cited with misdemeanors for obstructing the free movement of a person in a public place or sidewalk and failure to disperse. They were released shortly after.

"The middle class was built by the unions and people like yourselves," said Zane, who thanked the SMPD for its cooperation shortly before his arrest. "This is more than your struggle. It's a struggle for people fighting throughout the country for health care."

The demonstration began at 10 a.m. with about 250 grocery store strikers marching through the streets of downtown, led by actress and Santa Monica resident Jamie Lee Curtis.

"I'm here as a mother who tried to explain to her little boy why we didn't go into certain markets," Curtis said. "I'm here because I think these people have sacrificed tremendously for the union."

See PROTEST, page 5

Top lawmakers ante up to support budget plans

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — Three of California's most influential politicians converged at a Santa Monica hotel Thursday to endorse a pair of controversial propositions aimed at alleviating the state's growing financial woes.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, flanked by U.S. Sen. Diane Feinstein and State Controller Steve Westly, told journalists that Propositions 57 and 58 are crucial to the economic future of California, adding he wouldn't even entertain the idea of defeat on the March 2 ballot.

"I think that the picture of us three together ... says it all," said a beaming Schwarzenegger, with more than 50 journalists on hand at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel on Wilshire Boulevard. "This is the

new spirit of California."

The propositions call for establishing an \$8 billion reserve fund and borrowing \$15.2 billion to cover the state's debts. They also would force the legislature to pass a balanced budget each year and forbid the state from using deficit bonds in the future. Both must pass in order to become law.

Poll results expected to be released today show 38 percent of likely voters supporting Prop. 57, with 41 percent against it. Fifty-two percent of likely voters support Prop. 58, while 23 percent oppose it. The poll was conducted by the Public Policy Institute of California — a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank.

Many voters are evidently still undecided on the propositions. According to results, less than half know Schwar-

See PROPOSITIONS, page 6



John Wood/Daily Press

Stumping in Santa Monica: State Controller Steve Westly, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and U.S. Sen. Diane Feinstein voice their support for Propositions 57 and 58.

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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)

★★★★ Resolutions take on a personal tone, where you think more about what you want rather than what others want. Don't allow an underlying feeling of unhappiness or fatigue to color your plans. Invitations might cause a change of plans. Tonight: Make yourself comfortable.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Friends help you achieve what you want. You might be startled by what an associate or pal does. You drive a hard bargain right now, as you are incredibly focused. Others depend on your sense of direction. Tonight: Leader of the gang.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Surprises surround the workplace and bosses. You might want to carefully rethink a money decision before going hog wild this weekend. Be careful how you express your frustration to someone in charge. Tonight: A must show.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You might have plans to take off in the near future. Recognize what needs to be done prior to your exit. Postpone or reorganize your work plans. A friend pushes you out the door. Your company is desired. Tonight: Opt for something different.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ A partner makes a proposition that you cannot say no to, which could stun you too. You are seeing many changes in this person as well. Use your instincts with money dealings. A revision in plans might be good. Tonight: Certainly, you're not a wallflower.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Others seek you out. You might be delighted by who finds you and where. Help an overly serious friend lighten up. You are coming from a place of security. Read between the lines, especially with gossip. Tonight: Say "yes."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Evaluate what might be going on with an associate who normally is less unpredictable. You could take a stand and move a project forward if you want. Don't expect others to necessarily support you to the end. A partner or associate might give you flak about spending. Tonight: Relax.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Extremes mark what is happening around your love life. You might want to stop and decide what you want before a problem begins. Your instincts are on with money more than they are with a partnership. Let someone clear out his or her anger. Tonight: Celebrate living and the weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Family becomes a high priority right now. You might be jolted by news or a domestic happening. Be realistic about what needs to occur right now. You can adapt well. Make a call and change your plans if need be. Tonight: Stay close to home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Speak your mind and be more open, even though you might jolt someone. Work with a changeable situation. You are learning not to take anything for granted. You will become more independent as a result. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Expenses go way overboard. You need to put in extra time at work, even if you are tired. Change plans with a friend, though he or she might be a touch disappointed. Know where your priorities are right now. Tonight: Play it low-key.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You might want to give some serious thought to your long-term needs. Make resolutions today, and most likely they will stick. Your instincts help you with a boss or a superior. Someone close to you finds you a bit unpredictable. Tonight: Just ask, and someone might surprise you.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

City's energy deal has others 'green' with envy

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica will remain green at bargain prices.

City Hall and electricAmerica, one of the nation's leading energy service providers, have renewed an agreement under which electricAmerica will continue to supply renewable energy to the city's municipal facilities into 2005.

The city will continue to receive "green" power from electricAmerica at discounted rates. The city began purchasing green power in 1998 and has consistently championed the environmental benefits associated with renewable energy. The agreement also offers the city guaranteed monetary savings on its electricity supply, as electricAmerica's pricing is discounted from the local utility's rates.

"This agreement provides the city with tremendous monetary savings and environmental benefits," said Jeff Bailey, electricAmerica's vice president of sales. "The city of Santa Monica continues to set high standards in energy policy."

Soon after California deregulated its electricity market, city officials signed an agreement with electricAmerica to be its direct access energy provider in 1999. Since then, the city has realized millions of dollars in financial savings on its energy supply and lessened its reliance on energy derived from fossil-fuel sources.

"With city budgets being so tight, we are proud to have negotiated an energy agreement that will save us money," said Santa Monica's Energy and Green Building Program administrator, Susan Munves. "We are also pleased that our electricity will continue to be derived from environmentally-friendly fuel sources."

Commonwealth Energy Corporation, a power marketer licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, is an energy services company that markets retail electricity under the brand name, "electricAmerica," in deregulated markets. Major market areas are Philadelphia, Penn.; Detroit, Mich.; New Jersey and California. Commonwealth Energy also is licensed as an energy retailer in other deregulating states.

Author's topic of discussion remains mystery

By Daily Press staff

Author Paula Woods will give a free lecture Feb. 26 on the topic of "Spooks, Spies and Private Eyes: Black Mystery, Crime & Suspense Fiction of the 20th Century."

The lecture, whose title comes from the critically acclaimed anthology that Woods edited, will be held at 11:15 a.m. in the SMC Concert Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. The lecture is presented by the SMC Associates and SMC English Department as part of SMC's "Literary Series" as well as a celebration of Black History Month.

Woods, of Los Angeles, is the award-winning author of three novels in the Charlotte Justice series, the most recent being "Dirty Laundry," published in 2003. "Stormy Weather," the second in the series, was named one of the best books of 2001 by the Los Angeles Times and the South Florida Sun-Sentinel.



Paula Woods

The first Charlotte Justice mystery, "Inner City Blues," was on the Los Angeles Times bestseller list for three weeks and was also named by the newspaper as one of the best books of 1999. The book received the Macavity Award for Best First Mystery, was named Best First Novel by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, and nominated for the Edgar and Anthony awards for best first mystery novel.

"Spooks, Spies and Private Eyes," published in 1995, also received or was nominated for several awards.

For more information, call (310) 434-4003.

surf report

Our current WNW wind and ground swell will be on the down today. The better winter breaks can expect waves in the waist- to shoulder-high range, with some head-high waves at best spots.

OUTLOOK: Look for the surf to fade further into Saturday morning. By late Saturday afternoon a new, long period NW swell will start to build slowly from storm activity on the other side of the dateline earlier this week. This swell will build further on Sunday, looking strongest in the afternoon.

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

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	LOW ONE	LOW TWO	HIGH ONE	HIGH TWO
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SUNDAY	3:45 AM	4:36 PM	9:48 AM	11:02 PM
MONDAY	4:30 AM	5:08 PM	10:28 AM	11:37 PM
TUESDAY	5:23 AM	5:38 PM	11:14 AM	N/A
WEDNESDAY	6:30 AM	6:06 PM	12:15 AM	12:15 PM
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FRIDAY	9:43 AM	7:45 PM	1:54 AM	4:15 PM

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The Q-Line

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In response, City Hall has created a draft law that aims to regulate where, when and how the industry will install

equipment here. The proposed law will be discussed by the City Council on Feb. 24.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Would you mind visible cell phone equipment in your neighborhood if it meant better reception?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.



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LETTERS

Don't look a gift horse in the mouth

Editor:

(This letter was originally addressed to Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Superintendent John Deasy and the school board).

I have prepared some comments and suggestions that I hope you'll consider in shaping the district's gift policy.

Although I support the goal of equity among our district's schools, I do not support the method that has been proposed to create equity.

In fact, I believe that the current proposal will create inequity in many of the programs that are now in place. It will make it even harder to accommodate the needs of many students who now benefit from the fundraising.

Without it, they could not afford to participate in the programs. The current proposal also threatens the very existence of some of these programs, due to the reduction of necessary funding, both from the 15 percent tax and the corresponding reduction in motivation to fundraise and donate.

I believe that the policy, as suggested, will dampen the spirit and enthusiasm of fundraising for both the donors and worker bees. After 11 years of raising funds for the district, I believe I can speak for many of the dedicated fund raisers in this district. You should be aware of how others like me really feel about this proposal as it stands. We work to offer opportunities for students that would not be possible without the funds we raise. Us and our donors give for the same reason. We see the results of our work in the program(s) we support. That is why we achieve what we achieve.

I ask you to explore and consider all the unintended consequences of this proposal. If you hastily implement a policy that has not been thoroughly discussed and reworked in a public forum, you risk alienating those upon whom you will depend to create your equity fund. Without the worker bees and the donors, there is nothing to tap into. Some suggestions are as follows:

- The board should initiate a public forum for discussion that includes both Santa Monica and Malibu people — not a hand-picked committee appointed by the board, but a public workshop that allows all sides the opportunity to be heard by each other in an open discussion. Many supporters of this policy have no idea what it takes to raise the funds that are being redistributed in this policy.

They need to know. Some people have no idea of the disparity that exists among some of our schools. They too need to know. We need to have a clear understanding of the problems and work together for a solution — not have this ill-conceived policy forced on us over the objections of many. If this type of collaboration does not happen, the board will be responsible for creating even more ill will and prejudice in our district. Please do not set the stage for more tension between the haves and the have-nots. Many of us who have been put in the category of haves, actually have not. That is why we work so hard to give our children and other children a little more.

- Groups that fundraise to pay expenses of established school programs should give a percentage of their net, not their gross, proceeds. In order for these groups to provide an equitable level of participation for students who could otherwise not afford to participate in the activities of the group, the funds raised must first be used to fully insure participation for all. To balance inequities among the schools by creating new inequities within specific programs does not make sense. You don't rob Peter to pay Paul and call it a sound business practice, or an equitable policy. When groups have

some discretionary funds available at the end of the year, they can voluntarily contribute a percentage to the equity fund. You can only expect so much from volunteers; many of us sacrifice a lot to help meet the needs of children. It is not only the poor who work hard in this community.

Most of us are just average folks who work very hard at our jobs and taking care of our families. Then we go out and work even harder to raise these funds.

- If the district intends to skim an equity fund off the top of funds raised, it must ensure that substantial funds continue to be raised. People will much more readily contribute a portion of their group's net proceeds to disadvantaged schools if those funds support the same cause for which the funds were raised. For example, if funds are raised for music education, then a percentage could be voluntarily contributed to enhance programs for music education in disadvantaged schools. The Santa Monica Band Parents have contributed some of their proceeds to the middle and elementary schools for years — knowing that the high school music program will be better for it. Other groups will see the logic in this practice. A percentage of PTA net proceeds could be voluntarily donated to needs determined by the PTAs at the disadvantaged schools. There are many special interest groups trying to raise a few extra dollars for specific programs — music, athletics, technology, for example.

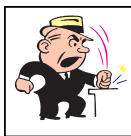
Telling volunteers that a part of their hard-earned funds will go to a use other than what was intended breeds resentment and will not produce a gift policy that this community will support.

- A better way to capitalize on the fundraising success within the district would be to set up a mechanism to share the skills of veteran parent fundraisers with the schools that need to learn how to tap into the generosity of their community. The professional fundraisers mentioned in the current version of the gift policy could also be used to increase the funds raised by the disadvantaged schools. I think the notion that disadvantaged schools cannot raise substantial funds is an elitist attitude. Parents from Edison and McKinley have complained that they're willing to do the work but have no contacts with wealthy people or businesses and therefore cannot get them to donate. The district can provide them with volunteers who do have contacts with wealthy people or businesses interested in helping these schools. The disadvantaged schools in some ways have a better chance to attract donations from the community. Their needs are blatant and well publicized. It's elitism that assumes schools in wealthier neighborhoods are the best source of funds for schools in lower-income neighborhoods. Why not concentrate volunteer efforts to empower parents from those schools to raise more funds themselves? It should not require a huge amount of effort to raise the extra \$10,000 or \$15,000 that the Title I schools stand to gain from the policy as currently proposed. Increasing the amounts for John Adams, Samohi, and Lincoln will require more work, but there is also more potential parent labor. Volunteers would be motivated to work because they would be able to see the results of 100 percent their labors instead of having 15 percent deducted for the equity fund.

I believe that by following suggestions such as the ones above from people actually raising the funds that the gift policy seeks to redistribute, you can create a policy that succeeds due to cooperation rather than the present one, which is based on coercion.

Donna Block
Santa Monica

If it's education the people want, it's education they get



MY WRITE

By Bill Bauer

The municipal elections are nine months off and politicians are already squaring off on the major issues.

A school funding charter amendment sponsored by the Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS) is already generating controversy. The CEPS proposal — if it qualifies for the ballot and is approved by voters — mandates a city cash subsidy for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

Denny Zane, a former city councilman and mayor, and present co-chair of the powerful Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights organization, is one of the movers and shakers behind the proposal. However, most city councilpersons and many in SMRR are opposed to a permanent commitment of at least \$6 million annually to the school district.

Zane recently squared off against city councilman and fellow SMRR, Michael Feinstein, during the first debate on the

topic at Santa Monica College. Zane and fellow school supporters claim the proposal would provide a "final, consistent and reliable funding stream" for the schools.

Feinstein characterized the amendment as "a raid on the city budget. This is going to put a direct hit on social services. It's going to be putting pressure on the homeless, seniors, youth at risk and city employees," he said.

That's the idea, Mikey. Resources are being egregiously misdirected. For years, this City Council has squandered millions of our taxpayer dollars on their personal agendas and nonresident services.

I didn't have to look far to find an example. In Monday's Santa Monica Daily Press, columnist, Janet Phelan described the plight of two adult women "recently from New York," now in Santa Monica — broke, homeless and needing a handout.

It's a familiar litany. At every homeless forum, dozens of present and former clients of Santa Monica's many service providers relate, "I came here from (fill in a place other than Santa Monica)" or "I couldn't get help in (other city, state or country), so I came here."

And, we're all paying millions of dollars annually for it. I have sympathy for those down on their luck, however our tax

money should go to Santa Monicans — to our children and those in need — not the down and out of the world.

Feinstein predicted the CEPS proposal would focus a light on the district's past fiscal policies. Critics claiming district financial incompetence is nothing new.

Over recent years, the SMMUSD has annually run in the red by millions of dollars. Last fiscal year, the district was nearly \$13 million in the hole due in part to the usual overspending and cuts in state support.

In order to meet the increasing deficits and preserve their children's educational programs, school supporters responded with a slew of tax increase proposals and now, municipal funding as bailouts.

In the fall, voters approved a \$225 increase to an existing parcel tax making up over \$6 million of the deficit. The cities of Santa Monica and Malibu kicked in another \$6 million, with the bulk of it coming from Santa Monica.

Many of the people on the SMMUSD financial oversight committee are in CEPS and also were behind the recent tax increase proposals. Their agenda: Give the schools all they want no matter who antes up.

With Zane (a homeowner and a parent) and others shilling for more school

money, the CEPS amendment has divided SMRR. Those who oppose the proposal are already being called anti-education child haters — a label that unfairly chills honest debate on the issue.

The big question is whether City Hall with its extensive resources should be required to subsidize another sovereign government agency, especially one with a long history of fiscal mismanagement.

On the other hand, city leaders desiring to change the world have consistently failed to recognize and meet basic resident priorities. If city politicians are forced to curtail their altruistic agenda to serve our children, then so be it.

In the end, the school district has no incentive to put its financial house in order while the city spends millions of dollars for social programs, a bloated municipal bureaucracy, "green" schemes and cheap rental housing for primarily foreign nationals who have little if any benefit for residents.

Sadly, our children's education is held hostage while well-intentioned politicians and special interests alike devise quick fixes and extort the rest of us.

(Bill Bauer is a longtime Santa Monica resident and a freelance writer).

LOCAL



Pickers make presence felt

PROTEST, from page 1

Workers are being evicted, they're moving out of state because they can't find work ... These are human beings."

She also wondered why she was the only SAG member who was visibly supporting the UFCW. She told union organizers she plans to call SAG President Melissa Gilbert and find out why more members aren't marching with her.

"This is a first step for someone who is in show business to show support and not just be apathetic," Curtis said. "I'm not here to be the front of the line, I'm here to be the back of the line."

The procession of marchers went from Second Street east on Santa Monica Boulevard, down the Third Street Promenade, east again on Santa Monica Boulevard and back to the Promenade. The group finally headed east on Broadway to Vons, where a rally was staged at noon. The arrests occurred at about 12:45 p.m.

Union supporters and strikers spoke about their rights to adequate health care, retirement plans and wages that company executives have been unwilling to budge on for the nearly five months since the strike began.

"We want them to get it over with — all the strikes we attend we hope will be effective," said Roylan Brown, 49, who worked at Albertsons in El Segundo as a lobby supervisor for seven years. "We've been out here so long. We never thought it would go on this long and we're hoping it doesn't go on any longer than this. This is very important to us, especially here in California, where (prices) are so high."

"(The union shouldn't back down), especially not now because we're working class," he added. "We need health benefits, we need them to survive. We pay taxes. We work for those benefits."

Brown made \$600 a week full-time and now makes \$240 a week on the picket line.

During the demonstration in the Vons parking lot, shoppers brave enough to walk into the store were swarmed by angry strikers who yelled at them while following them to the store's entrance. One striker said he was kicked in the leg by a woman.

And while Thursday's demonstration served as a reminder to company executives that the union isn't backing down, as well as to shoppers who are asked to shop elsewhere, the effectiveness of it remains to be seen. Past negotiations haven't produced much hope for the workers.

"We want to get back to work," said Mary Rosales, 35, who worked at Ralphs on National Boulevard and Sawtelle as a cashier for the past 12 years. "We're going down right now because the money they pay us is just for rent and for food. I'm getting behind on my bills. We're getting really depressed. The (union) pays me \$25 a day and it's not enough."

Rosales is a single mother of two who was making \$17.90 an hour part-time, plus health insurance. When her 7-month-old daughter got sick last week, she had to pay \$95 for the doctor visit and prescriptions — with no health care.

Union supporters say the local grocery store strike has implications nationwide and Thursday's protest just helps reinforce the message.

"Every little bit helps," said Mike Calderella, who has been a UFCW local 1442 representative for 24 years. "No one thing is going to win the strike ...

"We're going to salvage the health care for the supermarket industry. (In a worst



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
(Top) Denny Zane, former mayor and city councilman, as well as co-founder of Santa Monica's Renters Rights, is led away by Santa Monica Police officers on Thursday during a civil disobedience rally. (Below) Some shoppers remained brave enough to cross the picket line on Thursday in front of Vons on Lincoln Boulevard and Broadway, where more than 200 workers were demonstrating.

case scenario, if the supermarkets all became like Wal-Mart), the supermarket industry could be left without a viable health care program, for current workers and future workers. More people will end up on public assistance. It's going to be paid for by somebody through higher taxes."

As the strikers marched along the sidewalks and chanted slogans, merchants and bystanders watched them go by and offered support by clapping and honking their horns. An Albertsons truck passed the parking lot on Lincoln Boulevard and sounded the horn for nearly a minute while strikers cheered on.

Not everyone marching were union workers, however.

Jeri Deitrick was carrying a sign even though he's not a grocery store worker.

"I just felt that not shopping at those stores wasn't enough, I had to do more," said Deitrick, who works at UCLA. "The corporate greed is taking over. They want to bust the unions ... It's starting with the grocery workers."

Westlake resident Alicia Taylor watched the strikers gather at the Vons parking lot while she ate lunch at Boar's Deli across the street.

"They should get what they want, they work hard," she said. "I hope they get somewhere with this because this has been going on too long."

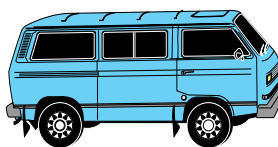
Taylor said she tries to honor the picket lines when she can.

"It really sucks when you break the line, but sometimes we have no choice," she said. "Gelson's is very expensive. I hope this is over soon so we can shop again. Besides, if you go to Vons in Westlake, there is nothing there, nothing but water."

— Lauren Bonifacio contributed to this story.

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- Create a team name and select your team's campsite
- Be enthusiastic and urge team members to Fundraiser. Most of the money will come from fundraising.

The next team captain's meeting for Relay For Life will be held at Santa Monica Place in the Community Room located on the 3rd floor. The meeting will be on Thursday, February 26, 2004, beginning at 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Parking is free.

Teams are forming now!

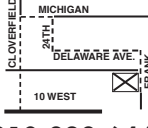
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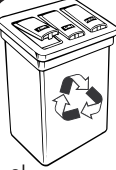
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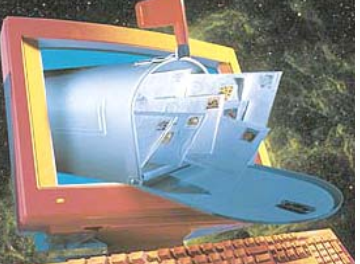
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Slowing economy causes deficit to climb by \$1B

TOM CHORNEAU
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — California's improving economy will not provide as big a boost to the state's budget problems as hoped, as estimates of tax revenues that will be collected through June 2005 were cut Wednesday by \$1 billion.

Legislative Analyst Elizabeth Hill, whose agency provides nonpartisan advice to the Legislature on budget issues, said she expects personal income growth to accelerate from 5.7 percent this year to 6 percent in 2005. But, because wages will not increase as much as she predicted only a month ago, Hill believes revenues to the state will be down about \$500 million this year and another \$500 million next year.

In her most comprehensive review to date of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed 2004-2005 budget, Hill said the state economy is improving, but not enough to cover over the state's spending problems.

As she reported in January, the state faces a \$17 billion shortfall next year that the governor's budget largely covers. She estimates that if all elements of Schwarzenegger's plan are adopted and voters approve a \$15 billion bond measure in March, the state will have a \$750 million shortfall by June 2005.

Because much of the governor's budget solutions provide just one-time savings, a new deficit of more than \$7 billion will begin to grow in the 2005-2006 fiscal year, she said.

Hill said Schwarzenegger's budget

remains a good starting place for lawmakers to begin the debate over how best to balance the state's books.

If state loses several pending court cases and doesn't negotiate more money from Indian tribes that run gambling casinos, next year's shortfall could increase by \$4 billion, Hill said.

While in the past Hill has emphasized her preference for using a mix of spending cuts and tax increases, she emphasized Wednesday a number of other cost-saving ideas.

Already, the administration has proposed suspending the minimum funding guaranteed to schools next year for a \$2 billion savings. Hill said suspending Proposition 98 guarantees covering this year and last year as well could save almost \$1 billion more and is still possible because final accounting has not been completed.

But the administration's idea of diverting money from road and transportation improvements is hurting the state's economy, Hill said, adding that \$4.7 billion is wasted every year in costs associated with lost time due to traffic congestion.

Although voters approved Proposition 42 in 2002, which requires that all of the sales taxes on motor vehicle fuel be used for transportation programs, much of that money has been used to shore up the general fund. She said that more than \$2.2 billion has been diverted from transportation programs since 2001.

Hill advocates repealing Proposition 42 and replacing it with a better guarantee for transportation projects.

Westly: If propositions fail, state will be broke by June

PROPOSITIONS, from page 1

zenegger sponsors both of them.

Westly said internal polls show an increasingly greater amount of people approve the propositions over time, as voters become more familiar with them. However, there is still concern that voters won't realize both need to be passed in order to become law. Proponents also worry that the number of items on the ballot will be confusing.

When asked by a reporter what would happen if the propositions were defeated, Schwarzenegger, who analysts have said may have tied his chances of reelection with the budget proposal, responded, "There is no, 'What if.' I don't think that way."

Opponents of the ordinance say it will cost each family in California more than \$2,000 in lost services or potential tax hikes. They also question whether the packaged propositions will really do what their backers contend they will.

But Feinstein said there's no feasible alternative.

If the propositions fail on March 2, the state will run out of money in June, according to Westly, which almost certainly would lead to a downgrade in the state's bond rating and further financial chaos.

Feinstein, a California native and leading Democrat who has been a U.S. Senator for the past 11 years, pointed to the broad support for the propositions and said she is optimistic voters will support

them. More than 130 groups have endorsed the budget propositions, including such ideologically disparate organizations as the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, the AFL-CIO and the League of Conservation Voters.

"It has to be solved — and it has to be solved now," Feinstein said.

**"There is no, 'What if.'
I don't think that way."**

— ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor of California

Thursday's meeting was the first time that Feinstein has appeared publicly with the Republican governor since he was elected, governor aides said. Westly and Schwarzenegger are co-chairs of "Californians for a Balanced Budget — Yes on Propositions 57 and 58." They have appeared together in four town hall-style meetings — in Fresno, Irwindale, Walnut Creek and San Diego.

As he closed the meeting, Westly offered to make side bets with members of the media as to the fate of the propositions.

It's unknown if there were any takers.

STATE



Nonprofit company attacks developing world diseases

BY PAUL ELIAS
AP Biotechnology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Victoria Hale is chief executive of the ultimate oxymoron: a nonprofit drug company.

From her office in San Francisco's financial district, she hopes to wipe out diseases that plague developing nations but are ignored by Western drug companies for lack of profit possibilities.

Hale's prescription is to gain marketing rights to promising drug candidates that are owned by drug companies but sit undeveloped in labs.

The drug industry spent \$32 billion on research and development in 2002, which yielded millions of possible drug compounds, many of which could fight diseases endemic to the developing world.

But with profit pressures, the companies largely focus on lucrative therapies for widespread diseases such as cancer and diabetes and distinctly Western worries such as penile dysfunction, baldness and other "lifestyle" afflictions.

There's simply no money in fighting the "black fever" in India or the exotic Chagas disease in Latin America.

"Every company discovers many, many more candidates than they can pursue," Hale said. "These are clear opportunities that just sit and collect dust."

So the former government drug regulator and Genentech Inc. scientist launched The Institute for OneWorld Health three years ago when she turned 40 — "Looking in the mirror, I asked, 'Let's be honest, what have you really done?'"

OneWorld is now gobbling up rights to drug candidates sitting on companies' shelves that could treat illnesses caused by parasites, such as kala azar — Hindi for "black fever" — and infant diarrhea, a leading cause of infant mortality around the world.

"When she first told me of her plans, I didn't believe it would work," said Alan Taylor, an executive with biotech firm Gilead Sciences Inc. and a OneWorld adviser. "But OneWorld has created a buzz throughout the industry."

Several similar private-public partnerships have emerged in recent years, including the Swiss giant Novartis' nonprofit Institute for Tropical Diseases and the New York-based Global Alliance for Tuberculosis Drug Development.

That's a significant departure from the historically antagonistic stance nonprofit groups and corporate America have taken toward each other in addressing global health issues.

"We are in the midst of a huge change in how these groups can work together," said Dr. Regina Rabinovich, infectious diseases director of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which funds many of these partnerships. "It's a global experiment and there will be some blind alleys. But there are some credible groups that are now pushing products forward."

The drug and biotechnology industries, notoriously secretive and guarded about their patent portfolios, are starting to realize the altruistic and public relations benefits such arrangements can have. Companies can also get tax writeoffs if they donate patents.

Recently, Chiron Corp. donated most commercial rights to the drug compound dubbed PA-824 to the tuberculosis alliance. The drug was being developed to

treat cancer but was also found to be effective against tuberculosis in preliminary experiments.

"Chiron doesn't have any reason to move this forward and our goal is to get that drug developed," said alliance spokeswoman Gwynne Oosterbaan. "Chiron has every incentive to hand it over to us."

"When (Victoria Hale) first told me of her plans, I didn't believe it would work."

— ALAN TAYLOR
OneWorld adviser

Oosterbaan said the alliance hopes to start human experiments sometime next year.

Two years ago, gene-mapping pioneer Celera Genomics donated the rights to a compound to treat Chagas disease, a Latin American affliction transmitted by an insect dubbed the "assassin bug" that causes heart failure.

Some 18 million people, mostly low-income rural residents, are infected with the disease and 45,000 die annually. Usually the disease doesn't show symptoms for up to 20 years, but the disease ultimately damages the heart and other organs.

"It made sense for us to donate it," Celera spokesman Rob Bennett said of the compound, known as K-777 and to be used initially in trials with animals. "They were well-positioned to move it forward and we weren't."

More recently, armed with a little more than \$10 million from the Gates Foundation, OneWorld has just started a large and pivotal human experiment in Bihar, India, that's testing a drug to treat kala azar.

Known medically as leishmaniasis, kala azar is carried by the sand fly and kills an estimated 200,000 people annually. Twelve million people are thought to be infected, mostly in India.

The milder form of the disease is characterized by skin sores and derisively has been dubbed "Baghdad Boil" by U.S. soldiers serving in Iraq. About 150 U.S. soldiers have been infected there, according to newspaper reports.

More severe forms of the disease symptoms include fever, weight loss, anemia and swelling of the spleen and liver.

The compound being tested, paromycin, was developed by a company now owned by Pfizer Inc., which donated it to the World Health Organization. The drug showed promise in earlier experiments but WHO shelved it anyway because of budget constraints. Now OneWorld has taken over.

"If this experiment works and this trial becomes successful I think it will attract the attention of many more companies and trust funds," said Dr. Shyam Sundar, director of the Kala-Azar Free and Charitable Medical Clinic in Bihar.

Sundar is in charge of OneWorld's human experiment, which expects to enroll 670 volunteers and hopes to use the results to apply to India drug regulators for approval next year.

"Everyone is watching to see if this can actually work," Sundar said.



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Sticky Fingers (Rolling Stones tribute)



Entertainment



Maura Tierney and Ray Romano (Left), and Christine Baranski and Gene Hackman (Right) star in the film 'Welcome to Mooseport.'



'Welcome to Mooseport' a nice place to visit but ...

Review

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

There's a reason most small towns *are* small towns — being there isn't all that exciting for most folks. "Welcome to Mooseport," like the sleepy Maine hamlet where the film

is set, certainly has pastoral charm, but there just isn't much going on. Nice place to visit, but you won't want to spend two hours there. Ostensibly a political comedy from Academy Award-winning writer Tom Schulman ("Dead Poets Society"), "Mooseport" conspicuously avoids any genuine commentary on modern electioneering. The main campaign issue here is an unlikely love quadrangle that ultimately leads to Gene Hackman delivering the most unpleasant onscreen kiss since he nearly swallowed Barbara Hershey in "Hoosiers." Sounds funny but, like most other moments in the film, it just isn't.

Ray Romano's performance in this, his big-screen debut, suggests he better stick with his eponymous sitcom for at least another year. His friendly neighborhood plumber, Handy Harrison, is a faltering fool so dense, he makes highbrows out of the rest of the clichéd small-town rubes who populate Mooseport. His long-suffering veterinarian girlfriend Sally (Maura Tierney) drops marriage proposal hints like campaign buttons, yet true to character, Handy is too stupid, too wishy-washy to take the bait. When wildly popular former President Monroe "Eagle" Cole (Hackman) — who's decided to ride out a messy divorce at his lakeside Mooseport vacation home — agrees to run for mayor and sets his sights on Handy's all-too-willing would-be wife, the mudslinging commences.

We never do discover the origin of Handy's fear of commitment and faintheartedness, and quite frankly, who gives a damn? There is so little texture to his relationship with Sally, that it's a wonder she ever agreed to go to dinner, let alone date this dolt for six years. Better to root for her to wind up with the former leader of the free world, because at least then she'd have *something* to talk about. Despite frequent implausible admonitions of a tattered legacy from his obsequious flak Bullard (Fred Savage — another guy who should have stuck with TV), the "Eagle" clearly has very little invested in the outcome of the election and couldn't give a broken campaign promise about Sally either. As someone points out, for Handy the stakes are "lose the election, lose the girl." It doesn't seem to matter all that much to any of the principals, so why should we care? Vote no on "Welcome to Mooseport."

(Rated PG for mild thematic elements and brief language.)

(Rated PG-13 for some brief sexual comments and nudity. Running time: 111 minutes)

Ryan's hope for 'Ropes' to keep aging gracefully

Review

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

As difficult as it is to accept for a generation of movie lovers who saw "Top Gun" in theaters, Meg Ryan is too old to be America's Sweetheart anymore. Her reign really ended in 1998 with "You've Got Mail," but it took the subsequent saccharine stiff "Hanging Up" and "Kate & Leopold" to convince the effervescent blonde that "cute and adorable" now belonged to Reese Witherspoon (though it's doubtful Reese, or any actress for that matter, will ever equal the sublime cuddliness of Meg circa "Joe Versus The Volcano" and "When Harry Met Sally"). Last year's "In The Cut" was 40-something-Meg's coming out party, with the actress baring it all in a lurid erotic thriller by Jane Campion, a filmmaker who will never be confused with Nora Ephron. The maturation of Meg continues in Charles S. Dutton's boxing drama, "Against The Ropes," which features Ryan as a highly fictionalized version of real life boxing manager Jackie Kallen.

As the film tells it, Kallen, who grew up around boxing and knows the sport inside out, is stuck in an unfulfilling job as a secretary at a Cleveland sports arena when she's presented with an opportunity by Midwest boxing kingpin Sam LaRocca (Tony Shalhoub of TV's "Monk"). Like most men in her life, LaRocca thinks Jackie's nothing but a dumb blonde, and



Omar Epps and Meg Ryan in 'Against the Ropes.'

plans to prove it by saddling her with a washed-up prizefighter. Sure enough the guy's a bum, but Jackie stumbles upon a street fighter named Luther Shaw (Omar Epps) and two careers are born. Luther's the real deal, and despite LaRocca's best efforts to thwart her, Jackie manages to get her undefeated middleweight plenty of exposure and a shot at the title. But as her star rises, Luther's ego gets bruised and a rift develops that threatens to knock out the Cinderella story.

This film is no champ, but it's not completely punch-drunk either. Ryan and Epps both hang tough and deliver despite being saddled with some weak dialogue and a story that loses focus midway through. Director Dutton, who also co-stars as Luther's seen-it-all trainer, can't decide whether to go "Erin Brockovich" or "Rocky," so he tries both. The result is a split decision that whiffs more than it connects.

(Rated PG-13 for crude language, violence, brief sensuality and some drug material)

'Eurotrip' could be eurotrash

Review

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

Let me go home. I wanna go home. This is the worst trip, I've ever been on ...

Vapid young American backpackers encounter virtually every played-out European stereotype in the book in this contemptible clunker from the writing team that excreted the abysmal adaptation of "The Cat in the Hat." Even the target audience — adolescent males who might get a rise out of lame gags about British soccer hooligans and rude Frenchmen, mixed with plenty of gratuitous boob shots — will likely be repelled by the film's relentless prosaicism. A better title for "Eurotrip," which was originally called "Ugly Americans," would be "EuroPASS."

Scotty Thomas (Scott Mechlowicz) has a Berlin-based pen pal named Mieke (Jessica Boehrs). Although they're both horny teens who've been sharing the most intimate details of their lives over the Internet for years, Scotty is somehow mistakenly under the impression that Mieke (a common name for girls in Germany) is a man. When Mieke makes a cyber-pass at him, simpleton Scotty

has a homophobic fit that scares off his potential paramour. He gets it straight soon enough, but by then Mieke's already blocked her e-mail account. Certain that this mystery woman is his true love — he met her on the Internet, she's gotta be a well-adjusted hottie, right? — Scotty enlists a few pals and heads to Europe in search of Mieke.

The group, which includes the requisite wisecrack best buddy (Jacob Pitts) and a pair of tiresome twins (Michelle Trachtenberg and Travis Wester), begin their cross-continent trek in London (no drinking age ... woo-hoo!), then head to France (nude beaches ... woo-hoo!), and Amsterdam (pot brownies and sex clubs ... woo-hoo!). Talk about mining some fertile comedic ground. The only thing missing is a bidet zinger. Eventually, finally, mercifully, they arrive at Mieke's place — how Scotty got her address and why he didn't simply call or write a letter is never addressed — only to discover that she's on holiday at the Vatican in Rome. So off they go again, and you don't need to be a dopey 18-year-old frat boy to guess what comes next: Pope jokes, dude, cuz that hat he wears sure is, like, weird and stuff.

(Rated R for sexuality, nudity, language and drug/alcohol content.)

ENTERTAINMENT



"Get A Life ... A Nightlife, That Is"

BY MAUREEN TOBIN & THOMAS YOUNG

Special to the Daily Press



Let us entertain you. Let us make you smile. Let us do a few tricks, some old and then some new tricks, we're very versatile. Just let us entertain you, and you'll have a real good time, yes sir, you'll have a real good time. (Sondheim — "Gypsy")

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■ Take a wonderful old house, remodel it, add a pleasing atmosphere and you have an exceptional Polish dining experience at **Warszawa** in Santa Monica. Opened in 1979 and constantly given rave reviews, including Elmer Dills and Zagat, Warszawa was created by Elina Lejman, the elegant owner/chef and the driving force behind this incredible dining experience. She is an impeccable professional, devoted to making this the preeminent Polish restaurant in the Los Angeles area.

With classical music playing, several intimate rooms beckon you in. Upon sitting down, you are served bread and butter along with a dish of the finger-licking-good tapenade — crushed olives to spread on your bread. You must taste the pierogi — very special Polish

"light and delicate pasta shells" filled with a zesty variety of mouth-watering fillings, all uniquely spiced and flavored. Wait until you taste the salads, different from any you have ever eaten, but traditional Polish favorites bursting with tastes that make your palate sing with joy. The stroganoff is gorgeously seasoned, spiced with egg drop dumplings and certainly different from what you may be used to. The "Famous Polish Hunters" stew is a unique tasting experience and the stuffed cabbage is light, aromatic and cooked perfectly. Along with a full dessert menu is a full bar for your enjoyment. The service is impeccable, and a continental crowd of all ages frequent Warszawa's all the time. It is no wonder this place is so popular and always busy, so make reservations. Moderate prices. Open every day except Mondays. 1414 Lincoln Blvd (310) 393-8831.

From "home" at the Warszawa, go out back to "The Yard." Elina's son-in-law, Sean Norris, and his partner, Jeff Decker, envisioned the ultimate open-air nightspot. They are the upcoming impresarios that are essen-

tial to know so you'll want to be on their A-list. So much is happening here. There is a huge drive-in sized screen, live music and comedy. Then there are monthly short film festivals, open mike nights, Yard Rock, popular DJ's, late-night partying, poetry, everything for the vital night lifer. This has become a very hot spot. For now, there is no cover, but it could change as the crowds swell. Sean and Jeff have taken this big open space, put an outside bar, tables and chairs, umbrellas and a popcorn machine. The full menu from Warszawa is always available. Their regular hours are 5 p.m. to 2 a.m., Thursday through Saturday, but many events take place on Wednesdays and Sundays. Their web site is www.theyardfest.com. From there you can garner info to call them, or get on their e-mail list. 1414 Lincoln Blvd., (310) 260-6498.

■ "Beware, you are entering, 'Outlaw Country!'" That's **Outlaws**, Playa Del Rey, a "Grubbin' An' Guzzlin' Establishment." This Zagat-rated saloon has been nourishing the townsfolk for 20 years. Just recently a new sheriff rode into town to tame this lawless place. Her name, Sophie Yoon, a high-spirited, bright, competent woman, who has kept the same great attitude, spirit and character, while making particular improvements so the food is top-notch. Not to mention keeping the Outlaw Library's old tradition of exchanging your old books for ones unread. Outlaws' library motto is, "Steal a Book. Bring one Back." After all, outlaws read too,

even if they're only Wanted posters.

At this ranch-style restaurant, Sophie desires folks to come in with a big appetite and leave happy and full. Heck, the menu alone will cause you to gulp. These are man-sized meals. When you order the Bandit Burger, a half-pound of the finest beef this side of Kansas, your eyes will roll. If you got yourself a real appetite then shoot for the Desperado, a two-pound burger with all the fixings that's supposed to serve four, but if you got the hankering to eat, then go for it. For you greenhorns, get yourself a fresh salad or homemade soup. Maybe beef's not to your likin', then try a Chicken Chest dinner or garden burger. Thomas had the hefty Ground Beef Steak, Maureen had a hankering for the Tri Tip. Mmmm good. We even managed a couple doozies for dessert. Outlaws is not for dieters. For those dusty, just off-the-trail cowpokes in need some refreshment to wash down their meals, step up to the rail where you'll find Michael Strand, the best barkeep this side of the Mississippi. He'll offer you a choice of 150 foreign and domestic beers and other drinks to quench your thirst. The town regulars, ages 20-70's love it here. Open every day, Monday through Friday, lunch and dinner, Saturday and Sunday, breakfast, lunch and dinner. Lots of parking. 230 Culver Blvd. (310) 822-4040.

(Please e-mail your comments or suggestions to smdp4nightlife@yahoo.com, and keep having fun.)

MUSIC SCENE

Concord crooner will open up songbook on city stage

By Daily Press staff

Concord recording artist Gary LeMel will make a rare Los Angeles singing appearance at The Vic, 1640 Main St. in Santa Monica, next week.

LeMel will perform on Thursday, Feb. 26, with sets at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

LeMel will be backed by Keith Piedmont on saxophone, and a rhythm section led by Jon Mayer on piano, with Chris Colangelo on bass, and Roy McCurdy on drums. LeMel's repertoire of standards will be culled from the six albums he has recorded.

The "Great American Songbook" has recently been rediscovered through the success of Rod Stewart, Michael Buble and Peter Cincotti, among others. LeMel's first album, on VeeJay Records, in 1966, was recorded at a time when standards were becoming extinct due to the onslaught of rock 'n roll. Listening to LeMel's singing, one becomes readily aware of the sincerity and conviction with which he approaches such timeless material.

Previous to his association with Concord Records, LeMel recorded for United Artists, Atlantic and other labels. Among the tunes contained on his Concord CD, The Best of Times, are "Call Me Irresponsible," "Here's to Life," "When I Fall in Love," and "My Foolish Heart."

During the nearly 17 years as president of Worldwide Music at the Warner Bros. film studio, under LeMel's supervision, Warner's music department received 16 Oscar nominations. This year the studio is nominated in the "Best Song" category for "A Kiss at the End of the Rainbow," from "The Mighty Wind." In 1986 the Oscar was awarded to Warner's music department for the "Best Score" for "Round Midnight," the well-remembered drama of a fading jazz musician that starred the late Dexter Gordon. Coincidentally, the Oscar ceremony takes place three days after LeMel's appearance at The Vic.

The cover charge is \$20 per person and there is a two item minimum. For reservations, call (888) 367-5299.

'Prospects': Exaggeration not sincerest form of flattery

BY JAMIE WETHERBE

Special to the Daily Press



An Academy Award-nominated director is reintroducing the melodrama to Santa Monica.

"Golden Prospects," a time-honored tale of bad things happening to good people, begins with a family of farmers setting out from Nebraska in the early 1900s with notions of fulfilling their orange grove dreams in California. But the Goodmans are soon swindled out of their money and must make a go of it in Los Angeles with nothing but their wits and Midwestern morals.

The Neurotic Young Urbanites Theater Company and the Powerhouse Theater (3116 Second St.) portray this story of misfortune, making repeated efforts to keep in line with the city's past.

"Los Angeles history is really just a collection of swindles," said writer and director Colin Campbell, of Silverlake. "This town is built on it."

Midwesterners originally flocked to Los Angeles to buy orange groves, and that industry boomed and busted, said Campbell. Then oil was discovered with the same boom and bust. Now the movie industry is exploding.

The acting's so bad, it's good — just the way Campbell drew

it up.

"Melodrama doesn't mean bad acting," said Campbell, who was nominated in 2001 for an Academy Award for his short film "Seraglio." The actors' over-the-top gestures set to live piano music are both inspired by the few melodramas of the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Campbell said the films inspired him to write a melodrama about this city.

"Los Angeles is all about selling," Campbell said. "People still come in droves and some of them do find their dreams ... and manage to do wonderful things in spite of it all."

This spirit embodies seems "Prospects."

Campbell said he's in the process of rewriting the script — which received the Janet & Maxwell Salter playwriting award — into the modern silent film, "The Sad and Lamentable True Tale of Dr. Lance Zango."

Campbell is a regular participant of Instant Films — where his films have won best writer and director awards. He has directed for the Mark Taper Forum's New Works Festival, A.S.K. Theater's Common Ground Festival, the Actors Gang, Cornerstone Theater, Lincoln Center Directors Lab and the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival.

His second short film "S.U.V. LUV" will soon appear at film festivals.

The Urbanites — founded by a group of New York University graduates — have been performing in Los Angeles for close to a decade. The group has earned several Garland and Dramalogue awards.

For more information or tickets, call 310-572-6748, or visit www.powerhousetheatre.com.

California dreamin' goes all wrong

BY HEATHER RICH

Special to the Daily Press



Midwesterners Carl and Laura Goodman are brimming with anticipation at the prospect of owning an orange grove in Los Angeles. With their twin infants in tow, they journey from Nebraska to "Los Angel-ees" in hopes of making their fortune in the new melodramatic "Golden Prospects."

Of course, starry-eyed Carl is swiftly swindled out of the family's \$10,000 nest egg by a larcenist worm who convinces him that a field of cactus are, in fact, "orange bushes."

At the realization that he is now completely broke, poor Carl drops dead on the spot, leaving his innocent wife and children to fend for themselves in early 20th Century Los Angeles. Not the easiest place for a bunch of transplanted Cornhuskers to maneuver.

What follows is an exquisite blend of tragic comedy, incorporating everything from opium to incest to botched suicide attempts in hilarious fashion.

The acting is superb, perfectly overdone to fit the genre. The actors' grand gestures explore every inch of joy, pain and desperation — of which there is plenty. All of these emotions are wonderfully complemented by live piano music.

The audience is encouraged to express their sentiment by cheering the heroes and booing the villains. This adds a genuine feel to the time, as the play is inspired by the few true melodramas of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Throughout the performance, the audience can feel the undercurrent of compari-

son to everyday life in Los Angeles, as mentioned by writer and director Colin Campbell.

Campbell earned an Oscar nomination in 2001 for his short film, "Seraglio." His script for "Golden Prospects" was recently awarded the Janet & Maxwell Salter playwriting award.

The play itself does not hold back in poking fun at the expensive, crowded, gas-guzzling city Los Angeles has become, nor does it censor itself in terms of our dependency on and thirst for oil.

The script is smart and witty in a conspicuous manner and the actors are compelling. I found myself near the edge of my seat on several occasions. Were it not for the dialogue, you might truly believe you were watching an old silent film in the early 1900s.

"Golden Prospects" runs Friday through Sunday nights until March 6, and tickets are \$20.

For more information, call (310) 572-6748, or visit www.powerhousetheatre.com.

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2325 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica**NATIONAL****Age wave has doctors practicing
their bedside manners once again****BY MADISON J. GRAY**
Associated Press Writer**NEW YORK** — Lillian Faden sits in a wheelchair surrounded by a doctor, nurse and medical student. They are monitoring her vital signs as she tells them how she feels.

She jokes through the slight discomfort of having blood drawn: "Honey, you've gotta put up with the good and the bad and take the bitter with the better."

Faden could be undergoing the treatment in a hospital or a clinic, but instead she is at home, in her comfortable Upper East Side apartment. She tells the doctor that at times her breath is short, and she has trouble getting around, but she associates that with aging, and has no problem describing her ailments to those giving care to her.

The 88-year-old widow is receiving care through Weill Cornell Medical Center's "House Calls" program, which brings medical care and treatment to homebound elderly patients.

"This is a much more natural environment," said the physician, Dr. Lisa Honkanen, who said her team is able to monitor a patient's heart, breathing, blood, and bodily functions with portable equipment. "We get to see everything here."

The program reflects the gradual return of doctors taking medical care into the homes of patients across the country, said Constance Row, executive director of the American Academy of Homecare Physicians.

Citing government figures, she said the number of Medicare-funded home visits in 2002 had climbed about 13 percent nationwide from the mid-1990s — an uptick propelled by a 50 percent increase in Medicare reimbursement in 1998.

After many decades when medical practitioners routinely visited patients at home, the image of the kindly doctor climbing the front steps with black bag and stethoscope had all but vanished amid the growth of medical specialties, managed care systems and sophisticated office-based ambulatory treatment.

But economics aside, those models are not always sufficient for people

with chronic illness or disabling physical conditions requiring long-term care, Row said.

"One pill one time is not going to fix it and there's a need for ongoing management," she said.

Programs like Weill Cornell's have dual purposes — community outreach and training of medical students. Started in 1997, it now serves about 70 homebound elderly.

The program's founder, Dr. Veronica LoFaso, said a medical team can perform a thorough exam in the home without the patient being burdened with travel to an office, clinic or hospital.

"Family members are desperate to keep their loved ones at home," she said. "But it's impossible to do that if you don't have care."

Several New York hospitals have similar home visit programs, which are based geographically so doctors can easily get to their patients. One of the oldest is St. Vincent Hospital's 30-year-old "Community Medicine" program, which serves about 220 people.

"We often find that we can do a lot more in the home, and patients don't always require hospitalizations," said Dr. F. Russell Kellogg, a geriatrician and chairman of St. Vincent's program. "Over the course of a person's care, we might identify problems that would have required inpatient care that might not have been identified."

In programs like St. Vincent's and Weill Cornell's, the cost is between \$180 and \$200 per visit. Private donations pay for what the federal and state government do not.

Similar programs exist throughout the country, operating largely the same way, and many are led by advocates for a return of home visits.

"For many, there is no ongoing medical care until they are sick enough to go to the emergency room," said Dr. Peter Boling, professor of medicine at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond whose House Calls program has been running since 1984. "It makes more sense to take mobile health care providers to them."

Boling has been a longtime supporter of such programs and says it

will take more advocates, consumer demand and publicity to gain support in the medical community.

Although home visit programs are not especially profitable for hospitals, they can stave off unwanted costs.

"If the patients are able to leave the hospital earlier because they have home care, then having a house call program ... can have a way of taking care of patients without cost to the hospital," Row said.

Dr. Thomas Cornwell, medical director of the Wheaton, Ill.-based HomeCare Physicians, agreed, saying families find it better to have their loved ones cared for — and even die — outside of a hospital setting.

"With house calls, it prepares us for the inevitability and there are protocols for that," said Cornwell, whose program serves counties west of Chicago. "They can make their wishes known if they make a turn for the worse."

But for all the potential of the growth of house calls, bureaucracy is a hindrance in at least some cases.

"The bigger story is why this is so hard," said Dr. Gresham Bayne, whose San Diego-based Call Doctor Medical Group was forced to drop 750 patients and close its Riverside, Calif., center because of skyrocketing malpractice insurance rates. (He says the rates are mistakenly applied to home care physicians in the same fashion as nursing homes.)

"Until the public is aware how powerful this type of care is, bureaucrats can get away with anything."

Some analysts suggest the demand for home visits will increase as Americans are living far longer than in the past. By 2014, the population of those 65 and older will reach 44.6 million — up from 35.6 million in 2002, according to the 2000 Census.

"Everybody in the country has their head in the sand about the age wave coming in the next 10 years," said Dr. Joanne Schwartzberg, director of Aging and Community Health for the American Medical Association. "Nobody is prepared for it."

Schwartzberg said patients benefit from home-visit programs, and providers can find economic sense in them, too.

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American troops back to Haiti? Don't count on it

BY GEORGE GEDDA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A decade ago, President Clinton dispatched 20,000 troops to help restore democracy in Haiti during a political crisis there. A repeat performance is highly unlikely this year, officials say, even though Haiti is once again bordering on chaos.

For one thing, in 1994 there was an elected president-in-waiting, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, ready to replace the military junta that had deposed him three years earlier.

Haitians were eager to have him back, and there was joy on the streets when Aristide flew back to Port-au-Prince a month after the U.S. military forced out the coup regime.

Aristide is president again but much of his support has frittered away in the face of accusations that elections were rigged in 2000 and that he has violently suppressed dissent and allowed corruption to flourish while the populace suffers.

If the United States orchestrated his removal it would be a matter of replacing an elected president with someone who had no claim at all to lead the country. This, officials note, would hardly qualify as striking a blow for democracy.

So for now the administration policy is to stick with Aristide for lack of a credible

"There is frankly no enthusiasm right now for sending in military or police forces to put down the violence."

— COLIN POWELL
Secretary of State

alternative, and push for a political solution to the armed rebellion that is sweeping through Haiti.

"There is frankly no enthusiasm right now for sending in military or police forces to put down the violence," Secretary of State Colin Powell said this week.

In 1994, Clinton was under pressure from the Congressional Black Caucus to reinstate Aristide. Clinton also had a mandate from the U.N. Security Council to use all means necessary to achieve that result.

A U.S. economic embargo, while failing to force out the military government, was causing Haitians even more hardship than usual. Also, there were 14,000 Haitian refugees being housed at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Naval Base, Cuba.

The U.S. military wanted the Haitians repatriated but could do so only if the repressive regime they had fled was deposed and the elected government reinstalled.

Many supported the U.S. invasion because of the sinister nature of the regime led by Gen. Raoul Cedras and his

colleagues. They were believed responsible for the deaths of thousands.

None of these elements are present these days.

Among the congressional dissenters a decade ago was Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C. "Aristide may have won an election, but he's not likely to win a medal for promoting true democracy," Helms thundered on the eve of the invasion.

Nowadays, many in the administration would agree with Helms.

Aristide's government has accomplished little but, then again, he has received minimal support from Washington, which contends that he has violated democratic norms. Assistance from the United States and other donor countries has been limited in recent years to food and other forms of humanitarian aid.

"They've cut off aid to the government and starved them of resources," says James Dobbins, a former State Department Haiti expert. "They've gone to the opposite extreme of the Clinton administration."

Dobbins believes it was a mistake for the 15-nation Caribbean Community, and not the United States, to captain the international mediation effort in Haiti.

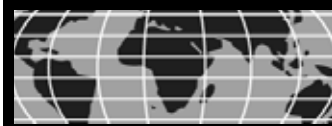
It might have made a big difference, he said, if the administration had sent an experienced negotiator to Haiti armed with a proposal for a political solution on which both Democrats and Republicans could agree. As things stand, there is no end in sight to the Haiti crisis.

While the administration generally is leaving the diplomacy to others, it knows that a sudden refugee surge from Haiti could be a political land mine.

Jimmy Carter is an authority on that subject. Between April and September of 1980, the Carter White House allowed 125,000 Cuban refugees to land in Florida. Carter was blamed for arrival of so many unwelcome visitors, and Ronald Reagan won the state handily that November.

And many analysts believe Clinton lost the only election of his life in 1980 because a number of Cuban refugees were sent to Fort Chaffee in Arkansas, where some rioted. He won back the Arkansas governorship in 1982.

The Bush White House, not surprisingly, wants disgruntled Haitians to stay put and not flee to Florida, especially in this election year. As the presidential balloting in 2000 showed, how Floridians vote is no small matter.



WORLD BRIEFLY

Death toll in train blaze eclipses 300

By The Associated Press

NEYSHABUR, Iran — Rescuers choking on fumes put out the blaze Thursday in dozens of train cars carrying fuel and chemicals that derailed and exploded in northern Iran, while the province's governor said 309 people were now confirmed dead in the tragedy.

Bulldozers and cranes were used to sort through the debris of villages and train wreckage 20 miles east of Neyshabur. Emergency workers collected human remains torn by Wednesday's blast, which was so powerful it devastated five villages, collapsing mud homes.

Burning freight cars from the derailment were put out shortly before dawn Thursday, with firefighters persisting through the night despite freezing temperatures and fumes.

Hassan Rasouli, governor of Iran's northeastern Khorasan province, told reporters 309 bodies had been recovered by midday Thursday. He said 460 people had been injured.

The explosion occurred hours after runaway train cars carrying fuel, industrial chemicals and cotton derailed, overturned and caught fire in northeastern Iran.

Haitian officials stand by their man

By The Associated Press

CAP-HAITIEN, Haiti — Haiti's government rebuffed proposals that President Jean-Bertrand Aristide step down to end a bloody uprising, while rebels threatened the Caribbean nation's second-largest city.

Police took refuge in their stations, making clear they were too scared to patrol the streets of Cap-Haitien amid fears that rebels already have infiltrated the northern

port and more were headed that way.

The rebels have chased police from more than a dozen towns and cut supply lines to northern Haiti from Port-au-Prince, the capital to the south, and from the western Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti.

U.S. officials worry the current crisis would only worsen if Aristide is forced to flee. One option being internally discussed is a transfer of power, with Aristide's consent, to a temporary governing board made up of Haitians who would run the country until a new president was elected. It is not clear how much support that proposal has at top levels of the Bush administration.

Aristide rebuffed Bush administration suggestions that he convene early presidential elections as a way to defuse the crisis, a senior U.S. official said Wednesday.

Ex-Enron CEO in the crosshairs

By The Associated Press

HOUSTON — The government believes it is ready to present a case against Jeffrey Skilling, the former Enron Corp. chief executive who resigned less than four months before the company shattered in scandal.

Skilling was expected to appear before a federal judge and face criminal charges Thursday related to the company's collapse, sources told The Associated Press.

The charges come almost exactly two years after Skilling bucked the trend of former Enron executives invoking their Fifth Amendment rights before Congress, telling two panels he knew nothing about serious problems at the energy trader before he quit after only six months as CEO.

Two sources close to the investigation, who spoke on

condition of anonymity, said Wednesday that Skilling was expected to surrender to the FBI early Thursday and appear in court to face charges.

Barring any last minute delays, Skilling, 50, would be the highest-profile former Enron executive to date to face criminal charges.

Skilling's former boss, Enron founder and former chairman Kenneth Lay, has not been charged, and the sources said it was unclear if he would become a defendant.

Both men, through their lawyers, have maintained their innocence of any wrongdoing related to Enron's failure.

True Lies: Guardsman foiled by agents

By The Associated Press

FORT LEWIS, Wash. — A National Guardsman accused of trying to pass intelligence to U.S. military personnel who were posing as al-Qaida operatives, allegedly telling the phony terrorists that "I share your cause."

Spc. Ryan G. Anderson is charged with three counts involving attempts to supply intelligence to the enemy. He was charged Feb. 12, but the Army did not immediately release that information until Wednesday.

In the first count, Anderson, also known as "Amir Abdul Rashid," is alleged to have attempted to provide information about U.S. Army troop strength, movements, equipment, tactics and weapons systems, as well as methods of killing U.S. Army personnel and vulnerabilities of Army weapons systems and equipment.

Anderson is also alleged to have communicated by "oral, written and electronic communication" to the supposed "terrorists" that "I wish to meet with you, I share your cause, I wish to continue contact through conversations and personal meetings."

Anderson was arrested Feb. 12, just weeks before his brigade was to leave for duty in Iraq. Anderson, 26, of Lynnwood, is a tank crew member from the Fort Lewis-based 81st Armor Brigade. The 2002 Washington State University graduate converted to Islam in college.

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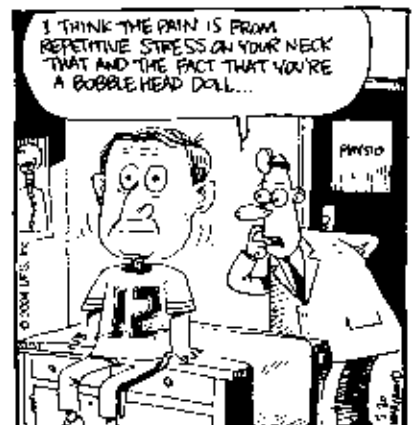
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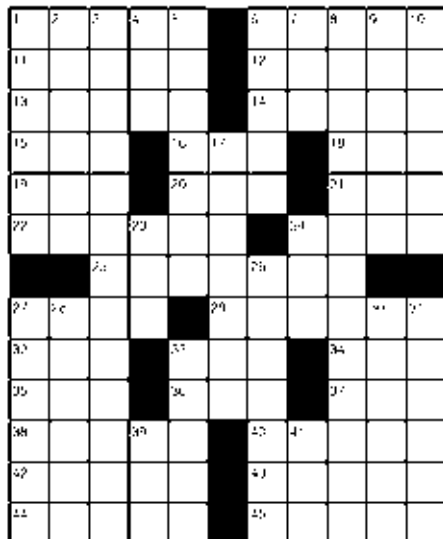
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Suggested donation \$10.00
\$5 for students

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ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP meeting. Last Wednesday of the month; at Sunrise Assisted Living, Pacific Palisades call (310)573-9545/Linda.

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Yard Sales

EVERYTHING OLD & New
Yard Sale Saturday 2/21 in Santa Monica 9am-3pm
1248 18th St. Furniture & Computer stuff

GARAGE SALE-WE need to get rid of good stuff! Saturday 2/21 8am-12noon 1034 18th Street Between California & Washington

MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE Sale clothing, fabric, furniture, vintage collectibles, 9am-2pm Saturday 2/21 1117 24th Street

Obituaries

PALFY, TOM: Born Aug. 6, 1952 in Cleveland, Ohio. Tom was the only child of Sandor & Ysabel Palfy and was the last surviving member of his family. Tom was employed at the Radisson Huntley Hotel for 13 yrs., and Restoration Hardware, SM for 3 years. He was a regular at Gold's Gym in Venice. Prior to his move to LA, Tom lived in NY, Boston, and Europe with his longtime companion: Peter Hamburger. He was a radio disc jockey in New Hampshire after graduating from WIXY School of Broadcasting. Tom will be greatly missed by many friends and co-workers. A memorial service is planned for Sat. Feb. 28, 2004, at St. Augustine's by the Sea, 1227 4th Street, S.M. at 2:00pm. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made, in Tom's memory to APLA or the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center.

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All vehicles plus tax and license plus documentation fee.
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\$19.95

Inspect brake friction material, caliper operation, rotors, drums, hoses and connections. Inspect parking brake for damage and proper operation. Rotate and inspect four tires. Dual-rear-wheel vehicle extra. See Service Advisor for details.

Must mention this ad at time of write up. Taxes extra.
Expires 6/30/04

**4-wheel alignment
& Tire Inspection**
\$69.95

Check and adjust camber and toe. Check tread depth and condition all four tires. Additional parts and labor may be required on some vehicles. See Service Advisor for details.

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**10%
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SERVICE BILL

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**Santa Monica Ford
will meet or beat any
OEM tire price**

10% OFF any body repair over \$2500
**10% OFF of parts purchased
from the parts dept.**

**2-wheel alignment
& Tire Inspection**
\$39.95

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Oil Change & Oil Filter Replacement, Lube Hinges, Latches & Applicable Chassis Parts, Silicone Protection of Window Weather Strips, Check Fluid Levels & Top Off to Factory Specifications, Inspect Cooling System, Hoses & Belts, Check Running Lights for Proper Operation, Check Suspension System, Inspect Exhaust System for Corrosion, Inspect & Rotate Tires, Adjust Pressures, Multi-Point Inspection Report Card

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