

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

10 16 21 25 34

Megamember: 1

Jackpot: \$7 million

FANTASY 5

6 12 17 19 32

DAILY 3

Daytime: 4 1 6

Evening: 1 7 2

DAILY DERBY

1st: 10 Solid Gold

2nd: 05 California Classic

3rd: 01 Gold Rush

RACE TIME: 1.46.86

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site: <http://www.calottery.com>



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Readers' Choice: Jessica Sandy Booth, 18, was arrested in December in Memphis, Tenn., and charged with hiring a hit man to help her kill four people so she could steal a brick of what turned out to be queso fresco cheese. According to police, Booth had seen the large block of crumbly, white, Mexican-cuisine cheese on a table at an acquaintance's home, thought it was a big pile of cocaine, and devised an elaborate plot to return later, steal it, and kill anyone in the house old enough to testify against her.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 55th day of 2006.
There are 310 days left in the year.

On Feb. 24, 1868, the House of Representatives impeached President Andrew Johnson following his attempted dismissal of Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton; Johnson was later acquitted by the Senate.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It is the individual who is not interested in his fellow men who has the greatest difficulties in life and provides the greatest injury to others. It is from among such individuals that all human failures spring."

ALFRED ADLER

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Emergency exit on pier down the tube

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM PIER — This has often been a place of refuge for those looking to escape the stresses of life by soaking in breath-taking sunsets or listening to the therapeutic sounds of crashing waves.

Now the Santa Monica Pier offers another way to escape — literally — with the installation of an emergency escape chute, which public safety officials feel will help evacuate pier visitors quickly, orderly and safely in the event of an emergency.

The first-ever installed on a pier, the chute, designed by Eric Hooper of Escape Chute Systems in Australia, is roughly 20 feet long and is located on the southwest end of the pier, marked by a bright orange and fire-red hatch.

Public safety officials, including the Santa Monica Police and Fire departments, as well as the Santa Monica Harbor Patrol, recommended installing the chute after a hostage situation here highlighted weaknesses in the pier evacuation plan, which did not

See PIER CHUTE, page 5



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Santa Monica Police Sgt. Larry Horn on Thursday encourages Sandy Zaouk, assistant to Santa Monica Fire Chief Jim Hone, to jump through a new escape chute installed on the west end of the pier.

Vikings setting their sights on netting elusive CIF title

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

SAMOHI — For just the second time in his 11 seasons as coach of the boy's varsity basketball team, James Hecht will try tonight to guide his team to the CIF semi-finals. Standing in his way is a staunchly defense-minded Long Beach Poly squad.

After having dropped 11 of their 16 games last year, the Santa Monica High Vikings are at 19-9 going into tonight's match-up, which tips off at 7:30 p.m. at the Samohi gymnasium.

The Vikings are riding a wave of confidence after having posted

a series of late-season wins and seem intent on restoring some pride following an early season stumble.

"I think coming into this year, with our all of our seniors back, I had a feeling that we would do something special," Hecht said. "I think we've played a very competitive schedule and to come out of it with the record that we have and the chance to compete, we just know this is a great opportunity."

"We just have to take it one game at a time."

Hecht credits the team's defensive presence and up-tempo

See VIKINGS, page 5



Kevin Herrera/Daily Press

The Samohi varsity boys basketball team runs through a practice on Thursday in preparation for tonight's quarter-final showdown with Long Beach Poly.

Upscale changes talk of the town

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM PLACE — In order to remain competitive, business and city leaders are fairly certain they're going to need to reinvent downtown Santa Monica. The issue of who will foot the bill remains a touch murkier.

About 40 high-profile community leaders, property owners and business representatives gathered in a vacant retail store in the struggling Santa Monica Place mall on Wednesday night, discussing the future of downtown Santa Monica, how to appropriately invest into its bread and butter — the Third Street Promenade — and more importantly, how to control the management of it.

Most likely, it's going to require creating a new assessment district at the very least, if not an entirely new organization that isn't as closely attached to City Hall as is the current structure. Right now,

See DOWNTOWN, page 13

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HOROSCOPES

Easy does it, Libra

Santa Monica Daily Press



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll Have:

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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Once more, a key associate points you in the right direction. You might not understand what is necessary to make a situation work. A compliment comes from out of nowhere. You don't need to be suspicious. Tonight: Say yes.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ If you pull back, you might realize how much caring surrounds you. Reveal more of what you want, thinking about what is being offered. Assumptions need to be positive, and then you'll get the outcome you want. Tonight: Be willing to break some new ground.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Others appreciate your efforts. What might be most important is to remain nurturing to someone else. Your efforts and willingness to throw yourself into a project separate you from many. Know what you want. Tonight: Happy-plus, with someone you care about.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Others continue to dominate, but how you interact with them could make a big difference. Be more light-hearted and easygoing. You laugh, and others respond. Understanding is heightened by good news. Tonight: Go along with someone else.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Your ability to adapt could be greatly swayed by different situations. You like what goes on. Somehow, somehow, you need to handle an emotional situation. Think positively about someone who has a strong impact on your personal life. Tonight: Do your thing.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Ever resourceful, you make headway. Your creativity and energy mark your schedule. Whatever you decide to tackle will take you to the next level. Understand what you need to do in order to make your energy and life work. Tonight: Smile as the weekend draws near.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Check out a real estate investment that could mean a lot to you. Investigate alternatives if you don't feel at ease with a personal matter. You are on the ball and can read through a problem with ease. Now, use your insight. Tonight: Easy does it.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Ever playful, you seem to be ready to toss your energy, acumen or, as they say, your two cents into a situation. Listen to others. Schedule a late, long lunch. After all, you are about to plunge into the weekend. Tonight: Hanging out is fun to do.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Sometimes we don't have as much control as we would like to. Feedback can help others understand your boundaries. Good communication comes out of a readjustment of your attitude. Tonight: Expenses count.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You are all smiles the next few days. You might want to think more carefully about what is happening. Laugh and enjoy yourself more. You enter the weekend on cruise control. Think and act positively. Tonight: All smiles.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Experiment with different ideas in your head. Carefully test these concepts on friends and associates. By working with an idea more strongly, you'll come up with an even better concept. You laugh, and another smiles. Tonight: Get some extra rest.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Friends and energy mix well. How you deal with a personal matter is very different than usual right now. Do not give in to an audience. You need to stop and think. Sometimes the mutual consensus is not right. Tonight: Start the weekend in style.



Santa Monica Daily Press

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

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com

EDITOR

Carolyn Sackariason editor@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER

Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

SANTA MONICA PARENTING

Nina Furukawa nina@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fabian Lewkowicz FabianLewkowicz@aol.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Robbie P. Piubeni rob@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Rob Schwenker schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Stewart O'Dell stewarto@smdp.com

TRAFFIC MANAGER

Connie Sommerville connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II alex@smdp.com

NIGHT EDITOR

Lori Luechtefeld lori@smdp.com

NIGHT EDITOR

Michael Tittinger MoNeY.T.LaRoK@smdp.com

CLASSIFIEDS SALES MANAGER

Annie Kotok anniek@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Keith Wyatt

CIRCULATION

Glenn Bolan

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com

MASCOT

Maya Furukawa maya@smdp.com



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Take a page from professional writers

By Daily Press staff

Real-life television veterans will be on hand at Santa Monica College next month to give aspiring writers a few tips.

SMC's Mary Pickford Speakers Series continues in March with an Emmy Award-winning director and a writer for an Emmy-winning TV drama.

On March 6, Mike Denney, Emmy Award-winning director on the long-running hit soap, "The Young and the Restless," will give his insight into his business.

And on March 20, David McMillan, writer on the Emmy-winning television show "Judging Amy" and film teacher at Crossroads School for the Arts and Sciences in Santa Monica, will speak.

The lectures are free and are held at 7 p.m. Monday evenings at SMC's Academy of Entertainment & Technology's screening room, 1660 Stewart St., Santa Monica. Seating is on a first-arrival basis. Call (310) 434-3777.



BOBBY COLLINS



PAULA POUNDSTONE

School funding a laughing matter

By Daily Press staff

Raising much-needed funds for local schools is no laughing matter, but it will be for one night only in March.

Comedians Paula Poundstone and Bobby Collins will perform at Shutters on the Beach Hotel on March 21 at 7 p.m. The event, which will benefit McKinley Elementary, is open to the public and offers an opportunity for LA fans to see the performers who spend most of their year on the road.

Coming to prominence in the comedy-conspicuous 1980's, Poundstone's candid, conversational style and off-kilter views of the world have sustained her as one of the country's foremost comics. The New York Times has called Collins "the most natural comedian working today."

All proceeds from the event will benefit McKinley School's visual and performing arts programs such as guest artists, musical theater and talent shows, and arts assemblies.

Tickets for the benefit are \$40 and are on sale now by phone at (310) 828-5011. Admission price includes a VIP after-party featuring food and drink donated by Shutters and live music by McBand.

SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 24" - 60"	LIFT HOURS 8:00am - 4:00pm	RUNS OPEN 18	LIFTS OPEN 10/12
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CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed

JUNE MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 72" - 96"	LIFT HOURS 8:00am - 4:00pm	RUNS OPEN 35	LIFTS OPEN 6/6
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CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 96" - 120"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 150	LIFTS OPEN 26/28
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CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

MOUNTAIN HIGH

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12" - 36"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 10:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 21	LIFTS OPEN 10/16
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CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Hard Packed

MT. BALDY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12" - 16"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 4:30 pm	RUNS OPEN 0	LIFTS OPEN 3/4
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CONDITIONS: Packed Powder

SNOW SUMMIT

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 24" - 60"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 4:30 pm	RUNS OPEN 18	LIFTS OPEN 14/14
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CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Made, Machine Groomed

SNOW VALLEY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 36" - 12"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 12	LIFTS OPEN 5/11
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CONDITIONS: Powder, Packed Powder, Machine Groomed

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 57°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (1-1 FT)

Today is a small surf day most everywhere. A tiny swath of SW will pass though the region, but only the most sensitive of marine monitoring equipment will pick up this tiny pulse. Surf most everywhere will struggle to get above ankle high with south facing breaks having the best chance to see some knee high set waves when the tide is right, which will be a problem.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

WSW swell Monday, but rain and foul conditions...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

MONDAY	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LOW TIDE:	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HIGH TIDE:	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TUESDAY:				
LOW TIDE:	10:54AM	0.7FT	N/A	N/A
HIGH TIDE:	1:57AM	4.6FT	N/A	N/A
WEDNESDAY:				
LOW TIDE:	11:57AM	0.1FT	9:57PM	2.9FT
HIGH TIDE:	3:28AM	4.8FT	7:40PM	3.0FT
THURSDAY:				
LOW TIDE:	12:43PM	-0.6FT	11:32PM	2.6FT
HIGH TIDE:	4:49AM	5.21FT	7:42PM	3.3FT
FRIDAY:				
LOW TIDE:	1:22PM	-1.1FT	N/A	N/A
HIGH TIDE:	5:52AM	5.8FT	8PM	3.7FT

SURF AND SNOW QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? EMAIL ALEX@SMDP.COM

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The Q Line

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Merchants on Fourth Street are urging the City Council to reconsider its decision to tear up the ficus trees that have lined the street for decades. Under the current plan, half of the aging trees would each be replaced with two smaller, less-dense trees. City officials say the current tree canopy is too dense and the mature trees are tearing up the sidewalks with their roots.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Do you support the plan to replace the ficus trees along Fourth Street? Why or why not?"

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

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NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS CITY OF SANTA MONICA SUSTAINABLE CITY TASK FORCE

Applications are invited to fill two vacancies on the Sustainable City Task Force (SCTF). All persons who reside or work in Santa Monica are invited to apply regardless of race, sex, age, disability, religion, marital status, national origin, sexual preference, or ancestry. Appointment will be made at a City Council meeting in April or May 2006.

Application forms and information are available on the internet at www.smepd.org. Applications are also available at the Environmental Programs Division, 200 Santa Monica Pier, Suite J, Santa Monica, CA 90401. You may request an application by mail, email or fax by calling (310) 458-2213. All documents are available in alternate format by calling (310) 458-2213.

To be eligible, applications must be received at the Environmental Programs Division office by 5:00pm Monday March 6, 2006.



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Monday, February 27

- 6:00 – 8:00 pm
- Santa Monica Main Library, Multipurpose Room on the 2nd floor, 601 Santa Monica Blvd (use Lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10)

Wednesday, March 1

- 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- Virginia Park, Thelma Terry Center, 2200 Virginia Ave, Santa Monica (use Lines 5, 7, and 11)

Thursday, March 2

- 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm
- UCLA Athletic Dept., J. D. Morgan Center, Press Room (use Lines 1, 2, 3, 8, 12, and Super 12)

Saturday, March 4

- 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
- Ken Edwards Center, 1527 4th St, Room 100 A-B, Santa Monica (use Lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10)



LOCAL



CRIME WATCH

By Daily Press staff

Transient must've been strapped for cash

At 12:35 a.m. on Feb. 14, Santa Monica Police officers responded to the 1900 block of Lincoln Boulevard after receiving a call that a man was drunk and had struck another person with a leather belt. Edgar Cuzzie Vasquez, 41, a transient, was taken into custody and booked for public intoxication. While in jail, he spat on an officer, adding an additional charge of assault. His bail was set at \$20,000.

At 10:25 p.m. on Feb. 12, Santa Monica Police officers responded to the Santa Monica Pier after receiving a report of an assault. A man who was walking with a group of friends, laughing and talking, said another man, identified by police as Brandon Michael Furhman, 18, of Los Angeles, approached him and asked if they were laughing at him. After walking away, the man said he was followed by Furhman, who began yelling. For an unknown reason, Furhman allegedly struck the man in the head, creating a one-inch laceration on his forehead. Officers apprehended Furhman and recovered a box cutter. He was booked for assault with a deadly weapon. His bail was set at \$30,000.

At 3:50 p.m. on Feb. 13, Santa Monica Police officers responded to 17th Street and Pico Boulevard regarding an assault in a liquor store. The alleged victim said she was slapped in the face for no reason by the suspect, who was identified as Michael Jerome Foster, 48, of Santa Monica. He was arrested, booked for assault and battery and was placed on a parole hold. No bail was set.

At 3:10 p.m. on Feb. 17, Santa Monica Police officers responded to the 300 block of Pico Boulevard to a report of trespassing at the AM/PM gas station. An employee there told police that a transient was panhandling and refused to leave after repeated requests. The transient, later identified as Patrick Steven Murphy, 22, left once police were notified. However, the employee insisted on pressing charges. Murphy was arrested and booked for trespassing. Bail was set at \$5,000.

At 3:29 p.m. on Feb. 13, Santa Monica Police officers responded to the 2600 block of Lincoln Boulevard in regards to a report of theft at an Albertson's grocery store. A store employee said he saw Juan Alvarez, 36, of Venice, stash several bottles of liquor into a shopping cart, failing to pay for the items when he left the store. Employees struggled with Alvarez and detained him until police arrived. Alvarez was arrested and booked for robbery. No bail was set.

At 8:40 p.m. on Feb. 12, witnesses standing by the SMPD headquarters near City Hall said they saw a man jump on top of a jeep, walk on the hood and roof, causing damage. The man, later identified as Jose Jimenez, 20, of Mar Vista, jumped off the car and hopped into an awaiting vehicle. Officers pulled Jimenez over a short distance later where he was positively identified and arrested for vandalism. Bail was set at \$31,000, with a \$26,000 traffic warrant included.

At noon on Feb. 16, a Santa Monica Police officer on bike patrol in the area of Second Street and Santa Monica Boulevard could hear loud music emanating from a vehicle one block away. When the vehicle was stopped, the officer found the driver didn't have a license. Juan Jose Torres, 24, of Los Angeles, was arrested for driving on a suspended license and for possession of an illegal weapon after a small baton was found in the car. His bail was set at \$20,000.

At 10:56 a.m. on Feb. 18, Santa Monica Police responded to Fourth Street and Broadway to reports of threats being made. Officers arrived and spoke to an alleged victim who said the suspect had made several threats to kill him. It was believed that the suspect had a history of mental illness. Officer contacted the suspect, identified as Carl John Graziano, 37, a transient, who was placed under arrest and booked for making criminal threats.

At 6:25 p.m. on Feb. 18, Santa Monica Police officers responded to Benihana's restaurant in the 1400 block of Fourth Street after an employee there reported that a customer had paid her check with a counterfeit \$20 bill. The employee showed officers the fake \$20 bill and a receipt. Officers made contact with the customer, identified as Terra Terenice Thomas, 28, of Los Angeles, who was arrested and taken to jail on possession of counterfeit money. While at the jail, additional \$20 bills were recovered from Thomas' purse which all had the same serial numbers. The Secret Service was contacted and confirmed that there had been counterfeit bills with the same serial numbers being circulated in the LA and San Fernando Valley areas.

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Safety chute is first-ever utilized at an ocean pier

PIER CHUTE, from page 1

have an adequate way to evacuate people rapidly and safely from the ocean end of the pier.

Oswaldo Amezcua, 25, was arrested on July 4, 2000 after he took 15 people hostage at the pier's Playland Arcade. He was wanted in connection with the murders of three people in San Bernardino, as well as the attempted murder of four people, including three police officers whom he shot during the standoff.

Jose Flores, an accomplice, was also arrested. The two were tried, convicted and sentenced to death in March 2005.

MATERIALS

The escape chute, which cost roughly \$16,000 and can last for up to 10 years, consists of three layers, Hooper said.

The outside layer is made of fiberglass and is fire proof, withstanding constant temperatures of up to 398 degrees. The middle layer is made of a series of stainless steel coiled springs sewn into nylon that helps the user control their speed as they slide down to an awaiting rescue boat. The springs have a small diameter that will exert pressure. Pushing on the springs will speed up the rate of descent. The inner layer is made of kevlar on the larger models and can withstand the dead weight load of 1.5 tons.

According to Hooper, one chute the size of the one installed at the pier can move 25 people per minute and 350 in 15

minutes. Hooper said the chute can accommodate people of all sizes, ages and disabilities. However, infants will need to be accompanied by an adult.

"If you can fit through the opening, than you can make it down the chute," Hooper said.

A spokesman with the fire department said they will "put the chute to work," but it will only be used in case of an emergency and when no other escape route is available.

"If you can fit through the opening, than you can make it down the chute."

ERIC HOOPER
Escape Chute Systems

If such an emergency does occur, people will be able to slide down the chute, where they will land on the deck of an awaiting boat or rubber raft that will transport evacuees to a Coast Guard cutter stationed a short distance from the pier.

The highest chute operating today is 50 stories high and is installed in a high-rise in Malaysia. Hooper has installed chutes in private businesses, as well as on space ship launch pads in China, among other locations. This is the first time a chute has been used to evacuate the general public over water, Hooper said.

Vikings know playoff run could be last shot at title

VIKINGS, from page 1

offense for their run of recent successes, with a tip of the hat to the leadership exhibited by his seniors.

"We have guys who, as the season has progressed, are starting to gel right now and I think everyone is putting their personal agendas aside and realizing it's important to put the team first."

One such leader is six-foot point guard and team co-captain Terrance Boozer, 18, a vocal and versatile player who remembers as a freshman the team advancing to the quarter-finals, but falling before the title game. Since then, he and the other players in his grade have made it a goal to make it past the quarter-finals. This is their last opportunity.

"I think we are playing with a lot of confidence now, starting to trust each other more on the basketball court, anticipating where we're going to be to get open shots," Boozer said Wednesday as his

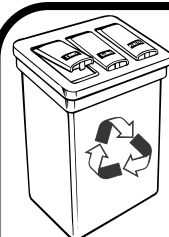
teammates ran through drills in Samohi's North Gym. "Everything is going well right now. We just want to keep it going."

Boozer hopes a victory tonight will help bring the fans back after some disappointing losses at the season's outset, particularly against Long Beach Jordan, who may next face the Vikings if both squads advance to the semis.

Six-foot, five-inch center Will Freedman, 18, also a co-captain, said the team isn't overlooking Long Beach Poly, but it would be nice to enact some revenge on Jordan.

"They caught us early on in the season, but we are a much better basketball team now," Freedman said. "It would mean a lot to the school if we can make it to the finals because I think a lot of people were certain we weren't going to go this far. We did."

"While this might be a surprise for many, it's not for us. We think we can go all the way."



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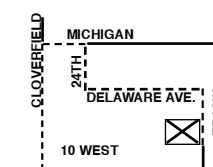
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EDITORIAL

Merchants aren't only ones operating in dark

 There's a lot going on in this town and it's nearly impossible to track every decision made within the walls of City Hall.

Merchants along Second and Fourth streets earlier this month realized how true that is when they saw urban planners marking dozens of trees to be chopped down, a decision made by the City Council last fall as part of a plan that has been in the works for the better part of nine years.

In efforts to provide more light and open space to what have been described as "dark streets," the plan calls for a total of 54 ficus trees to be cut down — 29 on Fourth Street and 25 on Second Street. Eighty ficus trees will remain. In the mature trees' stead, 116 smaller, leafier trees — called ginkos — will be planted.

Dozens of merchants are outraged that City Hall's solution to make the shopping corridors a block off of the Promenade more pedestrian friendly is to cut down perfectly good trees. On the surface, it doesn't seem the most environmentally friendly solution in a self-described "green city."

The project is estimated to cost \$3.5 million. Since 2003, a combination of grant funds have trickled in to support the plan, including \$2.2 million from the federal government and \$1 million from the state, and City Hall has already allocated \$280,000 from its general fund. However, City Hall still needs to raise \$1 million to complete the project it wants, according to city staff.

There is something askew in the fact that there is money available to cut down perfectly healthy trees just because they have matured and replacing them with smaller ones more aesthetically pleasing. That money could be better spent on countless other important matters like education, or feeding the hungry.

Business owners have submitted a petition to City Hall, asking the City Council to reconsider its decision and save the trees, some of which are 75 years old — an unlikely scenario since City Hall spent \$39,000 to pay an urban design firm to come up with the plan. It would cost thousands of dollars more to change it at this point.

City officials say if merchants had an opinion on the issue they should have come to the public meetings when the concept was discussed. We agree. People can't make an impact if they don't involve themselves in political and public processes. That's a right every American is entitled to, and most of the time they choose not to engage themselves.

And that is not to say that even if the merchants had voiced their opinions they would have been heard. Oftentimes, elected officials go through the motions of listening to public comment but do what they want anyway.

A business official commented this week during a meeting about the future of downtown Santa Monica that Second and Fourth streets lack sufficient retail businesses. It's not surprising since those areas have been ignored for years — until recently.

Those streets — and the businesses on them — have been treated by City Hall as the step-children to the economic engine that has become the Third Street Promenade. There is not one merchant from Second or Fourth streets that sits on the Bayside District Corp. Board of Directors, which manages the downtown area in conjunction with City Hall.

The City Council, which appoints the Bayside Board members, needs to bring people who do business on Second and Fourth streets into the process. And those merchants need to engage themselves, pay attention to what is going on around them and follow what their appointed and elected officials are doing. Otherwise, they will never be able to control their destinies.

Of mice and Dems



SOAP BOX

BY BENNET KELLEY

With baseball players reporting for spring training, this is the time of year in which fans of even the most hapless teams are hopeful that this might be their year. For Democrats, however, this air of hopefulness is limited to the baseball diamond since as they look ahead to the upcoming elections they are growing increasingly restive and fear that they will lose ground again as they have for every election since Sept. 11. Those concerns will continue to escalate until the Democrats understand who and why they lost in 2004.

In 2004, John Kerry narrowly carried every age group in the five key battleground states — Florida, Ohio, Iowa, Nevada and New Mexico — except for "Generation Jones." Generation Jones covers those born during the end of the baby boom, or at the beginning of Generation X who came of age during the Carter and/or Reagan presidencies. Kerry would be president today were it not for the fact that Generation Jones voters, also known as "Jonesers," overwhelmingly supported President Bush by margins of 9 to 19 percent in those key states.

Jonesers' political views were shaped by Reagan's success, Carter's failures and the fact that Republicans constantly reminded them of both throughout the Reagan-Bush era. Today we forget the fact that the Republicans so effectively stigmatized the Democrats with the failures of the Carter administration that it was only after the passage of 20 years that the former president was permitted to address his own party's convention.

Democrats now have the opportunity to return the favor in a way that should resonate with the Jonesers. President Bush, like Carter, has very low approval ratings due to a weak economy, rising gas prices, setbacks in the Persian Gulf that have left Americans feeling less secure and questions of competence. Even though President Bush will not be on the ballot in 2006 and 2008, Democrats must seize this opportunity to "Carterize" him and link the Republicans with the failures of this administration for years to come.

While Jonesers have been more comfortable with the Republicans on national security issues, they are not out of reach to the Democrats. Women Jonesers were one of the largest blocs of swing voters in 2004 and shifted between Bush and Kerry

throughout the campaign. The Democrats' biggest obstacle to winning the Generation Jones vote is themselves. This was illustrated by my recent exchange with a senior Democratic staffer who responded to my suggestion that Senate Democrats should, instead of filibustering the Alito nomination, block everything altogether and use Alito as a bargaining chip to get a special prosecutor named for at least one of the many current scandals plaguing the administration, by declaring it impossible since it would require something the Democrats simply lacked — a spine.

Throughout their voting lives, Jonesers have seen verberally challenged Democrats dodge fight after fight and respond to the Republicans' success by abandoning the word "liberal," embracing the death penalty and ducking any fight over gay rights. During the Bush administration alone, Democrats have rolled over like lap dogs on Iraq, tax cuts and bankruptcy "reform," and then failed to effectively respond to the Swift Boat Veterans' smear campaign in the 2004 race. It does not matter how many wars or weapons programs the Democrats support or war heroes they nominate, Jonesers will never trust them to defend their country if they continue to lack the courage or will to stand up to the Republicans and defend themselves.

The rub for the Democrats is that Jonesers and other voters supported Reagan and the current president, despite often disagreeing with them on the issues. What mattered most to them was that their president was authentic and they knew where he stood. That is why whenever Ronald Reagan was on the ropes politically — the sure fire solution was always to let Reagan be Reagan.

The 2005 Virginia governor's race demonstrates that this also may be the solution for Democrats. Tim Kaine, a longtime opponent of the death penalty who openly discussed his moral views on the issue won a decisive victory in a state that is second only to Texas in executions.

Andrew Jackson once said that "one man with courage makes a majority." If Democrats listened to Jackson more and their pollsters less they might solve their Generation Jones problem. "Letting Democrats be Democrats," could make the difference between another long season and this finally being the Democrats' year.

(Bennet Kelley is the former national co-chair of the Democratic National Committee's young professional arm, the publisher of BushLies.net and a Santa Monica attorney. He can be reached at bennet@bennetkelley.com.)

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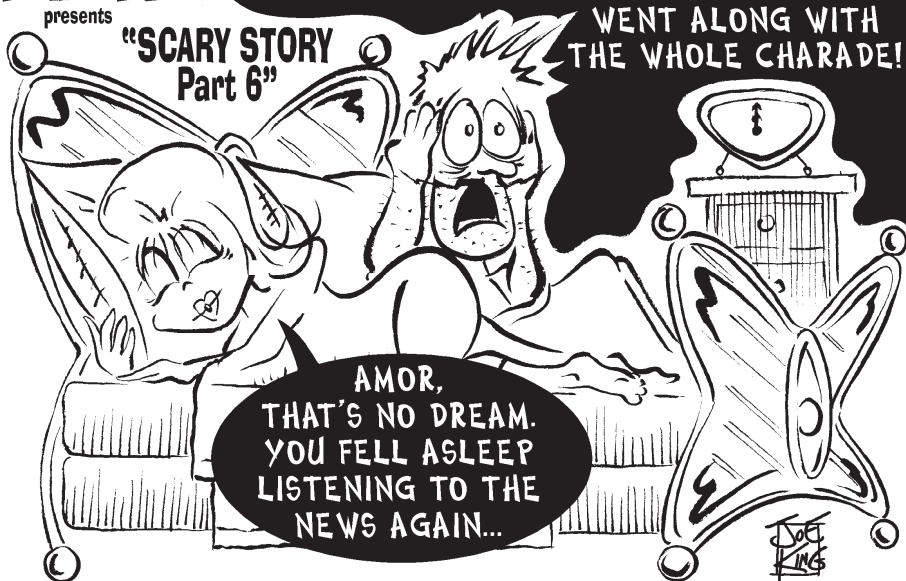
OPINION


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Homeless are redefining public space

Editor:

David Pizarra's column (SMDP, Feb. 21, page 4) makes, at the very least, one interesting point: Homeless people have in effect "redefined" what "public" space is and the uses to which such space is put. The New York anthropologist Kim Hopper has actually gone further and used the term "redefined" in his own observations that when people, by unavoidable need, lay themselves down in doorways or on streets, on train or subway station platforms, on rooftops, on park benches or in park foliage, they claim the territory for uses other than that which the great city planners of Manhattan, or any other metropolis, had originally intended, and that "public space" now truly belongs to — and is of need to a significant segment of the "public."

In fact, homeless people define and use space in ways that are vastly at odds with the definitions of the "housed" residents. Homeless people in effect make public space their own — they live in public virtually all of the time — and define its utility according to their own standards by virtue of their extraordinary familiarity with, and continued habitation in such space, as I suspect that people the world over have done for centuries under similar pressing circumstances. After all, a quake victim in Pakistan looks to set up a camp for himself and his family anywhere he can. Herein perhaps is not a question of "legal right" of property ownership but of how humans are to employ desperately-needed resources that are theirs by right of pressing and immutable and deprived need.

All of the issues above are no doubt of touchy legality, and I suspect that the Constitution is not really of much use here in clarifying the problem.

And certainly, city planners cannot be said to always anticipate human needs, either in their own times or in the future.

Rick Reutter
Santa Monica

Thank you for saving the squirrels

Editor:

It's good to see that the death squad has been called off of the park squirrels, at least temporarily (SMDP, Feb. 18-19, page 1).

Thank you, animal advocates, Councilmember Kevin McKeown and City Manager Lamont Ewell for applying some common sense to deal with the situation.

Hopefully, there will be some advocates to work towards revising the obscure county code that says that only three squirrels per acre are acceptable. In silliness, this ordinance ranks right up there with the now familiar hedge height code in Santa Monica. We must continue to be engaged in "the process" and vigilant against idiosyncrasy, of which there seemingly is no end.

Maria Fotopoulos
Santa Monica

Fat cats get fatter because we keep filling their bowls

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



But, editor, I inquire, "I don't do this for my health do I?"

Editor: "Think that through and get back to me."

Thinking it through, I know this: I don't do this for my wealth. Every man does need food, shelter, love and obsession to survive, not necessarily in that order. Take the vice president. Please.

Ahab had his killer whale, Cheney has his killer quail and just how obsessed is the vice president in his quest to hunt down the fine little feathered foe? Obsessed enough to wheel and fire so fast when one flew by that he never saw his good-Republican-donor-hunting-buddy, Harry Whittington, standing there in the heightened red-alert-terror-zone somewhere between bird and shotgun.

Whittington hobbled out of intensive care, black and blue and red all over, after suffering a heart attack from the blast, just long enough to apologize for getting in the way of Cheney's hair trigger. Shortly thereafter the survivors of Hiroshima came forward to apologize for getting in the way of the A-bomb, then holocaust-surviving Jews apologized for getting in the way of Hitler's gas chambers and that did it. I knew I could remain silent no longer — for health reasons.

"You bastards work for us," we used to say — at least I used to say — of the people we elect. Mr. Bush, Mr. Cheney, Mr. Rumsfeld, Ms. Rice — it's you now and "by God we sign your paycheck so you'd best do the people's will, or else." Remember how fun it was to be so naïve as to actually say stuff like that and halfway believe it? It's chilling to the bone just how far from "working-for-us" this current ruling bunch has swerved.

Do you believe the guys we pay to work for us have sacrificed 2,500-and-counting loyal-to-the-death American soldiers in the Great Needless War in order to do nothing so much as bring radical fundamentalist Muslim rule to Iraq that bodes far more dangerous than any Saddam regime ever did or could? Believe it. Saddam had sideburns for crissakes.

Do you believe the guys we pay to work for us have squandered hundreds of billions of good American dollars — along with aforementioned lives — in the Great Needless War in order to bring radical fundamentalist Muslim rule to Iraq while millions of good American human beings sleep on cardboard slats in the shadows of Halliburton and Exxon skyscrapers where blood money made off the Great Needless War lines the walls inside? Believe it.

Do you believe the guys we pay to work for us continue their spoiled-brat, obsessive-compulsive tax-cutting that pads the wallets — in the middle of their own Great

Needless War — of Halliburton, Exxon, and all the fattest cats in the litter who clog the streets with faux-chic Hummers fully loaded with more armor than the real ones with the GI's in them getting blown away halfway around the world in order to keep the faux-chic Hummers sucking mad gas? Believe it.

I don't. Pinch me, tell me it's only a dream — and not the American one.

Do you believe Abu Ghraib? And that Chinese water torture will forevermore be known in comedy stores around the globe as American water torture in the punchline of bad jokes because the guys we pay to work for us somehow have made it official American policy? Believe it.

Your calls home, your e-mails, your library books, your drug store transactions — scrutinized at the whim of the guys we pay to work for us? "This call may be monitored for quality assurance that there is no terrorist under your bed tonight. Sweet dreams." Believe it.

Gouged gas, gouged health care, gouged reconstruction of New Orleans and of the country blown away by the Great Needless War? Gorged lobbyists buying gorged congressmen's votes with golf trips to Aruba? Gouged, gorged, good God, America, is this really us? Believe it.

Stupidity is more dangerous than evil. For instance, Limbaugh, Hanity, O'Reilly — blah, blah, and blah — and all the rest of the right-radio hate-mongers are evil. Knowing that what you do is destructive, deceptive, dishonest and divisive, yet flailing away nonetheless for a very large paycheck — evil. But they're not the ones dropping hideous, science-fictional bombs with names like Whiskey Pete and Daisy Cutter on human populations in a Great Needless War. No, that's done by the guys we pay to work for us, guys who seem intellectually incapable of having a nefarious master plan in which to be evil. Do they appear to be just plain stupid, or is it just me?

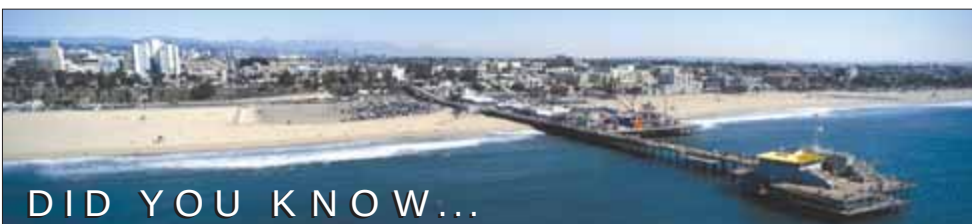
This just in: Security of major U.S. ports sold off to terrorism hotbed United Arab Emirates. Stupid? Believe it. How stupid can they be? Which only begs the more gruesome question: How stupid can we be — the ones who pay them to work for us — to put up with it?

I'm talking to you now, my g-g-g-generation. Can you hear me now? We coulda been somebody, Charlie. My son looks me in the eye and says: "Where'd you guys go, just when we needed you?" Well, ijo, we folded like a cheap accordion, choked like a dead man hanging. Got our minds right, boss, started writing checks for the faux-chic Hummers. We should be ashamed, are already shamed, by kids — like the one whose posting on a popular Internet site called "Youth Power" said in no uncertain terms — "F--k the elders. Look at the world today."

From the mouths of babes, and who can argue? It's up to them now.

(Ron Scott Smith writes occasionally, when the spirit moves him. He can be reached at edgeofthewest@aol.com.)

DID YOU KNOW...



Macerich, Inc., owner of Santa Monica Place Mall, had a one-year return of 46.9 percent on its stock in 2005 on a given day this past spring.

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STATE

Governor's plot twists leave voters befuddled

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD

AP Political Writer

LOS ANGELES — Atoning for a year in which California voters turned against him, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger confessed to a litany of political sins last month but took solace in a few words, "I led from my heart."

A lot of voters might wonder what that means.

After executing political pirouettes to the right and left, Schwarzenegger is struggling to re-establish the centrist appeal that helped elect him to office in 2003.

Last year, he pushed a slate of losing ballot measures that alienated independents and Democrats. Shortly after the election, he angered conservatives within his own party by naming a Democratic activist as his chief of staff and promoting a series of left-leaning policy initiatives.

As he begins his pursuit of a second term in Sacramento, the twists and lurches of recent months have left a residual question about his leadership: What does Arnold Schwarzenegger believe in?

He arrives at an early marker in the campaign Friday — a keynote speech at the state Republican Party winter convention — with conservatives openly questioning why they should support him.

Is he the governor who sought new power to choke off state spending in 2005, or the one who this year called for record borrowing and submitted a budget that doles out \$6 billion more than the state will collect in taxes?

Is he the governor who on his first day in office said, "My administration is not about politics," or the one who taunted "girlie men" Democrats and campaigned for President Bush in Ohio, a swing state, on the eve of the 2004 presidential election?

Is he the governor who has rankled business interests by pushing for a higher minimum wage, or the free-market devotee whose agenda rarely breaks from the state Chamber of Commerce?

"When you look at the gyrations in his policies, it appears he's plagued by an absence of core values," said longtime Republican strategist Arnold Steinberg. "He comes across as a caricature, where energy and enthusiasm are confused with core values."

Threats by activists to strip Schwarzenegger of the GOP nomination have faded, even if they never appeared realistic. State Sen. Tom McClintock, a conservative Republican running for lieutenant governor, has tamped down unrest on the right wing despite his concern about the governor's spending proposals.

Nonetheless, conservatives at the convention have proposed resolutions that challenge Schwarzenegger's positions on the minimum wage (he wants it increased \$1-an-hour, to \$7.75, over two years), judicial appointments (he's named nearly as many Democrats as Republicans to the Superior Court), and spending and borrowing proposals.

The governor will have to find a way to reassure a rebellious right without handing the Democrats and independents he needs to win in November new reasons to distrust him.

"I see real problems for the governor," said pollster Mark DiCamillo, noting that the gulf between the state's Democratic-leaning coastal areas and Republic-rich

inland counties has grown deeper.

"His recent statements and policy positions make it look like he's trying to cut into the Democrats' advantage among coastal voters. However, others are trying to get him to backtrack to shore up support among his Republican base. How he ends up resolving this will probably be the major strategic decision facing his re-election campaign," DiCamillo said.

Schwarzenegger faces the same dilemma faced by California Republicans in all statewide races: GOP registration is about 35 percent, meaning he has to look elsewhere for votes. Surveys that analyzed the 2003 recall election found that the governor picked off a sprinkle of Democrats and nearly half the independents, who now make up 18 percent of registered voters in California.

Schwarzenegger was elected after giving voters a fleeting impression of his politics.

Aided by his Hollywood celebrity, the first-time candidate hewed to broad if sometimes vague themes about fighting special interests and renewing confidence in government, which resonated with a public grown weary of the budget and energy crises under then-Gov. Gray Davis, a Democrat.

The actor-turned-governor is known to invoke Reagan and Nixon, but then there's the Kennedy connection via his wife, Maria Shriver. He tends to be too conservative on fiscal issues for some Democrats, and too liberal on social issues for some Republicans.

The historian Kevin Starr has called Schwarzenegger "the oddity of a free market-oriented governor ... who is possessed simultaneously of an almost instinctive respect for the public sector and its safety nets."

His early months in office were marked by bipartisan dealmaking, and he pushed through budget reforms with Democrats campaigning at his side. But his decision last year to try to undercut the power of public employee unions in Sacramento, while giving his office new authority to curb state spending, damaged his moderate image. Voters rejected all four of his ballot proposals in November, and his approval ratings dived below 40 percent.

Schwarzenegger has disputed suggestions of a new direction in 2006.

"Anyone who says I am changing my positions is totally wrong," he said last month.

His attempt to increase the minimum wage aside, Schwarzenegger has been a consistent friend of business since he took office. He has not raised taxes and pushed through reforms to the state's workers' compensation system.

"He's clearly made economic prosperity the hallmark of his administration," says Allan Zaremberg, who heads the state Chamber of Commerce.

But on other issues, he's sometimes sent muddled messages.

He campaigned in 2003 as a maverick reformer, boasting "I cannot be bought." He has since loaded his campaign treasury with millions of dollars from business and corporate special interests, many eager to win state contracts or favors.

Schwarzenegger says he supports a law approved by California voters in 2003 that states that marriage can only involve a man and a woman. But in 2004 he said same-sex marriages would be "fine with me" if the courts or the voters make them legal.

STATE



One hot topic: Lesson of the day was arson

BY SETH HETTENA

Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — Federal prosecutors on Wednesday unsealed an indictment charging an environmental activist with teaching others how to start an arson fire during a 2003 lecture in San Diego, where the costliest act of ecoterrorism in U.S. history had just occurred.

Prosecutors said Rodney A. Coronado gave the lecture 15 hours after a \$50 million fire destroyed a massive apartment complex in a north San Diego neighborhood. The indictment, however, does not link Coronado to that fire.

Coronado, 39, was arrested Wednesday in Tucson, Ariz., on a charge of distribution of information relating to explosives, destructive devices and weapons of mass destruction. He will be arraigned there Thursday.

His attorney did not return a message left seeking comment.

Coronado previously served four years in federal prison for a 1992 blaze at a Michigan animal research facility.

Daniel Dzwilewski, agent in charge of the San Diego FBI office, alleged that

Coronado was a national leader of the radical Earth Liberation Front. ELF is an underground movement with no public leadership, membership or spokesperson, according to its Web site. An e-mail sent to the Web site didn't elicit an immediate response.

The 2003 fire destroyed a five-story apartment complex, an underground parking garage and a construction crane in San Diego. No one was injured. A banner found at the scene read "If you build it, we will burn it" with the initials of the ELF.

Coronado's subsequent talk covered animal rights and militant environmental activism. According to an account and photos of the speech posted on the Internet, he demonstrated how to build a crude ignition device using a plastic jug filled with gasoline and oil.

While he repeatedly insisted that he had no role in the arson, Coronado has said he sympathized with the arsonists.

Authorities said the charge on which Coronado was indicted has been used only four times since it was written in 1997, most recently in an Ohio case unsealed Tuesday against three men charged with attempting to wage terror attacks against

the United States. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison.

Coronado was previously sentenced to nearly five years in prison for a crime in which he said he did not participate: the 1992 firebombing of a Michigan State University laboratory and the offices of two animal researchers that caused \$1.2 million in damage.

In December, a federal jury in Tucson, Ariz., convicted Coronado of illegally entering the Sabino Canyon Recreation Area to interfere with efforts to trap and relocate mountain lions. He faces up to 7 1/2 years in prison when he's sentenced in March. That indictment called Coronado a member of Earth First!, perhaps best known for forest protests aimed at halting logging.

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Entertainment

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

Woodwind Quintet gets original

By Daily Press staff

Six original compositions will make their debut next weekend within the walls of one of the city's cultural treasures.

Continuing a collaboration between the Miles Memorial Playhouse and the Santa Monica Symphony Quintet, the city of Santa Monica Cultural Affairs Division has announced the second annual "Debut! New Compositions @ The Miles." It's an evening of "new" classical music designed to provide an outlet for local composers and allow their music to be heard.

The concert will include works by Dante DeSilva, Steven Gates, David Lefkowitz, Laurence Lowe, Peter Senchuk and Roger Zare. All of the composers were chosen from a public request for bids process and selected from more than two dozen entrants. Each composer will be present to introduce their work and say a few words about its composition.

The concerts are scheduled for Saturday, March 4 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 5, at 2 p.m. at the Miles Memorial Playhouse, 1130 Lincoln Blvd., inside Reed Park. Doors will open one hour before show time. The show will run approximately an hour and 15 minutes, including a brief intermission.

Cost of admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors and children 14 and under. Tickets must be reserved by calling Justin Yoffe, Miles Playhouse director at (310) 458-8634. Free parking is available at 808 Wilshire Blvd. Check out www.milesplayhouse.org for more information.

Jazzin' it up at SMC

By Daily Press staff

Spring is in the air at Santa Monica College.

SMC's music department will present an eclectic lineup of concerts in March, covering a wide range of musical styles. All concerts will be held in the SMC Concert Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. The lineup is:

■ Friday, March 3 at 7 p.m.: Spring Jazz Concert — Bassist Nedra Wheeler. (Tickets are \$10).

■ Tuesday, March 21 at 11:15 a.m.: Alan Busteed Viola Recital. (Free).

■ Sunday, March 26 at 4 p.m.: SMC Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Dr. James Smith. (Tickets are \$10).

■ Friday, March 31 at 7 p.m.: Spring Jazz Concert — Eric Person Quartet (Tickets are \$10)

For tickets and information, call (310) 434-3000 or (310) 434-4323.



Only one side to the story

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press



REVIEW

THE MOVIE: Trudell

THE DIRECTOR: Heather Rae

THE STARS: John Trudell, Robert Redford, Bonnie Raitt, Val Kilmer

Native American filmmaker Heather Rae spent upwards of a decade capturing images and collecting archival footage to chronicle the life of a true original, Native American poet/civil rights leader John Trudell. The result is

a documentary that while informative and intermittently entertaining, is too one-dimensional to recommend very highly. Rae is enamored with her legendarily subversive subject, and this 80-minute exercise in hero worship eventually becomes wearisome. Balance is needed, but there is none. Rather than underscore Trudell's epic struggle against the perceived forces of intolerance by including opposing viewpoints, Rae relies on Trudell's provocative yet oblique anti-government proclamations along with laudatory testimonials from the likes of Robert Redford and Bonnie Raitt. With but one perspective in play, "Trudell" lacks the necessary element of conflict that makes for great documentaries.

(NOT RATED. RUNNING TIME: 80 MINUTES)

'Running' on empty, but still a wild ride

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press



REVIEW

THE MOVIE: Running Scared

THE DIRECTOR: Wayne Kramer

THE STARS: Paul Walker, Chazz Palmintieri, Vera Farmiga, Cameron Bright

A lot of folks will no doubt be repulsed by the vociferous feculence-fest that is Wayne Kramer's directorial follow-up to "The Cooler," but there's certainly a sizable audience out there for this sort of murky material. Most are young males who've mastered all versions of the "Grand Theft Auto" video game series. But there are other factions who'll be lining up to see "Running Scared" — digerati, fan boys, perverts, escaped convicts and Quentin Tarantino devotees willing to take whatever they can get while the master is off on one of his sabbaticals. Indeed, with its myriad nods to QT's oeuvre, a more appropriate title for

"Running Scared" would be "Grand Theft Pulp." Not to say the film is without its charms, you've just got to be willing to indulge your, shall we say, more deviant tendencies.

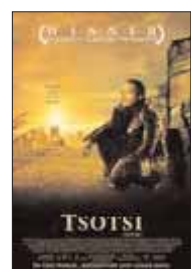
Leaden leading man Paul Walker opens his second film in as many weeks, but don't expect to find him frolicking with any cute pooches this time around. Cuddly has no place in a funereal world seemingly populated exclusively by pimps, hos, addicts, killers, pedophiles and crooked cops. There also are sadistic mob guys who shoot hockey pucks at Walker's pretty mug, which has been covered with a week's worth of five o'clock shadow to make him look mean. Ice hockey, pedophiles and Chazz Palmintieri — whose thespian range spans "tough guy" to "wiseguy" — all in the same movie? Sheesh! Has Wayne Kramer no shame? OK, truth be told, the movie is pretty darn exciting. At the very least, you'll be challenged trying to keep up with the whirling dervish of a plot that involves a missing gun, some dead cops, a Russian meth dealer/John Wayne fanatic, tykes in trouble, and a handsome hero played by a star that can't act very well.

(RATED R. RUNNING TIME: 122 MINUTES)

'Tsotsi' role proves worthy of its Oscar buzz accolades

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press



REVIEW

THE MOVIE: Tsotsi

THE DIRECTOR: Gavin Hood

THE STARS: Presley Chweneyagae, Mothusi Magano, Terry Pheto

Emotional honesty on a level seldom found in Hollywood-produced flicks about thug life is the hallmark of writer-director Gavin Hood's gripping adaptation of Athol Fugard's 1960 novel. A worthy Oscar nominee in the Best Foreign Language Film category,

"Tsotsi" plays out over a violent six-day period in which a young gang leader from a shantytown on the outskirts

of Johannesburg, South Africa, comes of age while confronting his troubled past. Tsotsi (South African newcomer Presley Chweneyagae), whose adopted name means "gangster" in the ghetto vernacular, was orphaned at a young age and his feral existence has turned him into a fearsome character. Following a bloody confrontation with one of his minions (Mothusi Magano) a distraught Tsotsi wanders into an affluent suburb, where an impromptu carjacking leaves him with an innocent woman's blood on his hands and her infant in his care. Hood adroitly parallels the softening of his antihero with the mounting tension as the search for the kidnapped child intensifies. Stellar performances all around, particularly Chweneyagae and the beautiful Terry Pheto as a young widow who becomes a surrogate mother to Tsotsi and his ill-begotten baby.

(RATED R. RUNNING TIME: 94 MINUTES)





June Stoddard/Special to the Daily Press
The Samohi Symphony receives a standing ovation at Disney Concert Hall last Sunday.

Samohi Symphony outdoes itself

BY JUNE STODDARD
Special to the Daily Press

Santa Monica High School students performed at their peak this past Sunday, earning several standing ovations from their crowd of supporters who packed into the Disney Concert Hall.

Those who were lucky enough to hear the Samohi Symphony perform at Disney Concert Hall were treated to a masterful performance. The symphony also became the first public high school orchestra ever invited to perform at the venue.

Many orchestra musicians find unique nuances performing together for decades or more. The musicians of the Samohi Symphony, founded 103 years ago, begin in fourth grade and, those enjoying this serious fun, continue to play in successive orchestras for the next eight years. Orchestra becomes their team sport.

Early last year, the Samohi Symphony applied to the LA Philharmonic Association to perform at Walt Disney Concert Hall in their “Sounds About Town Series,” which nurtures premier youth orchestras. After follow-up calls, they were invited to test the new shell at the Hollywood Bowl. Though the test occurred the day after prom night, as technicians raised and lowered the ceiling working on sound levels, LA Philharmonic decision makers were listening and soon extended an offer to Samohi to perform in this season.

Joni Swenson, Samohi Orchestra director, chose pieces reflecting the series theme “Sounds About Town.” The concert began as any other — first half concertmaster, violinist Tracey Tan, tuned up the musicians, then conductor Swenson, came onto the stage. On the downbeat of the baton, the Samohi Symphony announced their debut at Disney Hall with Procession of the Nobles from “Mlada” by Rimsky-Korsakov. The brass section paraded with a rousing flourish, escorted by the strings processional music. The youthful, bold energy of the musicians matched the “Mlada’s” bravado.

Next came Mahler’s Adagietto from Symphony No. 5, conducted by guest conductor and mentor to Swenson, Vince Gomez. Lush, sensuous sound reverberated throughout the hall. String musicians bowed their instruments with soft, sustained, sonic precision growing to dizzying heights. Mahler made clear that he wanted performances to be soulful and played with the most heartfelt sentiment. A high school orchestra can play this

piece with unique understanding and depth, and Samohi succeeded in doing so.

A sure crowd pleaser, Gershwin’s An American in Paris, ended the first half.

The French horn section, portraying taxis, led by Devon Pratt; the blues trumpets led by David Litwak; tuba solo by Aaron Perlman, with full orchestra, danced us along this delightful romp through Paris and earned a standing ovation.

Second half concertmaster, violinist ZeNan Chang, prepared the orchestra for their performance of Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 2, also called the “Little Russian.” This four-movement symphony was Tchaikovsky’s shortest. Variations on themes from Ukrainian folksongs can be heard throughout. Bassoonist Ilan Ben-Meir performed an impressive solo of the song variation “Down by Mother Volga,” echoed by plucked cellos and bases. This symphony’s creative harmonic progressions builds to an insistent finale announced repeatedly with expertise by Chris Parise on cymbals. His musicianship was challenged when the cymbals inverted upon one of his strong punctuations. After Parise and Alex Kim attempted to bend them back into place, he realized only a new pair would do justice to this symphony and went offstage to get some, promptly returning to a smashing finish. The audience responded with countless standing ovations.

This Santa Monica-Malibu School District music program has survived through decade after decade of state and federal budget cuts with support of the city and community of Santa Monica, and the Santa Monica Education Foundation. This orchestra is a well-kept LA secret.

The Samohi Symphony received first place at the national competition of the American String Teachers Association in the spring of 2005 and have traveled and performed extensively: Carnegie Hall, Prague, Vienna, Valencia/Spain, and their forthcoming tour. This April they will be traveling to China by invitation from the city of Hangzhou for a cultural exchange visit with the Hangzhou High School of Performing Arts. Highlights of their 10-day performance tour of China includes a public concert at the Red Star Theater in Hangzhou, plus exchange concerts at both the Beijing Conservatory in Beijing, and the Xinghai Conservatory in Guangzhou.

For more information, log onto <http://www.samohiorchestra.org> for more information.

A man’s search for self

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press



REVIEW

THE MOVIE: Unknown White Male
THE DIRECTOR: Rupert Murray
THE STAR: Doug Bruce

The story at the center of Rupert Murray’s engaging, albeit uneven documentary is so incredible that even the most gullible of viewers is apt to question its veracity: In early July of 2003, Doug Bruce, a jet-setting, 30-something Brit living in New York’s East Village found himself wandering around Coney Island having suffered total memory loss. After the terrifying ordeal of trying to

find someone who could identify him (he carried no identification; an ex-girlfriend eventually comes to the rescue), Bruce underwent a battery of tests, yet doctors could find no medical reason for his rare condition, known as retrograde amnesia.

Filmmaker Murray, who’d known Bruce for years, saw an opportunity in his friend’s misfortune and obtained permission to document Bruce’s efforts to reconstruct his life. It’s fascinating to watch a grown man’s rebirth, but Murray and cinematographer Orlando Stuart sully the experience somewhat with too many stylistic indulgences. By film’s end, you’ll wish the fish-eye lens had never been invented. Intrusive cinematic devices aside, “Unknown White Male” raises a host of intriguing existential questions, It’s definitely worth seeing, and maybe even believing.

(RATED PG-13. RUNNING TIME: 87 MINUTES)





SANTA MONICA ART PALETTE

MAKING ARTS AND CULTURE COME ALIVE IN SANTA MONICA

Welcome to the Santa Monica Art Palette for the weekend of Feb. 24. The goal of the Art Palette, created by City Hall’s cultural affairs division, is to showcase the many eclectic arts and cultural opportunities available in Santa Monica every week, highlighting one or more of the many happenings within our borders.

This weekend Santa Monicans have the opportunity to explore the community’s artistic heritage when the Santa Monica Library gets up-close and personal with two of the city’s most enduring artistic influences — Don Bachardy and Gloria Stuart. This is your last chance to get a look at the California Heritage Museum’s Behold the Pacific retrospective and if you’re a fan of the current art scene, Track 16 and Arena 1 galleries will be opening exhibitions showcasing some of the best contemporary artists in the country. Finally, Friday night gives us all a chance to get a look at the young artists in our community when the best vocalists and instrumentalists from Santa Monica High School will be performing Bernstein’s Chichester Psalms.



Gloria Stuart and Don Bachardy: In Conversation
Gloria Stuart and Don Bachardy are integral members of Southern California’s literary and cultural circles. Born in Santa Monica, Oscar nominee Gloria Stuart served as the model for the “Moving Picture Industry” panel of the Stanton Macdonald-Wright library mural.
The Santa Monica Canyon home of artist/author Don Bachardy (with his partner, author Christopher Isherwood) was a haven for artists, literati and celebrities. Moderated by Sara S. Hodson, Curator of Literary Manuscripts at The Huntington, these two cultural icons will talk about their lives and work.



Saturday, Feb., 25 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium
Santa Monica Public Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.
(310) 458-8600
www.smpl.org

If you’ve missed seeing Behold, The Pacific at the California Heritage Museum, this is your last chance to get a look at the stunning paintings they have on view through this weekend. The exhibition examines work by American painters of the late 19th Century through the mid 20th Century depicting the awesome beauty of the California coast. The 50 paintings on display record our love affair with the Pacific.

Behold, The Pacific
California Heritage Museum
2612 Main St.
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<http://www.californiaheritagemuseum.org/>





The best contemporary art in the world can be found at Bergamot Station and this weekend, the hottest work around is at Track 16. Five Stories High surveys the careers of five prominent and influential artists: Georganne Deen, Lynn Foulkes, Manuel Ocampo, Raymond Pettibon and Alan Rath. Five Stories High runs from Feb. 25 through April 1. Join the crowd at the opening on Saturday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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If you would like to subscribe to the Santa Monica Arts Palette via e-mail, please send a blank e-mail with the word “Subscribe” in the subject line to artpalette.mailbox@smgov.net



June Stoddard/Special to the Daily Press

Jill Miller (left) teaches yoga to mothers and daughters at the new Main Library during a 'spa day' earlier this month. Allison Graves (right) gives daughter Valerie a shoulder rub.

Mothers and daughters share some down time at library's spa day

BY JUNE STODDARD

Special to the Daily Press

My 12-year-olds and I were among the lucky mothers and daughters to attend the first ever "Mother Daughter Spa Day" Feb. 4 at the New Main Library. The moment I saw the notice in the library's calendar I signed up, and it's good I did because there was a waiting list to get in.

The three-hour event included a yoga class with Jill Miller of www.jillmilleryoga.com, as well as a healthy smorgasbord

lunch of delicious food from Whole Foods. There was an in-depth discussion of nutrition led by Valerie Page, Shape for Life Coordinator/YMCA; a discussion of books on the topics covered during the day led by Shana Johnson, youth services librarian; an introduction to the new Exhale Spa in Santa Monica by their gorgeous representatives, and hand-outs of free Astara facial products.

Eager mothers and daughters ranging in age from 11 to 55 filled the spacious bright multi-purpose room with yoga

mats. Miller gauged her class to accommodate and challenge beginner to advanced level yoga students. Starting with simple stretches, she built on each series of moves until we were a room full of warrior women. A simple prayer to the light within each of us wrapped up the yoga portion. Miller performed a rare yoga abdominal exercise called the "wave," which had us all in awe. After rolling up yoga mats, girls and their mothers quenched their thirst with the bottled water provided while Johnson displayed library books to help with yoga, homemade spa products, and nutrition encouraging us to check them out.

Page gave an in depth talk on nutrition, exercise, portion control and helped everyone learn to calculate their own body mass index (BMI), a mathematical feat in itself. Page runs a program at the YMCA that allows teenagers to work with her on a three-month plan, once a week, to help enforce healthy choices. Those choices were easy as we dove into the incredible lunch of fruit salad, mixed green salad, turkey sandwiches, and grilled vegetable panini.

Exhale Spa representatives informed us

that Santa Monica now has a destination spa for beauty, fitness, and health, which includes acupuncture, facials, massage, mineral baths with a view of the ocean, incredible core fusion and yoga classes that we were given free passes to. Free spa facial products were a major hit. At the end of the three hours, all mothers and daughters left relaxed and rejuvenated by this mind body program.

More innovative programming for teens at the New Main Library are:

■ The Teen Advisory Council for high school students Mondays at 4 p.m.

■ The Anime Club which meets once a month on a Friday

■ Recent programs such as Video Game Programming for Teens where teens learn from a pro how to create their own games, and Learn How to Build a Computer for Under \$400.

The new teen lounge is a comfortable space with lots of seating, computers, study rooms, books, magazines and more exclusively for teens. Suggestions for future programming are welcomed.

For more teen info <http://www.smplteens.org/library/index.htm> or www.smpl.org.

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INTERNATIONAL

Vancouver Games won't be on ice for much longer

BY DAVID CRARY

AP National Writer

TURIN, Italy — A sprawling, multicultural seaport, Vancouver will be a Winter Olympics host dramatically unlike any before it — an even bigger metropolis than Turin, in a more spectacular setting.

Overlooked by mountains rising abruptly from the shore, with a majestic park jutting into the harbor, it guarantees an eye-catching backdrop for the ice sports and ceremonies of the 2010 Games. Two hours away — maybe three, to be on the safe side — the skiing and sliding events will take place in and around Whistler, rated consistently as one of the top ski resorts of North America.

Yes, it rains in Vancouver in February — every other day, on average. But the prospect of gray skies, and an array of logistical and financial challenges, have not dented the confidence of organizers that the 2010 Games will be a hit.

"In a few days, the giant spotlight will move from Torino to Vancouver, and it will be our turn to show the world what we can do," 2010 organizing chief John Furlong said Thursday. "It's pressure, but it's good pressure."

To approach his self-stated goal of perfection, Furlong and his fast-growing team have plenty of work on their hands. A short list includes rising costs in a heated local economy, a highway controversy and the future of Vancouver's toughest neighborhood.

■ Earlier this month, in what Furlong pledged would be the last such request, organizers asked federal and provincial authorities for an extra \$96 million to cover surging construction costs, raising their projected budget to \$580 million. Contractors worry about a local shortage of skilled labor and have dispatched recruiters as far as Europe.

■ Crucial to the 2010 plan is an upgrading of the scenic but sometimes slow and dangerous Sea to Sky Highway that links Vancouver with Whistler over a twisting, mountainous route. Organizers say work is ahead of schedule and will be done by 2009, but many residents and politicians in affluent West Vancouver are furious that the project now calls for an overland four-lane highway, not a tunnel, through a scenic section of bayside bluffs.

■ Close to Vancouver's vibrant, trendy center city is a starkly different neighborhood called Downtown Eastside, long a skid-row destination for drifters and drug addicts who frequent dilapidated rooming houses. Organizers have pledged to help upgrade the area without causing displacement, but a residents' association predicts rents will soar as landlords and hotel owners try to cash in on the Olympics.

Another possible but seemingly remote threat would be a renewed push by separatists in French-speaking Quebec to

secede from Canada. The separatists narrowly lost a secession referendum in 1995, and their new leader has vowed to try again if his Parti Quebecois wins provincial elections due by early 2008.

But an actual breakaway remains a long shot; even a recent proposal by one separatist leader for Quebec to form its own hockey team didn't catch on.

"Nobody in Quebec thinks the Olympics are a bad idea," Furlong told The Associated Press. "They're flat-out determined to be involved."

Indeed, public and political support is high across Canada — and organizers want to keep it that way by maximizing medal prospects for Canadian athletes. Furlong said venue construction is on schedule, with hopes that all will be ready by 2008 to give Canada's competitors extra time to train on them.

Coming off a record-high medal haul in Turin, Canada also is launching a program called "Own The Podium" that is drawing government and private funds to develop a team that can win the most medals in 2010.

The concept bemuses some pundits. "Its message, essentially, is that the world of ice and snow won't have Canada to kick around anymore," observed the Toronto Sun. "No more Mr. Nice Guy."

Furlong said there was no contradiction between the medals programs and the 2010 slogan being unveiled in Turin, "Come Play With Us."

"It's our way of inviting the world," Furlong said. "It doesn't mean we won't compete as hard as we can."

First-time visitors will find a distinctive metropolis of nearly 2 million people — and some distinctive Olympic plans.

With hundreds of thousands of immigrants from Hong Kong, India and Pakistan, Vancouver is one of the most Asian-flavored of North American cities. Part of its huge waterfront convention center will become the games' media center; and 55,000-seat BC Place Stadium, with an air-supported dome, will become the first facility to host opening and closing ceremonies indoors — easing any worries about rain.

Furlong heads an 80-strong delegation in Turin, taking notes while also promoting Vancouver and its province, British Columbia. One catchy move was to erect a giant log cabin in a downtown piazza — it's drawn up to 6,000 visitors a day to play street hockey, view ice sculptures and learn about vacation and business opportunities in Canada.

Vancouver's profile will rise even higher Sunday, when its quadriplegic mayor, Sam Sullivan, accepts the Olympic flag at the closing ceremonies. Sullivan, who broke his neck skiing when he was 19, plans to maneuver his motorized wheelchair so the flag — inserted into a special attachment — will flutter even though he cannot wave it.

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Santa Monica Daily Press





Familiar Bonding: Moore backs new 007

By The Associated Press

TORONTO — It took an old Bond to come to the rescue of the new Bond.

Roger Moore, who played Agent 007 in seven of the James Bond movies, said critics of the film franchise's new star, Daniel Craig, should give him a chance.

"He's a helluva good actor," said Moore, 78, noting that critics haven't even seen Craig in the role yet. "So why attack him?"

The fair-haired Craig, whose recent screen credits include "Munich" and "The Jacket," was tapped last October to play the secret-agent icon in "Casino Royale."

A group of Bond fans have launched a Web site (www.craignotbond.com) to protest the hiring of Craig and boycott the upcoming movie.

Moore, whose Bond films include "A View to Kill," "Moonraker" and "Live and Let Die," suggested the group was merely trying to attract people to their Web site.

He also dismissed suggestions that Bond is obsolete in a post-Cold War, post-9/11 world.

"Bond is fantasy, there's no real substance to it," he said. "It's a figment of imagination. ... (It's) sort of crazy, you know, a spy who is recognized wherever he goes. Spies ain't like that."

Moore was in Toronto on Wednesday for a UNICEF event. He is a goodwill

ambassador for the U.N. children's agency.

He will be in Quebec City this weekend to take part in a charity film festival, "Vue sur Bond 007," organized by filmmaker Hilary Saltzman, daughter of Canadian-born Harry Saltzman.

The senior Saltzman, who died in 1994, was, along with Albert Broccoli, the co-producer of most of the early Bond films.

NEW YORK— Robert Redford says his Sundance Film Festival, which last month wrapped its 25th season, is "almost to a breaking point."

"It's gotten to the point now — almost to a breaking point — where there's a fever that has taken over the festival that creates an enormous amount of chaos and excitement and tension," the 68-year-old actor said in a recent interview with The Associated Press. "It's gotten a little bit harder on me."

Though the festival has become a larger spectacle over the years, Redford has long refrained from criticism about the changed nature of Sundance.

He created the independent film festival in 1981 to bring attention to small-budget films and new talent. Redford named the festival, held annually in the snowy mountains of Utah, after his breakthrough role in 1969's "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid."

"The festival that we do is the same one as

we did the first year," he said. "We program it exactly the same every year, which is for new voices and more experimental films."

The difference now, Redford said, is everything surrounding it.

"Once the merchants come, then the celebrities come. Once they come, the paparazzi come. Once they come, fashion comes. So suddenly you've got a party ... where Paris Hilton's there and all the attention goes there and she's got nothing to do with anything."

"You've basically got two festivals going," he said. "You've got the festival we programmed, which stays the same, and then the other one."

The big-screen life of the festival, Redford said, continues to thrive. He felt "very good" about this year's crop of films, which included the Hispanic teen drama "Quinceanera" and "Iraq in Fragments," a documentary about the lives of Iraqis under U.S. occupation.

"Quinceanera" won both the festival's jury prize and audience award; "Iraq in Fragments" won three prizes including documentary film editing, directing and cinematography awards.

NEW DELHI— Chicken tikka masala and Bollywood leading lady Aishwarya Rai top Will Smith's list of favorites in India.

Smith, a best-actor Oscar nominee for 2001's "Ali," was in India this week to

launch Sony Entertainment's English-language movie channel, Pix, and to be a guest on "Indian Idol," the country's version of "American Idol."

It was the 37-year-old actor-rapper's first trip to the South Asian nation. His first impressions?

"Just recently I got to know the number of films Bollywood makes a year — a whopping 800. And each with its share of song, music, dance and drama," he was quoted as saying in the Hindustan Times. "I am simply enticed to be part of it."

Smith said he'd like to explore a possible collaboration between Hollywood and Bollywood, as India's film industry is known.

But, of course, he's got preferences, including authentic chicken tikka masala, a grilled poultry dish flavored with Indian spices, and Rai, who starred in "Bride & Prejudice."

"She has a powerful energy," Smith told reporters in Bombay, the home of India's Hindi-language film industry, on Thursday. "I'd love to work with her."

He also said he was a fan of India's most popular actor, Amitabh Bachchan. Smith said the first Indian film he saw was "Sarkar" or "Boss," in which Bachchan plays an underworld kingpin.

"I was blown away by the Big B and I want to be known as Big W," he said with a laugh.



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22 Altar promise
23 Ear-shaped shell
26 "Will & Grace" role
28 Singer Glover
29 Fellow feeling
31 Chart shape
32 Approximation words
33 See 38-Across
34 Forest youngster
36 Sightseeing jaunt
38 With 33-Across, Peter Fonda film

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Obituaries

STEVEN A. Gianni, 91, died February 2, 2006 in Los Angeles where he resided for over 50 years. He owned a motel and was a veteran. He is survived by his sisters, Frances South and Rose Farraenola, brother, Joe Gianni and many nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service will be Monday February 27, 2006 @ 3:00pm at Bobbitt Memorial Chapel, 1299 E Highland Ave, San Bernadino, Ca. Inurnment is private. Send condolences online at www.bobbittchapel.com

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This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on . NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq. Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 2/24/2006, 3/3/2006, 3/10/2006, 3/17/2006

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