

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

24, 34, 14, 9, 5

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 8, 0, 7

Evening picks: 5, 0, 1

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 8, Gorgeous George

2nd Place: 3, Hot Shot

3rd Place: 2, Lucky Star

Race Time: 1:41.65



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Art comes to life: In a 1999 episode of TV's "The Simpsons," Homer became a temporary multibillionaire by accidentally inventing a "tomacco" plant that sprouted tobacco-bred tomatoes that were hopelessly addictive from even a single bite. Inspired (and hoping to draw attention to the show's anti-smoking message), Rob Baur of Lake Oswego, Ore., tried to grow such a plant and has somewhat succeeded, although a forensic researcher believes that only the plant itself, and not the fruit, contains nicotine. In February, he announced that he would auction off the golf-ball-sized fruit.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When I go to the beauty parlor, I always use the emergency entrance. Sometimes I just go for an estimate."

— Phyllis Diller

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Chamber scouts political players

Chamber of Commerce looks to prop up candidates

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — City Council candidates who run on a platform that includes ridding the city of its homeless population, bringing more parking downtown, easing traffic congestion and making City Hall more efficient will likely get an endorsement from the Chamber of Commerce.

In response to what they perceive as an unresponsive government, chamber officials hope to influence city policy by electing their own candidates into office. Chamber officials met last week with hoteliers and restaurateurs to find out what they want addressed by potential City Council candidates. And not surprisingly, the issues that have been top concerns for years — the increasing homeless population, a lack of parking, too much traffic and the bureaucracies of City Hall — are what business owners say make their lives difficult here.

The chamber, which has never endorsed City Council candidates, established a political action committee last year to find office seekers to run this fall who will advocate for business owner's interests.

The chamber has for years attempted to protect businesses, but its members frequently butt heads with policy makers in City Hall. The majority of the City Council are members of

Santa Monicans For Renters Rights, a liberal and well-supported political party in the city.

"All I ask is that I have some access and someone who will listen to me."

— TIM DUBOIS

Casa Del Mar and Shutters on the Beach

As a result, the chamber's interests aren't priority and are in the minority when it comes to local politics, business owners say. However, if candidates can be propped up with the help of the chamber's endorsement and fundraising, the organization might be able to put some of its own in office and make some changes in Santa Monica, business owners hope.

At the very least, business officials want to

feel as though their concerns aren't falling on deaf ears.

Tim Dubois, who represents two beachfront hotels — Casa Del Mar and Shutters on the Beach — said in the 11 years of working in Santa Monica and being one of the larger employers, no City Council members have asked him what he thought about potential laws they were considering and how they would impact his business.

"All I ask is that I have some access and someone who will listen to me," he told the committee. "I don't want any special favors or any special treatment ... I just want someone to ask my opinion."

And while Dubois and others feel their government is unresponsive, the City Council would say its primary goal is to respond to residents and businesses, who often have conflicting desires.

"The council views itself as responsive to

See CHAMBER, page 6



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Officers and detectives from the Los Angeles and Santa Monica police departments on Monday investigate a crime scene on Pico Boulevard after a man wanted for an armed robbery led them to Santa Monica. Police fatally shot the suspect.

Pursuit turns deadly in SM

By Daily Press staff

DOWNTOWN — Police fatally shot a Malibu man in front of Santa Monica High School early Monday after he led them on a high speed pursuit throughout Los Angeles for more than hour.

Nicholas Hans Killinger, 23, was shot shortly before 6 a.m. on Pico Boulevard near Sixth Street after Killinger rammed his vehi-

cle into a Los Angeles Police car. The pursuit began at 4:30 a.m. after Killinger robbed a gas station in Agoura Hills at knifepoint, police said. Killinger reached speeds of up to 80 miles per hour as he led police throughout the city, including driving on the wrong side of the 101 Freeway, all of which was aired live by news helicopters.

See PURSUIT, page 6

\$2M to be spent on 'consent'

(Editor's note: This is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures which appear on the upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agenda. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the City Council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past).

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

COUNCIL CHAMBERS — More than \$2 million is expected to be spent tonight on everything from unexpected costs in building the new library to buying hydrogen-powered vehicles for city staff and a boat for the police department.

The boat, a personal watercraft for the Santa Monica Police Department's Harbor Patrol, will only cost City Hall a buck. The SMPD received a grant from American Honda Motor Co. to lease a Honda AquaTrax

See CONSENT, page 7

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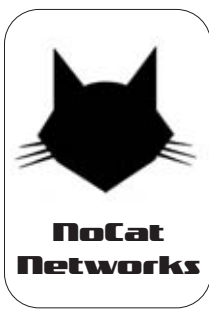
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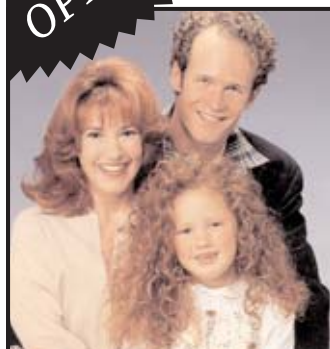
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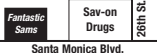
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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Play today as a mixed bag. Move key matters to early in the day for success. You could be disillusioned by a friend whom you have always counted on. You need to take a hard look at expenses, whether you want to or not. Your intuition pays off. Tonight: Your treat.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Take your time until you are ready to proceed. You could find that the unexpected occurs with a goal and/or a friendship. You might need to determine what a boss feels or thinks. Your personality opens up the door. Tonight: You're all smiles. Find a friend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Follow through on a long-term goal in the morning. A boss might be a bit unpredictable. Read the Aries message for a clue. You might want to leave the late afternoon open. You could need this time for yourself or to complete a job. Tonight: Take your time.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Carefully listen to what others say. A misunderstanding could happen when you least expect it. Evaluate what is going on, especially if you hear strange news this afternoon. A meeting proves to be instrumental. Tonight: Do only what you want.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ How you see someone could change in the next few weeks. Listen to a child or loved one at a distance. He or she has much to share. You'll gain through this conversation and get valuable information. Take charge at work in the afternoon. Tonight: Get as much done as possible.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ What you say makes a difference, and those around you hear it loud and clear. Carefully think about a long-term investment, especially if it involves someone who might be acting a little strange right now. Tonight: Play away.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Others play the lead role, and you might want to sit back and observe. You see someone you thought you knew display a high level of anger. You also see a risk as being close to impossible. Use your creativity at work or in your daily life. Tonight: Choose a physical activity to help reduce stress.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Push as hard as you can to clear up a problem with a partner or a domestic issue. Investments in real estate should be postponed at best. You will learn more soon enough. Save the late afternoon to network or socialize. Tonight: Put on the charm.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You might be playful and full of chitchat, but someone else, especially at work, could be on the warpath. No matter what you say, it will be wrong. Loosen up with a loved one; share more of what is happening. Tonight: Relax your frayed nerves.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Basics count, and you follow through on what needs to happen. You need to explore and gather more information about financial matters. You discover that exploring and research are most effective. A creative approach gets sound results. Tonight: Play away.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ What you say could make a difference to a relative or someone you hang with, but a roommate or close loved one could be on the warpath. You see that this person might be trying to give you a hard dose of reality. Tonight: Do something special for this difficult person.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Handle a money matter instinctively, though you could feel deceived by someone close. You could be hard-pressed not to lose your temper. You see others in a new light because of what happens. Schedule talks for late in the afternoon. Tonight: Be spontaneous.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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



Samohi Vikings reach their stride in playoffs

Local Sports



THE HOT CORNER

By Jonathan Lee

As the winter sports season winds down, the Samohi Vikings are finding success on just about every team. Every team, except for girls water polo, has made the playoffs. Many teams are still competing in the playoffs.

■ After one of the most successful regular seasons in its history, the boys basketball team has advanced to the second round of the California Interscholastic Federation playoffs. On Feb. 20, the team notched a 78-59 victory against the Diamond Bar Brahmas. Supported by a large home crowd, the Vikings were able to dominate throughout the game in almost all facets.

The team will travel to play the Downey Vikings tonight at 7:30 p.m. Hot off a 60-35 win against Schurr, Downey figures to provide more of a challenge to Samohi than Diamond Bar. However, Samohi will have a clear height advantage — Downey's main rebounding source, senior center **Moore Murshon**, will have to compete against Samohi's 6' 5" senior **Tim McGrath**; 6' 6" senior **Greg Walker**, and 6' 7" junior center **Devin Packard**. Senior **Urian Barragan**, Downey's coring leader, will probably be the toughest player for Samohi to guard. Neither team will most likely be able to overwhelm the other. However, Samohi's stockpile of tall players will give the team a distinct advantage over their shorter opponent.

■ The girls basketball team also was able to reach the playoffs this season but was defeated in the first round. On Feb. 21, the Lady Vikings played at Valencia. Considering the distance, an impressive audience showed up to give support. At half-time, the Lady Vikings were only down by one point and felt confident heading into the third quarter. However, Valencia was able to convert 11 of 19 free throws in the third quarter. Samohi was unable to counter and lost 43-71. Players like sophomore center **Julia Dito**, and juniors **London King** and **Amanda McGrew** attempted to get their team back in the game, but McGrew fouled out in the fourth quarter.

■ Both the boys and girls soccer teams are competing in the second round of their respective playoffs. The girls won the Ocean League title and the boys won the Bay League title, but both are still hungry for more wins in the playoffs. The girls, led by seniors **Claire Beitcher**, **Emily Grand** and **Amy Kearsley**, recorded a 3-1 home win against Atascadero on Feb. 21. The Lady Kickers will move on to play Mayfair on Feb. 25 at home at 3 p.m. The boys face Corona del Mar today on Samohi's home field at 3 p.m.

Support at home games would be appreciated by all the teams still competing in the playoffs. There is no admission fee for the soccer games and the teams can use all the encouragement they can get.

(Jonathan Lee is a sports editor at The Samohi and enjoys being Homecoming Duke, writing, playing sports, and hanging out with his homeboys and homegirls. He can be reached at jleebroadcast@yahoo.com)

surf report

Today expect 3' to 4', waist- to shoulder-high, occasionally 6' and fair conditions.

We'll see a reinforcing NW swell to keep the surf fun at the better exposed spots, with an increase expected on Wednesday.

We'll also see a mix of both fading and building NW swell (285-300). Solid (and likely stormy) W to WNW swell will build on Thursday.

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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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
THURSDAY	8:03 AM	6:48 PM	12:59 AM	1:47 PM
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The Q Line

Local politicians and city leaders have been recently discussing whether a hike in the hotel bed tax would be appropriate to help fund the local school district, which is financially faltering.

The tax, which is strategically set at 12 percent — 2 percent lower than the city of Los Angeles and surrounding cities — is tacked on to room rates at hotels in Santa Monica.

The increase would have to be voter

approved, and could appear as a ballot measure this November.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Do you support an increase in the hotel bed tax. Why or why not?"

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

Mystery photo winner

This week's mystery photo winner is Elmer Bailey, who correctly identified the side of this building, located at Casa Del Mar hotel on the beach. Bailey has won a free gift from Sea of Silver jewelry store on the Third Street Promenade.



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LETTERS

Impartial coverage, please

Editor:

Your stories on the possible libel suit against you are an embarrassment. They are one-sided, self-aggrandizing, defensive articles that come perilously close to breaking a cardinal rule of journalism: Don't try lawsuits in the media. (I know there's no lawsuit yet.) Your headlines in the Feb. 21 paper reflect the self-serving aspect of the stories: "Possible libel lawsuit labeled as 'quibble'" and "Libel suit versus Daily Press matter of malicious intent." The second headline even ignores the fact that there is no lawsuit, and implies that there is a suit based on intended malice. Your sources in Saturday's story all support your side of the situation. I'm sure you could have balanced the article by finding and quoting sources to take the other side of the piece. Your coverage of your own mess seriously diminishes the integrity of the Santa Monica Daily Press. Yours is the only daily paper we have in town. Please adhere to standards that will allow your readers to have faith in the accuracy and impartiality of your stories.

John Dreyfuss
Santa Monica

(Editor's note: The attorney representing the man who is threatening to sue the Daily Press has declined to comment).

Context needed in libel threat

Editor:

The article entitled "Possible libel lawsuit labeled a 'quibble'" in your Feb. 21 issue leaves the SMDP looking rather more tarnished than vindicated. The article leaves the most significant question unanswered: Why did the First Amendment lawyers comment on the case in the first place? Did SMDP seek the lawyers' opinions in order to report on the story, or was it to discuss a legal defense, should one be needed? That is a critical detail if your readers are to interpret the lawyers' comments.

No one expects the SMDP to be without an opinion about this legal threat, but you still have an obligation to remain objective in the items you present as news. By fail-

ing to provide the context for the lawyers' comments, you raise doubts about how you are fulfilling that responsibility.

Andrew Goldstein

Culver City

(Editor's note: As with all lawsuits the Daily Press reports on, it seeks comment from legal experts who specialize in a particular field of law).

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My picks on next week's election: Vote for Dean anyway

THE FLORA
FILES

By Todd Flora

Next Tuesday, March 2, is Election Day here in California. The following are my choices for president, state ballot propositions, and two other offices that often seem a mystery to many voters.

PRESIDENT

The current primary system has left California Democrats with merely four candidates for the White House and a media only focused on two. But I will cast my vote for Howard Dean. I supported Gov. Dean long before it was fashionable, and even after it wasn't. But he's been my choice, and as he remains on the ballot, he will receive my vote.

The primaries should be a time for us to vote for the person that we want to win. I think John Kerry and John Edwards would both be great presidents. I'll get my chance in November. But my vote for Dean will serve as both my own personal

stand against the current primary system, and also contribute to Dean's delegate count in California. If Dean supporters hold firm and cast their vote for him, they can send Dean delegates to the national convention who will help shape the party platform and ensure Dean a stronger speaking slot.

PROPOSITIONS

■ Proposition 55. Statewide school construction bond: The LA Times has told you to vote "no," and wait to issue this substantial \$12.3 billion bond after the economy has improved. While I share the concerns of those who fear this ballot may be loaded with excessive bond debt, I believe our children can't wait. We need to move as quickly as possible to construct schools where they are needed most.

■ Proposition 56. Lower threshold for passing a budget: Conservatives don't like the idea of lowering the Legislature's threshold for passing a budget from a 66 percent vote to a 55 percent vote. They fear it might make it easier for Sacramento to pass a tax increase. I think they might be right, though a lot of negotiation will still have to take place to secure 55 percent of the vote for anything. Further, it's high time taxes — temporary or otherwise — at

least become an option, which they aren't at 66 percent. Vote "yes."

■ Proposition 57. \$15 billion "economic recovery bond:" This massive bond is the compromise between Gov. Schwarzenegger and the Democratic majority in the Legislature. It will replace a \$10.7 billion bond proposed by Gov. Davis (but not yet issued due to legal wrangling), and add a few billion to cover our debt commitments and begin funding a reserve. Supported mostly by "the middle," it is opposed by an odd coalition of the far right and far left. One wants more cuts, the other tax increases.

■ Proposition 58. Balanced budget amendment and budget reserve: This is a companion measure to Prop. 57. It would require Gov. Schwarzenegger to not only introduce a balanced budget (often unbalanced later), but also for the Legislature to pass and the governor to sign one. Further, it would never again allow the state to issue long-term bond debt to finance a shortfall, and create a reserve fund that gradually grows to 5 percent of the budget or \$8 billion, whichever is larger.

While riddled with holes, Props 57 and 58 are "a bad idea whose time has come."

Both must pass to be implemented. It is important to note that Prop. 57 merely covers existing debt through June 2004. There will still be plenty of room to argue for tax increases within the Gov. Schwarzenegger's current budget proposal for July 2004-June 2005.

JUDGE AND DEMOCRATIC PARTY
CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Don't skip these races for lack of knowledge. While there are several seats at stake, I encourage you to vote for Donna Groman in the race for office No. 69. She's a fresh choice for the superior court with an impressive record of leadership and legal experience.

Democrats: We can select seven candidates for our Party Central Committee. I can highlight two — Ralph Erickson and Dolores Press. Both are thoughtful, committed Democratic and civic leaders from Malibu and Santa Monica, respectively. I have a high regard for them both, and I hope you will remember them on March 2.

Todd Flora is a government relations manager and seven-year resident of Santa Monica. He is active in Heal the Bay and the Democratic Party. To respond or reach Todd, e-mail him at:

reformadvocate@yahoo.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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OPINION

One man's courage may become the majority



LEGAL VIEWS AND NEWS

By David Pizarra

It was 1775 and the oppressive hand of a tyrant was choking his subjects, so much so they wrote: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness ..."

In 1862 the President of the United States issued a proclamation stating, "That on the 1st day of January, A.D. 1863, all persons held as slaves ... shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free ..."

During a December evening in 1955 in Selma Ala., a tired Rosa Parks took a stand by sitting, and started a revolution.

On Feb. 12, 2004, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, legally married to a woman for the past two years, ordered his city clerk to redesign the marriage license application so that it was gender neutral. Then they started issuing marriage licenses to more than 3,000 gay couples.

According to CNN, the first of more than 6,000 people to be married were Phyllis Lyon, 80, and Del Martin, 83, who have been together 51 years and founded the nation's first lesbian organization, the "Daughters of Bilitis," in 1955.

Word spread fast in that city known as "Baghdad by the Bay." Then it hit the news wires and word spread fast across the Internet and the world. Couples are reported to have flown from as far as Africa to participate in what is clearly the largest act of civil disobedience in recent memory.

The practical effect of this civil disobedience by a mayor, who is acting bravely in challenging state law, is that the licenses will likely be invalidated and then the real battle begins. The city of San Francisco has already filed suit against the state, challenging the ban on same-sex marriage.

In our State Constitution, as in the U.S. Constitution, we have an equal protection clause, which states that: "A person may not be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law or denied equal protection of the laws."

Marriage has traditionally been an issue reserved to the states to regulate. Historically there has been little to regulate, besides race, and don't marry your sister. It was the U.S.

Supreme Court case of Loving vs. Virginia, which ruled that the races could legally intermarry, based on equal protection grounds. Prior to that, blacks and whites in Virginia could not legally get married.

Mayor Newsom wrote in his letter to the city clerk:

"Upon taking the oath of office, becoming the mayor of the city and county of San Francisco, I swore to uphold the Constitution of the State of California. Article I, section 7, subdivision (a) of the California Constitution provides that "[a] person may not be ... denied equal protection of the laws."

"The California courts have interpreted the equal protection clause of the California Constitution to apply to lesbians and gay men and have suggested that laws that treat homosexuals differently from heterosexuals are suspect. The California courts have also stated that discrimination against gay men and lesbians is invidious. The California courts have held that gender discrimination is suspect and invidious as well. The Supreme Courts in other states have held that equal protection provisions in their state constitutions prohibit discrimination against gay men and lesbians with respect to the rights and obligations flowing from marriage. It is my belief that these decisions are persuasive and that the California Constitution similarly prohibits such discrimination."

This is a watershed event in the history of civil rights. Time will tell whether Mayor Newsom's actions are visionary, or vain efforts in the face of overwhelming oppression by the religious right.

It should be noted that the religious right, (otherwise known as the Republican Party) believes that if we allow two women to marry, after 51 years, it will lead to polygamy, and marriages between people and animals. The absurdity of these arguments is surpassed only by the ease with which they are presented as fact. Let us remember these are the same people who believed that if we allowed sodomy, child abuse would go up and the very fabric of our society would be torn. They were wrong then and they are wrong today.

These right wing activists who are so concerned about the "institution of marriage" and "saving it" should take a look at their representatives and the numbers. The divorce rate is over 70 percent for first-time marriages. Heterosexuals are allowed to marry "by mistake." Take Britney Spears, for example. Her marriage lasted 55 hours, yet the long term relationship of Lyon and Martin, which at 51 years and still counting, is considered insubstantial.

If they really wanted to "save" marriage, why not outlaw divorce? Because the practical effect would be that no one would get married. As it is, marriage is in a tremendous state of decline. So why all the ruckus over gay marriage? Because fear mongers and bigots worry that what other people are doing will somehow, some way affect their lives.

The great unanswered questions of the day are these: What is the harm the anti-gay marriage forces are really scared of? How does one person's marriage impact anyone else? What is the social cost, and benefit, of allowing two people who have for decades loved, cared for, and provided for each other, to marry?

I agree that there is a nominal fiscal cost — Medicare and Social Security might have to pay some spousal awards, but they would have to do that if a lesbian married a man anyway. To deny marriage based on the cost savings would be appalling, but I wouldn't put it

past a Republican to think it. Does my law partner's marriage affect my loving relationship? If only to set a good example, then yes.

At the end of it all, ask yourself this question: How does your neighbor's marriage impact your life? Do the black and white couple next door set a bad example for your kids because they are different races? Does the marriage between the Caucasian old man, who married the Japanese old lady hurt you? This is really no different. Race is a matter of genetics. Some day we'll figure out and accept that sexual orientation is too. When that happens, the Supreme Court must recognize that equal protection applies to gays and lesbians.

History has shown that one man with courage is a majority. Today that man is Mayor Gavin Newsom. It also has shown that no great deed happens without a few cries of outrage and moral indignation, and unsurprisingly, always from the losing side.

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LOCAL

Four SM City Council seats are open this fall

CHAMBER, from page 1

their constituency," said Tom Larmore, a local property rights attorney who heads the committee.

"And that's not us," Dubois responded. Larmore believes — as do many other people — that City Hall could be more responsive to businesses.

But the face of the City Council's constituency might be changing — the Santa Monica population is becoming more affluent and perhaps not as liberal as it once was, chamber officials said.

"I think there is a lot of discontent in this city," said Dr. Mike Gruning, the chairman of the chamber board of directors.

Last week's meeting was the third of its kind held by the committee, which is asking different business groups what issues need to be addressed by candidates. The committee has previously met with nonprofit organizations, retailers and car dealers.

Hotel managers and restaurant owners told war stories of how homeless people have negatively impacted their business. They also expressed their frustration over City Hall's willingness to bear the brunt of providing social services while surrounding cities ignore the problem.

Seth Horowitz, who runs the Oceana Hotel on Ocean Avenue, said it's hurting his business. He told the story of an Australian family who stayed at the hotel and were "flabbergasted" at the food lines set up in Palisades Park by private church groups which attract hundreds of homeless people.

"It's a subject we feel very clearly in our pockets," he said. "It affects our business, the city and the image of Santa Monica."

And despite that City Hall last year passed two laws aimed at curbing the food lines and reducing the homeless population downtown, most merchants say the situation hasn't improved.

"I was hoping that it would improve but nothing is happening," Horowitz said. "I think it's the same."

Dubois said it's his hotels' policy to warn guests about safety issues downtown.

"We advise people not to walk from our hotel to the Third Street Promenade and that was not the case a few years ago ... we started that reluctantly and I wish it wasn't that way," he said, adding he feels like City Hall puts up barriers for businesses. "Tourism is so important to Santa Monica yet there is an unfriendly atmosphere."

**"I think there is a lot of
discontent in this city."**

— MIKE GRUNING

Chairman,
Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce

Sterling Meredith, who recently opened Good To Eat at 313 Wilshire Blvd., rhetorically asked whether City Hall operates in a vacuum since it appears there is growing discontent within the business community and the community at large.

"It seems so counter intuitive to what the residents want," he said.

Chamber officials are establishing a process to select City Council candidates. In the next few months, the committee will begin looking at other chambers to see how they endorse and raise money for candidates. The committee will then develop its own guidelines about campaigning, raising money and identifying candidates.

Residents who decide to run for City Council are expected to announce their candidacy in July, when papers are officially taken out. Four council seats will be open this fall. City Councilmen Mike Feinstein, Herb Katz and Ken Genser, as well as Mayor Richard Bloom, are up for re-election. None of them have officially said they will seek another term.

SMPD investigates crime scene, deadly assault charge

PURSUIT, from page 1

Killinger drove down the Third Street Promenade shortly before he was cornered in front of Samohi. He threw his white Ford Tempo into reverse, smashing the front end of an LAPD squad car, police said. That's when three police officers fired at least 12 shots into Killinger's vehicle. Killinger tried to flee on foot, but was shot. He was taken to Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and pronounced dead a short time later.

"If he had complied with the officers' wishes, it would have a completely different outcome," said LAPD Lt. Art Miller. "He opted to use deadly force by ramming the officer's car. It's unfortunate and it's even more unfortunate that he didn't comply."

Police had Pico Boulevard blocked off from Fourth Street to Lincoln Boulevard the entire day, leaving commuters to endure massive traffic jams and Samohi students having to walk around the crime scene to get to and from school.

Santa Monica Police detectives



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Reporters surround LAPD Lt. Art Miller shortly after the incident.

joined LAPD officers at the scene. SMPD will conduct a criminal investigation on the alleged assault with a deadly weapon on LAPD officers. Once the investigation is completed, it will be submitted to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

The SMPD was not involved in the vehicle pursuit or the shooting.

— Carolyn Sackariason

LOCAL



City Hall looks at purchasing hydrogen-fueled cars

CONSENT, from page 1

for \$1 a year. The boat, which seats between one and three people, will be used for water safety and rescue operations around sandbars, jetties and pier pilings.

The AquaTrax will replace the harbor patrol's Sea Doo, which has become unreliable and expensive to maintain, officials said. It cost \$1,956 to repair last year, compared to \$638 the year before, officials said. It's estimated that it will cost \$1,250 to maintain, fuel and insure the new boat, according to city documents.

■ The most expensive expenditure is nearly \$1 million for three projects related to the main library construction. The City Council is expected to approve \$382,000 in emergency funds because a contractor exposed asbestos during excavation where the library is being built. The contaminated soil was abated and cleaned up. Officials are determining who should pay for the clean-up, but in the meantime, it'll be City Hall.

Another \$416,000 will be spent on required inspections of the construction project to ensure potential problems are identified early. And as part of the project's second phase, \$125,000 will be spent on a firm that specializes in establishing and monitoring a start-up plan for the library's major building systems like its mechanical equipment.

■ Another \$743,000 is expected to be spent on the Santa Monica Pier as part of a \$5.7 million overhaul. Tonight's expenditure will pay for a new road on the pier. The pier roadway is the first critical piece needing a major repair and upgrade, officials said. The work is expected to be done by May.

■ The City Council is expected to give the Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau an extra \$200,000 on top of its \$1.2 million annual contribution. The bureau's contract with City Hall ends in June and staff is recommending that it be

The most expensive expenditure is nearly \$1 million for three projects related to the main library construction. The City Council is expected to approve \$382,000 in emergency funds because a contractor exposed asbestos during excavation where the library is being built.

extended another five years.

Officials say the bureau's budget is modest when compared to other cities in the region, and it receives a lot of in-kind support from local hotels and restaurants. The bureau also partners with regional, state and national tourism organizations.

Santa Monica continues to lose revenue as a result of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, officials say. Tourism is down — Santa Monica has experienced higher room vacancy rates and lower room prices, official say. Compounding the problem is that key partners have been lost — the state-funded office of tourism has closed and federal funding has been reduced, officials say.

In their memo to the City Council, staff suggested that the bureau get more money because it's doing more with less. The bureau opened a visitor's center downtown but with no extra money so funds that would have otherwise been spent for promotion went to operating the center, officials said. Second, only a substantial increase in funding will make up for the loss of the bureau's promotional partners, officials say.

■ A contract between City Hall, the Southern California Air Quality Management District and Toyota Motor Sales USA, is expected to be approved tonight for \$415,000 — of which City Hall would pay \$85,000 — to buy hydrogen-fueled vehicles. The air quality management district has agreed to reimburse City Hall \$130,000 and Toyota will contribute \$200,000.

Known as the "fuel cell vehicle pro-

gram," it was first discussed in January and was expected to cost City Hall \$200,000. People who spoke on the issue said they were concerned that the development of a zero emission hydrogen vehicle program would diminish the city's commitment to procuring zero emission electric vehicles. Some people also suggested that hydrogen cars are not as efficient as electric ones.

As a result, city staff met with a special task force and the public to come up with another proposal. Under the new plan, City Hall will compare the efficiency, emissions and operation of the hydrogen car versus other alternative-fueled vehi-

cles City Hall uses.

City staff believes that it's important for Santa Monica to have hydrogen-fueled cars because City Hall will gain knowledge of an emerging technology and might be able to influence regulators, vehicle manufacturers and fuel suppliers as policy decisions are made over the next several years that will impact the cost of city operations.

■ The last expenditure amounts to \$55,858 to lease office space on Main Street for the city's environmental and public works management department. The lease is actually a six-month extension so city staff can continue working in the space. A portion of staff in the engineering and architecture division, as well as in the environmental programs division, currently work in the space, but the lease is set to expire in May. Officials say the staffers have work to complete before moving to another location. City officials negotiated a \$2.44-per-square-foot rate with the landlord.

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A weekly look at events and programs for

Developing a healthy ability to trust is fundamental early on

BY MARGARET ALTMAN
Special to the Daily Press

Parents must play many roles. They are protectors and teachers for their children, as well as members of extended families, communities and society. They are far more powerful than this. This is an election year and as always, parents have an eye and an ear open for the political promises that permeate the air. Parents are voters and their votes can change the course of history. These votes depend upon placing their trust in someone who promises to make things better.

Trust is a big issue this year and every year. Each candidate wants to be the one you trust to fulfill needs and dreams on an individual and societal basis.

As adults we put our lives in the candidates' hands.

Parents can benefit from a developmental view of trust: How it grows and what makes it healthy. With this information, parents can help their youngsters develop the ability to trust, which is a key ability in the growth of emotional intelligence.

As a parent, you want your child to develop specific, strong skills which directly underlie a healthy ability to trust. Infants have little if any ability to sort

through information and pick out trustworthy characteristics in people and situations. From birth, infants rely upon parents and caretakers to sort through massive information and select the things that will help them and not harm them. From food to music to baby-sitters, parents use their own mental skills to surround the baby with a trustworthy environment.

A trustworthy environment is one that is consistent, usually in a positive way. This is a key to understanding the early development of healthy trust. Consistency does not mean that the infant has absolutely no exposure to negative things. But that negative exposure is limited and often quickly corrected by the parent.

Healthy trust, at its basic roots, develops from consistency, predictability and positivity.

Children learn to trust adults who consistently provide positive experiences and they depend upon a track record of behavior from the adult.

As the child grows, he or she develops more skills in processing and evaluating information so that they can make accurate decisions about trusting or not trusting. These developing skills are emotional, as well as intellectual. A youngster

who can, for example, regulate his emotions and get into a comfort zone will be able to use his mind effectively in sorting through lots of data and coming to a conclusion about who to trust.

Healthy trust develops from consistent parenting, and grows as the child learns to regulate emotions and use reasoning and logic for decision making.

Adults tend to trust based upon far less information than they really need in order to make good decisions. We are rushed, we are anxious, we are insecure and we often put ourselves into unsafe situations with people who are not at all interested in our well-being.

What have we lost and what should we know in order to ensure that our youngsters develop healthy skills in the trust domain?

Tips for parents:

What interferes with developing healthy trust?

■ Parental inconsistency, as in not responding to the baby's needs some times and then responding at other times. This leads children to put their trust into people who are basically inconsistent because this is what they have learned from their parents.

■ Abuse is a strong obstacle to developing the ability to trust. Children who are physically and mentally abused tend not to trust for fear of being harmed.

■ Impulsivity. Children with self-control problems may be too impulsive to use their minds

■ Trauma, such as a sudden loss of a loved one or illness may shake a child's world to the core and disrupt the develop-

ment of trust.

■ Parents who have poor decision making in the domain of trust are poor role models for this ability.

Children who have low self-esteem may trust the wrong people and become dependent on them.

What helps to build healthy trust?

■ Repair breaches quickly. When the child has been hurt physically or emotionally, it is important for the parent to take time to soothe the child and whenever possible, provide more consistency and protection until the trust is re-established.

■ Model for the child how to sort through information and evaluate the behavior of others.

■ Provide as much consistency as possible.

■ Teach emotion regulation skills so that the child can self-soothe and use his intelligent mind to make decisions on who to put their trust in.

■ Build the child's self-esteem by recognizing her strengths in all domains.

Trust can be a basic, life-enhancing ability. The natural and wonderful ability to trust that we see in babies must be strengthened and directed by caring and supportive parents who know which underlying skills should be reinforced.

(Margaret Altman L.C.S.W., author of "Developing Your Child's Emotional Intelligence," is child development specialist in practice with Dr. A Korchmarev in Sherman Oaks. She welcomes comments and questions. E-mail her at margiealtman@yahoo.com).

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CALENDAR OF MOMMY EVENTS:

SPECIAL EVENTS

YMCA - REGISTRATION for SPRING PROGRAMS - Thurs. - Sat., February 26 - 28; Program dates March 27 - June 4. Register for Spring Session Youth Programs including Parent/Child Gym and Swim, Toddler Time, Sports Jam, Drawing, Creative Movement, Tiny Tumblers and more. For more info contact Audrey Meyer, Santa Monica YMCA, 1332 6th St., 393-2721.

YOUTH RUGBY - SANTA MONICA RUGBY CLUB - Saturday mornings thru May 15; times and location vary; get details at www.santamonicaclub.org/youth.html or contact Kilian Kerwin at smouthrugby@earthlink.net. This co-ed, non-contact youth program was created to jump start youth rugby in the LA area. Last summer's program was a big success and the winter/spring season looks like it will continue to grow with more kids and parents involved. Although the season is underway, kids are welcome to join anytime. Ages 6-15, co-ed, non-contact.

AFRICAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL at AQUARIUM of the PACIFIC - Saturday, February 28, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., included with aquarium admission of \$18.95 adults, \$10.95 kids 3 - 11, 2 and under free. Celebrate African-American culture with performances by storyteller Asha's Baba, the West African Drum and Dance Ensemble, and the Ambiance Music Experience. Plus, food and other family activities. 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, www.aquariumofapacific.org

DRUMMING and DANCE WORKSHOP - LEAP into WEST AFRICA - Sunday, February 29, 2 - 3:30 p.m., Skirball Cultural Center. Celebrate the leap year with dance and music inspired by the traditions of West Africa. Instruments provided or bring your own. For ages 5 and up, reservations recommended, \$9. 701 N. Sepulveda, 310-440-4636, www.skirball.org

YOGA for WOMEN - Saturday, February 28, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., 1640 Ocean Park Blvd. With Shari Friedrichsen at Santa Monica Yoga. A specialized class where you can spend your time doing asanas, educating yourself, and learning to enjoy your life. \$25 pre-registration or \$30 at the door. 396-4040, www.santamonicaayoga.com

TUESDAY

MOVIES FOR MOMS NOW SHOWING "MONSTER" FEBRUARY 24.

11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St. Promenade - for Moms and babies newborn - 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. Charlene Theron stars as Aileen Carol Wuornos, a woman who grew up in an abusive environment and became a prostitute at age 13. She later moved to Florida where she continued her lifestyle as a hooker for semi-truck drivers. During a nine month period in 1989 and 1990, she murdered any of the truckers who

tried to rape her. She also clung to her relationship with another woman. Eventually, she was executed for seven killings. Theron won the Golden Globe and is nominated for an Oscar for her amazing performance. Also starring Christina Ricci and Bruce Dern; directed by Patty Jenkins. Rated "R" for strong violence and sexual content, and for pervasive language.

Storytelling

Main Library - Toddler Storytime at Reed Park; 10:00 & 10:30 a.m. Stories for two year olds with adult.

Fairview Branch Library - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443. Twilight Story Time - 7pm - an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.

Montana Avenue Branch Library - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081. Family Story Time - 7:00 p.m., all ages.

School Age Stories and Crafts - 3:30 p.m. every other Tuesday, Feb. 10 & 24. Stories and crafts for ages 5-9. **Ocean Park Branch Library** - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804. Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30, February 24 - March 6. Music, rhymes and stories for 24-36 month olds with adult.

Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis Themes change weekly; for ages infant to 3. 11:00 a.m. 116 North Robertson, Plaza A, LA. 310-358-2500, www.storyopolis.com **Barnes and Noble at the Grove** Storytime for ages 2 - 6. 10:00 a.m. 189 Grove Drive, LA, 323-525-0270

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381 - Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) - 10 - 11 a.m.; Pre-natal yoga - 7-8:15 p.m. **Yoga Works** - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal - 12:15 - 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me - 1:45 - 3:00 p.m.

Mommy Care - 11870 Santa Monica Blvd., at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711. Pregnancy Exercise - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise - 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station - 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling

★ NEW TO OUR CALENDAR!

The Talking Stick Coffee Lounge - 1630 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052 10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4. This neighborhood coffee shop has a comfortable atmosphere, toys and storytelling every Wednesday, as well as yummy coffee and baked goods.

Ocean Park Branch Library - 2601 Main St. - 392-3804. Preschool Twilight Story Time - 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. An ongoing story time for

parents and their children ages 3 - 5. **Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion** - 2 pm - ages 2-5 - 310-475-4144 **Border's, Westwood** - 11am - 310-475-3444.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381 - Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) - 10 - 11 a.m.; (infants only) - 1 - 2 p.m. Prenatal yoga - 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Yoga Works** - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15

Ocean Oasis Day Spa - 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow - 10:30 - 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness - noon - 1 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN - 408-1717

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station - 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Other

Puppetolio - 1:00 p.m., 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested **Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute)** - Temescal Canyon (Pac. Palisades)-10:00am Reservations required - 310-998-1151 or www.childrensnatureinstitute.org

THURSDAY

Storytelling

★ NEW TO OUR CALENDAR!

Babystory - 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590

10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4. Come for story time but definitely check out their great selection of clothes for baby and moms-to-be, nursery items, toys and other baby gear.

Main Library - Toddler Storytime at Reed Park; 10:00 a.m. Stories for two year olds with adult.

Preschool Story Time at Reed Park; 10:30 a.m. Stories for 3-5 year olds with adult.

Montana Avenue Branch Library - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081. Preschool Story Time - 11:15 a.m. Stories for 3-5 year olds with adult.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381 - Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) - 10 - 11 a.m.; Pre-natal yoga - 7-8:15 p.m. **Yoga Works** - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal - 12:15 - 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me - 1:45 - 3:00 p.m.

Mommy Care - 11870 Santa Monica Blvd., at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711. Pregnancy Exercise - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise - 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station - 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 4-8

months, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45 p.m., \$15.

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381 - Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) - 10 - 11 a.m.; (infants only) - 1 - 2 p.m. Prenatal yoga - 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Ocean Oasis Day Spa** - 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow - 10:30 - 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness - noon - 1 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN - 408-1717

SATURDAY -

Storytelling

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade - Kid's Story Time - 10am - 310-260-9110

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion - 10:30am - ages 2-5 - 310-475-4144.

Children's Book World - 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd, LA - 10:30 a.m., 310-559-BOOK.

Feb. 28 - with Jennifer and Jon.

Yoga & Exercise

YOGA for WOMEN - Saturday, February 28, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., 1640 Ocean Park Blvd. See Special Events section for details.

★ NEW TO OUR CALENDAR!

Santa Monica Yoga - Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays - 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. 1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, www.santamonicaayoga.com

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381; Prenatal yoga - 9:15 - 10:45 a.m., \$13 **Mommy Care** - 11870 Santa Monica Blvd. at the Dance Factory, West LA, 394-6711; Pregnancy Exercise - 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise - 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

Ocean Oasis Day Spa - 1333 Ocean

Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow - 10:30 - 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness - noon - 1 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN - 408-1717

Other

African Heritage Festival at Aquarium of the Pacific - Saturday, February 28, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. See Special Events section for details.

Cinderella at the Santa Monica Playhouse - Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru March 28, \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, www.santamonicaclub.org/youth.html

Puppetolio - 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested **Magicalopolis** - 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Youth Rugby - Santa Monica Rugby Club Saturday mornings thru May 15; times and location vary; get details at www.santamonicaclub.org/youth.html or contact Kilian Kerwin at smouthrugby@earthlink.net.

Nature Rambles - 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. A moderate nature walk and discussion of plants, birds, butterflies and other animals with an experienced naturalist. For ages 4 and older. Sooky Goldman Nature Center, 2600 Franklin Canyon Blvd., Beverly Hills. Call for directions, 310-858-7272, ext. 131.

SUNDAY

DRUMMING and DANCE WORKSHOP

- LEAP into WEST AFRICA - Sunday, February 29, 2 - 3:30 p.m., Skirball Cultural Center. See Special Events section for details.

Cinderella at the Santa Monica Playhouse - Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru March 28, \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations,

www.santamonicaclub.org/youth.html **Main Street Farmer's Market** - 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing. **Puppetolio** - 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested **Magicalopolis** - 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library - Lap Time at Joslyn Park, 9:30 a.m., Jan. 5 - June 4. Ages 0-24 months with adult in conjunction with the Infant and Family Support program of SMMUSD. Followed immediately by "Family Connections" - a series of discussions related to early childhood development and growth. Children welcome, free. **Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade** - Toddler Story Time - 10am - 310-260-9110

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station - 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Yoga & Exercise

Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15 **Yoga Garden** - Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal - 6:30 p.m., 310-450-0133. www.yogagardenstudios.com **Yoga Baby (Venice)** - 310-306-9381 - Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) - 10 - 11 a.m.; (infants only) - 1 - 2 p.m. Pre-natal yoga - 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Ocean Oasis Day Spa - 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow - 10:30 - 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness - noon - 1 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN - 408-1717

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NATIONAL

Candidate John Kerry: 'Run President Bush, run'

BY NEDRA PICKLER

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Democratic front-runner John Kerry predicted Monday that President Bush will "run away from his own record" when the president unveils a campaign speech that advisers say will highlight his policies on homeland security, tax cuts and other issues.

"We have George Bush on the run because he's going to go out here and start this campaign officially tonight before we even have a nominee of the Democratic Party," Kerry told supporters at a rally in Harlem. "And he's going to lay out what he calls his vision, and I think it's extraordinary that four years into this administration we're finally going to get what this president calls his vision for the nation. He certainly has to call something a vision because he can't run on his record."

Kerry said the nation has lost 3 million jobs and has grown weaker and more isolated from its allies under Bush, whose tax cuts and other economic policies the

"I believe what (Bush) will do tonight is run away from his own record because he doesn't have a record to run on."

— **JOHN KERRY**
Democratic front-runner

Massachusetts senator criticized.

"The president tonight will lay out what he calls a vision. I believe what he will do tonight is run away from his own record because he doesn't have a record to run on," Kerry said.

Bush was scheduled to speak to Republican governors at a reception Monday in Washington. His campaign described the address as a "new period of engagement" for the president as he intensifies his re-election effort.

Some in the racially diverse crowd in Harlem exclaimed in disapproval when Kerry pointed out that Bush has not met with the Leadership Council on Civil Rights or the NAACP.

Kerry said he's never seen such "crony capitalism and crony government" or such "arrogant, inept, reckless and ideological foreign policy."

Kerry was introduced at the rally by Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., a fellow veteran who said Bush "parades around like he is a war veteran."

"When someone parades around campaigning like he is a war president, it's time for the Democratic Party to get a warrior," Rangel said.

The Bush campaign has told Kerry it does not condone any effort to impugn his patriotism but insisted his voting record on national security and defense is fair game in the presidential race.

Bush-Cheney 2004 campaign chairman Marc Racicot on Sunday denied Kerry's accusation that the president is using surrogates to attack the Massachusetts senator's military service in Vietnam and his subsequent opposition to the war.

"In fact, that simply wasn't the case," Marc Racicot wrote in a letter to Kerry. "Our campaign is not questioning your patriotism or military service, but your votes and statements on the issues now facing our country."

The Kerry and Bush campaigns traded charges and countercharges in a flurry of statements and letters over the weekend.

The dispute began when the Bush campaign arranged a conference call with Georgia Republican Sen. Saxby Chambliss as Kerry prepared to campaign in the state Saturday. Chambliss predicted Kerry would have trouble in Georgia's Democratic primary next week because of a "32-year history of voting to cut defense

programs and cut defense systems."

Kerry, landing in Atlanta later that night, held a press conference in which he declared, "No one is going to question my commitment to the defense of our nation."

He also said, "I don't know what it is about what these Republicans who didn't serve in any war have against those of us who are Democrats who did."

He sent a letter to Bush late Saturday, accusing the president of reopening the wounds of Vietnam for his personal political gain.

"If you want to debate the Vietnam era, and the impact of our experiences on our approaches to presidential leadership, I am prepared to do so," he said.

Kerry was the commander of a Navy swift boat in Vietnam and won three Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star and a Silver Star for his service. Bush served in the National Guard as a fighter pilot and received an honorable discharge, but he has faced questions in recent weeks about whether he always reported for duty.

Racicot responded Sunday to Kerry's letter, asking him to "elevate the remarkably negative tone of your campaign and your party over the past year."

"Senator Chambliss addressed your Senate record of voting against the weapons systems that are winning the war on terror," said Racicot, former governor of Montana.

Kerry campaign manager Mary Beth Cahill then responded to Racicot's response, criticizing the Bush campaign for rejecting the debate proposal.

"Let's hope President Bush will stop hiding behind his attack dogs, his \$100 million campaign war chest and his campaign chairman and debate," she said in a statement.

The exchange allowed Kerry to engage the president's re-election team before he's won the Democratic nomination. Kerry is well positioned to become the nominee after winning 15 of 17 primaries and caucuses, but rival John Edwards is doggedly challenging him in the 10 Super Tuesday contests on March 2.

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Christina S. Porter
Senior Associate

NATIONAL □ INTERNATIONAL

WORLD BRIEFLY

Rebels head to Haitian capitol

By The Associated Press

CAP-HAITIEN, Haiti — Rebels overran Haiti's second-largest city in their biggest victory of a bloody uprising and said soon they will attack the capitol in their campaign to oust President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

As thousands of looters rampaged through Cap-Haitien Sunday, rebel leader Guy Philippe predicted a quick victory over Aristide's partisans, who sought to block any advance by erecting flaming barricades on the highway into the capital, Port-au-Prince, from the north. "I think that in less than 15 days we will control all of Haiti," Philippe said at a Cap-Haitien hotel as he swigged from a bottle of beer.

Sources close to the government said several Cabinet ministers in Port-au-Prince were asking friends for places to hide in case the capital is attacked.

After rebels drove government troops from Cap-Haitien, a city of some 500,000 on Haiti's north coast, thousands of people went on a looting spree.

The takeover of Cap-Haitien by some 200 fighters was the most significant advance by Aristide opponents since the uprising began on Feb. 5. At least 15 people died in Sunday's fighting.

Sharon ponders a Palestinian response

By The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon met his top security advisers to consider a response to a Palestinian suicide bombing that killed eight passengers on a Jerusalem bus — a day before a world court hearing on Israel's disputed security barrier.

Sharon did not announce a decision, but analysts predicted Israeli military action in Bethlehem since the bomber in Sunday's attack came from a nearby village. Israeli officials said the bombing proved the need of the security barrier.

Aftershocks from the suicide attack were felt in The Hague, Netherlands, where the International Court of Justice was to begin a hearing about the Israeli barrier on Monday.

Stewart trial coming to a rest

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — After 21 witnesses and 14 days of testimony, the prosecution in Martha Stewart's trial has

rested. Now defense attorneys hope a judge will lighten their load.

U.S. District Judge Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum was to hear arguments Monday about whether parts of the indictment against the domestic diva should be dismissed.

Cedarbaum appears particularly interested in the possibility of throwing out the securities fraud count against Stewart, which accuses her of deceiving investors in her media conglomerate, Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia.

The judge has called that charge "the most problematic" of the five counts each against Stewart and broker Peter Bacanovic. Cedarbaum indicated it was highly unlikely she would dismiss all the counts.

The government contends that Bacanovic told Stewart that ImClone Systems founder Sam Waksal was frantically trying to sell his shares. Bacanovic and Stewart claim they had agreed to unload the ImClone shares when the stock price hit \$60.

Rhetoric, tension rise in presidential race

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Despite the rising tensions and rhetoric of a presidential race, the nation's governors are looking to President Bush and his administration for more support on education, health care and job-producing road spending.

Bush was to sit down Monday with governors, along with his Cabinet officials, for a wide-ranging discussion on the most pressing issues facing the states.

Republican and Democratic leaders of the National Governors Association, at their annual four-day annual meeting here, urged consensus. But others said that was unlikely.

"I don't think you can count on the national governors as being an effective lobbying force. It's an election year," said Democratic New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson. "I suspect the meeting with the president will be a little contentious. Respectful, but contentious."

Bush welcomed the governors and their spouses to a formal dinner at the White House Sunday night, sitting himself at a table with California GOP Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and others.

Nader forges ahead despite urging

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For months, Democrats, long-time friends and former supporters of Ralph Nader have

urged him not to make another run for president.

Now that the consumer advocate has formally declared his candidacy as an independent, many Democrats fear a repeat of the 2000 race, when Nader was blamed by some for taking just enough votes away from Al Gore to secure a victory for George W. Bush.

Nader rejects the spoiler label as a "contemptuous" term used by those who want to deny voters a choice. Declaring Washington a "corporate-occupied territory," he has accused both Democrats and Republicans of being dominated by corporate lobbyists.

Nader, who turns 70 this week, was to lay out his campaign themes — including universal health care, campaign finance reform, fighting poverty and addressing environmental concerns — at a press conference Monday in Washington.

Democratic National Committee chairman Terry McAuliffe, who personally urged Nader not to run, called the decision "unfortunate."

"You know, he's had a whole distinguished career, fighting for working families, and I would hate to see part of his legacy being that he got us eight years of George Bush," McAuliffe said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Sailors believed to be lost at sea

By The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Rescuers held out faint hope of finding survivors among five sailors whose boat sank in fog over the weekend in a collision with a container vessel that paralyzed traffic in the Mississippi River.

Commercial divers were to search the partially submerged supply boat Lee III on Monday, and authorities hoped a salvage crew could remove it from the channel so river traffic could resume.

Dozens of large ships and thousands of cruise passengers trying to get to or away from New Orleans as Mardi Gras fever builds up to a climax have been stranded while authorities mount a rescue mission.

The 178-foot Lee III sank on a foggy Saturday morning in the Southwest Pass, the only channel up the Mississippi River deep enough for large oceangoing vessels.

There was no way to tell when the river may reopen, said Coast Guard Petty Officer Jonathan McCool.

"Probably later than sooner," he said. "It's going to be a complicated evolution. And it's going to hold things up for a while."

The supply boat, which delivered people and supplies to offshore oil rigs, collided with the 534-foot Zim Mexico III, which reported damage but no injuries.



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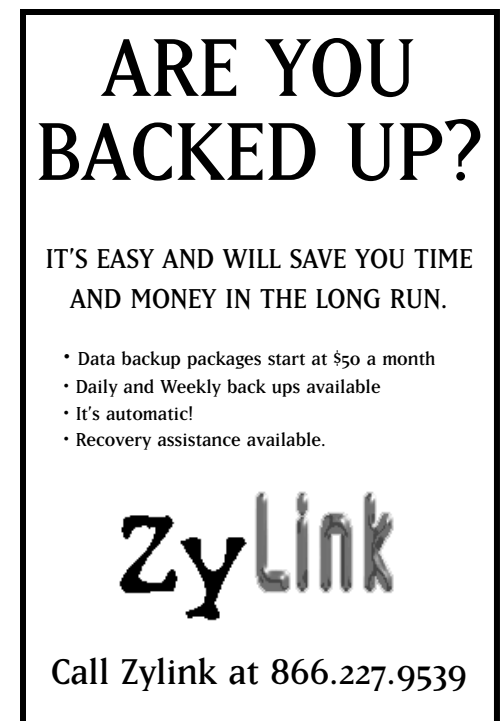
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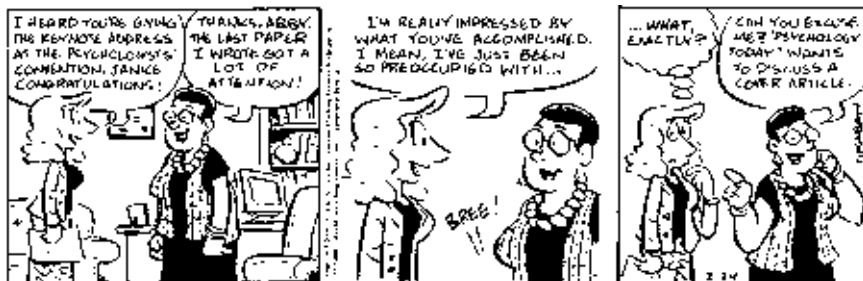
COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



edge

BY KEENE BARRY LEBON



Reality Check

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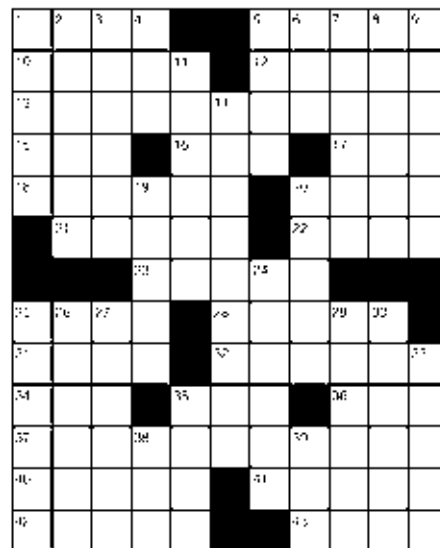
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33 Cooper role
35 Worry
38 Cobbler's cousin
39 Nursery occupant

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Obituaries

BEULAH "BILLIE" J. Mc Ferrin Passed away in Santa Monica on Thursday, February 19 2004 Billie was born in Detroit, Michigan on May 18, 1923. She is survived by three sons; Bill Karlee of Santa Clarita, Jim Wilson of Simi Valley, and David McFerrin & his wife Beverly of Clovis, CA., two grandsons & two granddaughters She believed in the Lord, family, friends & fun. A grave side service will be Thursday February 26, 2004 at 12:00 noon at Green Hills Memorial Cemetery. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Green Hills Memorial in Rancho Palos Verdes, Ca.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Eisner heads to Disneyland as a marketing ploy

By The Associated Press

■ **ANAHEIM** — Michael Eisner, the embattled CEO of the Walt Disney Co., made a surprise visit to Disneyland to promote its latest attraction and deflect criticism that the company's parks have declined in recent years.

"The theme parks are in great management hands," Eisner said Saturday while attending the premiere of the new musical "Snow White."

"We have a lot of new attractions, like 'Snow White,' and we have a whole parade of new attractions coming for the 50th anniversary of Disneyland, he said.

Eisner introduced the show to a crowd that included 250 children dressed in Snow White and dwarf costumes. He said "Snow White" — Disney's first animated feature film — and Mickey Mouse are the bedrock of the company.

Eisner declined to answer questions about his company's future or efforts by former board members Stanley Gold and Roy E. Disney to oust him.

The company also faces a hostile takeover bid from Philadelphia-based Comcast. On Feb. 11, the cable operator made the unsolicited bid, but Disney's board rejected the proposal, saying it would consider other bids while expressing strong support for current management.

■ **NEW YORK** — Add another name to the list of celebrity children's book writers: Whoopi Goldberg. The actress-comedian has agreed to a multibook deal with Hyperion's Jump at the Sun imprint, which specializes in releases by African-American writers.

"If I can give kids and their parents something that'll make them smile and maybe teaches them a little something about living with one another on our planet, it makes me a happy granny," Goldberg said in a statement Monday.

The first of several expected books is scheduled for 2005.

Other celebrities who have recently written children's stories include Madonna, Jerry Seinfeld and Billy Crystal. Goldberg stars in the new NBC sitcom "Whoopi" and also can be seen on Nick Jr.'s "Whoopi's Littleburg," a series of half-hour TV specials set in "The Preschool Capital of the World."

■ **ATLANTA** — Talk-show host Oprah Winfrey has given Morehouse College another \$5 million donation to fund scholarships at the Atlanta school.

The gift, announced Saturday night, brings to \$12 million the total contributions to the college by Winfrey, making her the school's largest individual donor, said Morehouse spokeswoman Elise Durham.

Winfrey was in Atlanta Saturday to accept Morehouse's first "Candle for Lifetime Achievement in Humanitarian Service" award.

So far, scholarships funded by the talk-show host have helped about 250 students continue or complete their education, Durham said.

Winfrey said her original goal had been to put 100 students through school. She told the audience Saturday that she now wants to see 1,000 students get their diplomas.

Winfrey was one of several people honored during the 2,800-student school's gala. Other honorees included actor Ossie Davis, syndicated radio host Tom Joyner, Atlanta businessman Jesse Hill and U.S. Rep. Sanford Bishop.

■ **TAIPEI, Taiwan** — Taiwan's first lady said she's sorry Sean Connery won't be visiting this week to join a protest against rival China's missile threat.

The organizers of the peace protest said last week that Connery planned to attend Saturday's event. However, the 73-year-old actor's agent later said Connery had never planned to be part of the human-chain demonstration that's supposed to stretch the length of Taiwan — more than 190 miles.

First lady Wu Shu-chen told reporters Monday that

she idolized Connery and has been watching James Bond movies since she was in elementary school.

She made the comments during a news conference about a recently published picture book about her travels.

When President Chen Shui-bian surprised her by dropping by the event, Wu said, "Oh, I thought there was going to be a surprise guest like Sean Connery."

Since her husband was elected in 2000, Wu said she has only seen two films, according to a report by the semiofficial Central News Agency. She said one of those films was the James Bond adventure "Die Another Day," starring Pierce Brosnan as Agent 007.

Saturday's protest will urge China to redeploy nearly 500 short-range missiles pointed at Taiwan. The two sides split amid civil war in 1949, and Beijing has threatened to use force to take over the island.

■ **LANCASTER, Pa.** — Singer Bobby Vinton collapsed during a performance Sunday night in central Pennsylvania, but his condition apparently improved backstage and he refused hospitalization, officials said.

Vinton, 68, had been performing at the American Music Theatre for about an hour when he sat down beside the piano player and dropped his head toward the keys.

"The piano player caught him, and Bobby said the show was over for the night," said audience member Don Eves, who said Vinton had been heavily perspiring.

Theater management didn't immediately return a phone message left Monday by The Associated Press.

Vinton, a native of the Pittsburgh suburb of Canonsburg, recovered backstage and later joined his family at a nearby hotel, the Intelligencer Journal of Lancaster reported.

Jim Herr, a supervisor with Lancaster County Communications, confirmed Monday that an ambulance service had been called. He didn't know details of the singer's condition, but said no one was transported for treatment.

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