

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

34, 36, 32, 14, 3

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 2, 7, 0

Evening picks: 9, 8, 0

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 4, Big Ben

2nd Place: 8, Gorgeous George

3rd Place: 10, Solid Gold

Race Time: 1:46.81



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ Even after it had learned that its chief technology officer's claim of a college computer sciences degree was bogus, the Washington, D.C., Elections Board declined to fire her, reasoning that such a degree was not important to her job (January). And the D.C. Contract Appeals Board declined to suspend a paving firm that had pleaded guilty last year to bribing district officials, thus allowing it to resume normal contracting work (January).

■ In January, a government audit revealed that the district last year had failed to use (and therefore had lost) \$5 million from federal grants for breakfast and lunch programs for low-income children because it could not figure out how to spend it.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I firmly believe the death tax is good for people from all walks of life all throughout our society."

— George W. Bush

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Trying times for Santa Monica's lame duck court

Same officials will set up shop near LAX

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM COURTHOUSE — Starting in June, there will be no criminal courtroom in Santa Monica.

More than 20 top judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys and police officers met behind closed doors this week to finalize plans for the transfer of all local criminal cases to the Airport Courthouse near LAX.

The impending loss of the "community courthouse" is expected to save the county at least \$500,000, but may prove costly for the city of Santa Monica. Local officials criticized the plan last week, when it was first unveiled.

Residents answering to misdemeanor charges such as jaywalking, panhandling, even camping in public, will now be forced to make the 25-mile round-trip to LAX. The same goes for witnesses, prosecutors, public defenders and local police officers. Even more distressing to area officials, the

cost of transporting prisoners will be shouldered by City Hall.

Still, the plan is not as drastic — or immediate — as originally feared.

"It looks like I'll probably go with the ship so that it doesn't sink."

— BERNARD KAMINS
SM Superior Court Judge

Contrary to the original plan, a "dedicated courtroom" will now be established at the Airport Courthouse to hear solely Santa Monica cases. In addition, the same prosecutors, public defenders and staffers will remain together through the move, expected to be complete on June 7. The changes helped to convince Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Alan Haber, who has overseen local criminal cases for nearly a

See COURTROOM, page 4

Where the street has no name



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

The stretch of road leading to and from the Pacific Coast Highway off of Ocean Avenue is due for a name change by City Council.

Make a turn on . . .

By Daily Press staff

? — A small stretch of road leading into Santa Monica could soon be named "Homeless Haven Hill," "Bum Boulevard" or "Re-Elect Bush in 2004 Street."

Regardless of whether or not the monikers are representative of Santa Monica, City Hall will consider each next week anyway.

Residents were asked last year to offer suggestions on what to call the access road to the PCH, located between Palisades Beach Road and Ocean Avenue. Nearly 100 ideas

See STREET, page 4

Highway revisited:

- "Crespi," after the man who named the city
- Jesse Jackson Boulevard
- John Jalili Way
- 647(f), in honor of all the homeless, (five submittals)
- Judge Leventen Way
- Karl Marx Way
- 9/11 Way
- Lands End
- Acacia Road
- Liberal Lane
- Arcadia Road
- Little Short Street Near the Pier

See NAMES, page 4

In Bush land, need trumps Mother Nature

BY JOHN HEILPRIN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — On his Texas ranch, President Bush gets back to nature by cutting down cedar trees with a chain saw to give the native oaks more water and light. Visiting the Santa Monica Mountains, he shovels dirt to fix a trail — an image the White House keeps alive on one of its Web sites.

The hand tools he favors and the immediate results they produce reflect how in just three years Bush has reshaped the debate over environmental protections.

Making life easier for people now gets more priority than protecting an endangered salamander. Preventing a wildfire from engulfing a home trumps not cutting down a tree. Cheap electricity prevails over cleaner air, at least for the time being.

Bush sells his policies in the simplest of terms, like "healthy forests" and "clear skies."

"There is a philosophy that everything is put on earth for humanity's sake."

— WILLIAM H. MEADOWS
President of The Wilderness Society

Environmentalists call those labels deliberate misnomers, intended to mask an agenda far different and more complex. They say Bush wants nothing less than to restructure a society that he and those around him believe has become too soft, and a government that, though well-inten-

tioned, helped make it that way by overpromising to protect people from risks in life.

"They are very careful to present themselves as being in the mode of solving the same problems that environmentalists want to solve," said Carl Pope, the Sierra Club's executive director. "But when you look at what they do, and what they say in the fine print, they don't actually want to solve the same problems. They don't think they are problems."

Environmental groups have tried to call attention to some of the president's actions, but they acknowledge the environment is far down the list of voter concerns this election year.

The "healthy forests" law Congress passed last year is a prime example of how Bush reversed decades of government policy. He announced the initiative from a mountain peak

See ENVIRONMENT, page 11

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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)

★★★★ If you don't express your softer feelings through words by the afternoon, you will change your mind. You could opt for a token of appreciation or a card. Express your interest in a work-related project. Your sensitivity gains you friends. Tonight: Easy does it, even if it is Friday night.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Spring into the weekend with fun on your mind, knowing that you will clear out as much work as possible. You find that others start swaying in your direction. Understand what you want from a key relationship. Tonight: Express yourself energetically.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Speak your mind clearly, in a manner that others can hear. In the next few weeks, you could observe a tendency to react more and be more sensitive. Also check out new acquaintances more carefully. People might not be what they seem. Tonight: Mosey on home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You release a lot of tension about funds through actively communicating. You hear unexpected news or experience a sudden change of events. Flow with the moment, maximizing each situation. Tonight: Meet friends first.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Use the morning to advance any strategic plans. You will encounter less resistance and find others far more willing to participate and work together. Later, money becomes a critical issue. Buy a lottery ticket. Tonight: Do what feels right.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Lie low until later in the day, when the Moon slides into your sign, making you kingpin (or queenpin) of the Zodiac. Know your limits, and do not provoke someone unnecessarily. Your happy ways make waves with others. Someone could be jealous! Tonight: The world is your oyster.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Use the a.m. to further goals that you have a vested interest in. Later today, you will accomplish a lot more by closing your door and getting work done that involves you and not others. You could be surprised by what you see. Detach if in groups. Tonight: A partner makes an offer you can't refuse.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Your ability to organize and get others to move emanates from an innate charisma mixed with high energy. Others simply want to respond. Deal with a change in plans with a big smile. See what ideas you might want to substitute, and enjoy yourself even more. Tonight: Where the action is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Review what is occurring around you. Listen to what is happening with others by returning and initiating calls. You have many reasons to smile. Steer clear of bosses who might want to overwork you! Tonight: A must appearance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Your strong approach helps others bend, if they are so inclined. Still, understand that other strong-willed people could be super-reactive. You might want to detach some from your knee-jerk reactions. Tonight: Do something unusual. You like the variety.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Others seek you out. What becomes clear to those around you, as well as a key associate, is that you are coming from a very mellow place. Don't push someone too hard, but do honor a money agreement. Realize your limits. Tonight: Make it cozy.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ How you deal with work could change as the day gets older. Your peak hours are in the morning, when you zoom through your to-do list. Investigate new possibilities that surround a new friendship or tie. Tonight: Gentleness helps you with a disagreement.

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LOCAL



Oliver twist



Photo courtesy of Steve Yi

Jessica and Steve Yi, of Santa Monica, leave Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center on Tuesday with their newborn son, Oliver, one of four local 'Leap Year' babies born on Feb. 29. The Yis plan to celebrate Oliver's birthday on Feb. 28, except every fourth year, which will be a 'big blowout' party, according to Steve Yi. Oliver was born 7 pounds, 20 inches long.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

History and soul food

By Daily Press staff

St. Joseph's Center will hold its Second Annual Black History Celebration, complete with soul food, entertainment and slave narratives.

The free event will be held March 6, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., at 204 Hampton Drive in Venice.

There will be free food, singing, poetry readings, gifts and prizes. Everyone is invited. "Come and share black history with us," said Kris Eppler, family center coordinator and organizer of the event. "We'll have soul food, arts and crafts for the children, and all kinds of music."

More than 150 people are expected to attend.

Last year, St. Joseph's Center helped more than 8,000 homeless and low-income people by providing food, child care, case management, referrals to health care and housing, job training and senior services in Venice, Santa Monica and West Los Angeles.

For more information, call (310) 396-6468, ext. 331.

Take your shot

By Daily Press staff

If you want to keep your kid healthy, you may want to head over Saint John's Health Care Center next weekend.

"Shots for Tots and Teens" will provide free immunizations and skin tests for all infants and children under the age of 18 on March 6, from 10 a.m. to noon.

The shots available will protect against diphtheria, hepatitis B, measles, rubella, hemophilus influenza and mumps, to name a few. The diseases are well known for infecting small children, as well as teenagers. "Shots for Tots and Teens" has immunized more than 2,000 children for free and is sponsored by Saint Johns Health Center and the

surf report

2-3 ft., knee- to chest-high sets, occasionally 5 ft., and fair conditions overall.

For Friday, we'll see a mixture of NW wind and ground swell that will be strongest in the morning and then start to lose steam slowly through the afternoon. Average areas see mostly knee- to waist-high waves.

Look for the swell mix to be smaller on Saturday with average areas seeing below waist-high waves, while standout NW breaks have shoulder-high sets. Even smaller surf is on tap for Sunday.

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	LOW ONE	LOW TWO	HIGH ONE	HIGH TWO
SATURDAY	11:21 AM	N/A	2:33 AM	N/A
SUNDAY	12:11 PM	11:06 PM	4:04 AM	7:42 PM
MONDAY	12:49 PM	N/A	5:12 AM	7:48 PM
TUESDAY	12:04 AM	1:22 PM	6:02 AM	8:05 PM
WEDNESDAY	12:43 AM	1:46 PM	6:39 AM	8:18 PM
THURSDAY	1:17 AM	2:16 PM	7:18 AM	8:40 PM
FRIDAY	1:45 AM	2:37 PM	7:50 AM	9:00 PM

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Get beaded up for senior prom

By Daily Press staff

It's time for Santa Monica's seniors to put on their dancing shoes.

The 27th annual senior prom will be held on March 20 at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, which will be a semi-formal dance for more than 1,000 senior citizens.

The cities of Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, Culver City and Torrance are hosting the Mardi Gras-themed party. The auditorium will be transformed into a Mardi Gras celebration, complete with live entertainment from the 18-piece Melody Masters Big Band, refreshments and prizes. This is the most talked about event of the year for Westside seniors, city officials said.

The event will take place from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The auditorium is located at 1855 Main St., next to the courthouse and City Hall. There is no cost to attend the event and parking is free. For more information, call (310) 458-8644.

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**THINKING
ABOUT EATING
RIGHT?**

LOCAL

Long journey home for prisoners

COURTROOM, from page 1

decade, to move along with the court.

"It looks like I'll probably go with the ship so that it doesn't sink, as long as I can keep the same staff over the transition," Judge Kamins said. "I think my leadership might be important to all the different elements. I could go to Malibu, where I live, or Beverly Hills, but I'm the only criminal court judge here and I understand all the problems of the city of Santa Monica — and all the issues that are important to them."

City Attorney Marsha Moutrie said the dedicated courtroom was a vital part of the plan.

"That idea — that there'll be only one judge (who handles local cases) — was very important to this office and to the public defender's office, but more importantly, to the community," Moutrie said.

Rudolph Rousseau, head deputy public defender for Los Angeles County, is concerned about Santa Monica's large homeless population. The question is not only how his clients will get to the courthouse, but also how released homeless prisoners will manage to return home.

"It's certainly a concern that's been voiced by all parties — the judges, the police, the city attorneys, us," Rousseau said this week. "Everybody knows that that

population is certainly unique and, in some cases, will be confused. They're not the most sophisticated clientele, and it will be somewhat disorienting to be released in an area of the city they know absolutely nothing about ...

"However, we recognize that what the court is doing is out of necessity. So what we're focusing our energy on is making sure it works, with as little confusion and difficulty as possible."

Despite a few loose ends, Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Linda Lefkowitz, the presiding judge at the local courthouse for just over two months, said all of the disparate parties involved have been professional and considerate. The transportation of prisoners is one detail that has yet to be hammered out.

Santa Monica Police Department Lt. Frank Fabrega said it's unclear how much it will cost local police to transport prisoners, but said there are many considerations involved — including buying a bus to transport prisoners, hiring a driver, or possibly contracting out the entire job. By way of example, Fabrega said a prisoner bus recently purchased by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department cost \$300,000.

Judge Lefkowitz said it's possible the Sheriff's department — the same group that does the work now — could actually end up doing the work again, as they operate a countywide prisoner transport system.

Details associated with the move are expected to be ironed out in the coming weeks. In the meantime, Judge Kamins, who claims he hears between 80 and 180 cases a day, will continue to hear most criminal cases in Department S in the old local courthouse.

My way or highway? City mulls new name

STREET, from page 1

were forwarded — some serious, others not so much.

Among the submissions: A pair for "Bloom Way," in honor of current mayor Richard Bloom; five for "647(f)" — the California penal code violation for drunk in public, honoring the city's homeless population; "Pothole Place" and "Liberal Lane" — referring to the city's political leanings.

The road was once called State Route 187. City Hall asked residents in December and January to submit their entries through an online poll promoted through the Internet and the city's television show, "Santa Monica Update."

City staff plan to present the list to the City Council for consideration next Tuesday. The council can either direct staff to use one of the suggested names, one of its own or narrow the list further and conduct an online poll.

The one-block street, which currently contains no addresses, could be named to honor someone in the community or a shared community value.

NAMES, from page 1

- | | |
|---|--|
| ■ Marathon Path (two suggestions) | ■ Freedom Way |
| ■ Avenida Carrillo | ■ Palisade Incline Drive |
| ■ Mariners Avenue of the Pacific | ■ Grand Boulevard |
| ■ Mel Gibson & Danny Glover Street | ■ PCH-Ocean Connector |
| ■ Bad Paving Street | ■ Hasta La Vista Boulevard |
| ■ Rough Road | ■ Pere Street |
| ■ Memory Lane | ■ Pier View Road |
| ■ Pothole Place, Roller Coaster Ride | ■ Heal the Bay Way |
| ■ Mermaid Drive | ■ Playa del Sol |
| ■ Blanch Carter Way | ■ Heal the Bay Way |
| ■ Mira Aqua Way | ■ Pleasant View Drive |
| ■ Bloom Way (two submissions) | ■ Heaven's way |
| ■ Monica Avenue /Monica Street, after the patron saint "Santa," which means "Saint Monica." | ■ Ponte di mare |
| ■ Bluff Drive | ■ Homeless Haven Hill |
| ■ Breeze Street | ■ Re-Elect Bush in 2004 Street |
| ■ Bum Boulevard | ■ Horizon |
| ■ Moomat Ahiko Way ("Breath of the Ocean" in Chumash) (two suggestions) | ■ Renewal Ridge Road |
| ■ Chris Volaski Street | ■ Humpty Bumpity Street |
| ■ Clearwater Parkway | ■ Road Street |
| ■ Moonlight Drive | ■ Humpty Dumpity Drive |
| ■ Coastal Drive | ■ Runoff Road |
| ■ Ocean Front Incline | ■ S.M.U.R.F. Street |
| ■ Communist Way | ■ Sandy Lane |
| ■ Ocean Incline | ■ Seagull Street |
| ■ Daylight Drive | ■ Seahorse Way |
| ■ Ocean View Drive | ■ Seascope Road |
| ■ Dennis Rodman Way | ■ Seaview Terrace |
| ■ Ocean Way | ■ Shangri La Drive |
| ■ Diebenkorn Way | ■ SMURF Lane (Santa Monica Urban Runoff Facility) |
| ■ Oceanview Road | ■ Smurf Turf Highway |
| ■ Dolphin Way | ■ Socialist Agenda Drive |
| ■ Ola Way | ■ Starfish Road |
| ■ Entrada De Santa Monica, which means entrance of Santa Monica | ■ Sunny Side Street |
| ■ Opal Road (Ocean-Palisades-Road) | ■ Sunnyside Street |
| ■ Pacific Gateway Avenue | ■ Sunshine Lane |
| ■ Essie Tucker Lane | ■ Surf's Up Road |
| ■ Pacific Pass | ■ Sustainable Way |
| ■ Frank Gehry Drive | ■ Thomas McCarthy Way (former many-term mayor) |
| ■ Pacific View Way | ■ Tide Drive |
| | ■ Trives Ocean Trail (Former Mayor Nathaniel Trives) |
| | ■ Upper Bluff Road |
| | ■ Via del Mar |
| | ■ Via Pacifica |
| | ■ View Boulevard |
| | ■ Wave Rider |
| | ■ What Street |
| | ■ Windemere Way |
| | ■ Z Way |

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STATE

Schwarzenegger's bonds provide only a partial solution

BY TOM CHORNEAU
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Californians helped Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger lift a crushing weight off the state's finances by approving \$15 billion in bonds to refinance the deficit, but now he must face the real problem facing the treasury — spending.

While some voters may believe passage of Proposition 57, and a companion balanced budget measure, Proposition 58, largely settles the issue, they do not.

"This doesn't solve the problem," said Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles. "All this does is give us some breathing room so that we can sit down and work out a longer term agreement that both Democrats and Republicans can live with."

After traveling throughout the state and raising more than \$10 million to spend on television ads to turn voter sentiments around on his fiscal recovery package, Schwarzenegger has no time to rest.

The Wall Street rating firm of Standard & Poors slightly improved its opinion of California credit Wednesday following the election, but they noted the bond money does nothing to stop spending.

Of the money approved by voters, the governor plans to use \$9.3 billion to refinance accumulated debt over nine years. Another \$3 billion will go to help close next year's spending gap. And the remaining \$2.7 billion could be sold later.

But the real issue, state officials and Wall Street analysts say, is bringing state spending in line with tax income — a problem that has frustrated California since the stock market crashed four years ago.

The state's independent budget analyst estimates next year's shortfall at \$17 billion.

If adopted, Schwarzenegger's \$99 billion 2004-2005 budget would cover the looming shortfall. But like his predecessor, former Gov. Gray Davis, Schwarzenegger chose not to close the gap through spending cuts and he's promised voters he would not raise taxes.

"Republicans cannot draw a line in the sand and hold an extremist attitude that they will not raise taxes of any sort."

— **FABIAN NUNEZ**
Assembly Speaker

The governor's plan relies on \$5 billion in one-time savings to balance the budget. When those savings expire at the end of the 2004-2005 fiscal year, a new deficit of at least \$7 billion will begin building in 2005-2006.

Schwarzenegger's budget includes savings of about \$9 billion next year, many of which are not been embraced by Democratic leaders that run both houses of the Legislature, including:

■ Imposing a 10 percent increase in tuition on university students and would raise fees on students at community colleges by \$8 per unit.

■ Cutting close to \$900 million in funding for the state's health care program for children, the elderly and the disabled.

■ Shifting \$1.3 billion in property taxes due cities and counties to schools.

While most political observers agree that the outcome of Tuesday's election has significantly enhanced Schwarzenegger's hand in negotiations with lawmakers, Democrats are not so sure.

In the coming weeks, the Legislature will likely consider several proposals from the administration aimed at cutting further this year by about \$1 billion, including cuts to public health programs.

Nunez said Assembly Democrats want to work with the administration but don't want to be a rubber stamp.

"The most important message out of this election is that voters say yes to bipartisan cooperation, and no to rigid ideology," he said. "And that goes for both Democrats and Republicans."

He said that Democrats are willing to

consider cuts to programs they hold dear — including social services. But Republicans must be willing to do the same.

"Republicans cannot draw a line in the sand and hold an extremist attitude that they will not raise taxes of any sort," Nunez said. "I'm not saying we should lead with the tax issue, but by the same token we need to be flexible."

H.D. Palmer, spokesman for Schwarzenegger's finance department, said the governor will not consider new taxes because he believes it will hurt the economy.

Bipartisan cooperation is important, Palmer said, but Tuesday emphasized Schwarzenegger's strength. "Clearly, by a

substantial margin, California voters supported the governor's recovery plan."

Stephen Levy, director for the Center of Continuing Study of the California Economy, said that the Legislature has taken all the easy steps in balancing its budget. "I've been saying for some time that it's now a choice of cutting spending, restoring some of the tax cuts that have been done or of raising some new taxes," he said. "I think those options are now out in the open."

The governor's finance staff say they will begin immediately developing plans for issuing the bonds. The state needs the money before June 30 when short-term loans come due.

State Treasurer Phil Angelides, one of the few critics of Schwarzenegger's budget plan, pledged support Wednesday to selling the bonds. He said a team would be in place within the week to oversee the issue. He noted, however, that the state doesn't need to sell any more than about \$2.7 billion to give them enough money to cover their loans before June 30.

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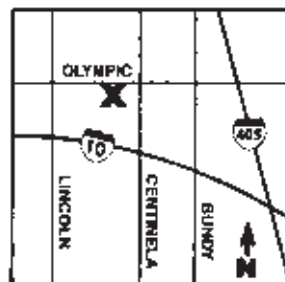
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LETTERS

God gets short end of stick

Editor:

John Gorman made some good points in his letter (SMDP, Feb. 26, page 4). I would like to add that most organized religions separate us, while spirituality includes us. Or, to quote, Dr. Deepak Chopra, "God gave us all spirituality and then the devil said, 'Here let me organize that for you.'"

More blood has been shed by people forcing their fundamentalist religious beliefs on their fellow man than any other factor since the beginning of recorded time. It's a small, round world. We all live on it. Let's try to live and let live, especially where God is involved. God gets a bum rap when people like Pat Robertson and other radicals say that God speaks to them and tells them some bigoted information to pass on. I don't think so.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica

If Bush doesn't learn from history ...

Editor:

So now our selected President Bush (who again just proved his divisive-not united attitude by bypassing the Senate to appoint another extreme right Supreme Court Justice) wants to topple Haiti's Aristide. Hasn't he learned from current and past events that toppling a government that "we" don't like is not the end of the story, and that the United States of America has not figured out how to write a good ending?

Flo Ginsburg
Santa Monica

Seniors need affordable housing

Editor:

I read your article, "Vivian Rothstein: Fighting for 'what's right' in SM (SMDP, Feb. 16, page 1). I am pleased to know that someone is brave enough to speak up for justice. Also, I thank Mr. Antonio Mendez (SMDP, Feb. 23, page 6). We should discuss the senior citizens' housing problems. I moved to Santa Monica in 1957. I lived at 1330 Fifth St. The rent was \$40 a month. Then Santa Monica was a sweet, quiet town. The people were very nice and courteous. Palisades Park was beautiful and well kept. The American landlords were very nice and polite. I could rent an apartment very easily. In 1973, I got married, then we moved to 1022 Second St. The rent was

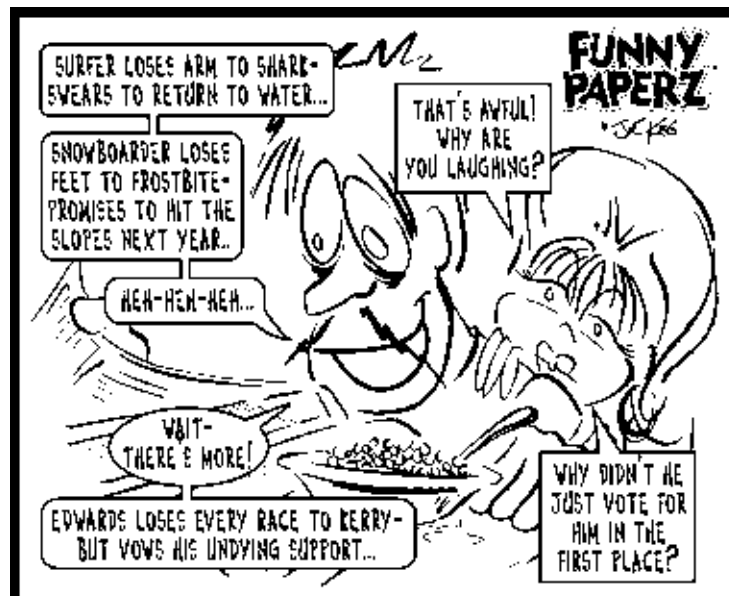
\$130 a month. By that time, things changed drastically. The foreign landlords became greedy and started to raise the rent frequently.

This is why the people voted for rent control. The rent control was very helpful. Now it is very weak and cannot defend even the handicapped senior citizens. I am 75 years old. I have been on the housing waiting list since 1999.

It seems hopeless. Me and my wife are really desperate. I see a lot of injustices. That's outrageous. Please advise.

Lazlo Makay
Santa Monica

See LETTERS, page 7



Member: AAEC # , NCS #22, SCCS --

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Robbing the 'hood: District scheme robs rich, gives to poor



**MY
WRITE**
By Bill Bauer

The latest disaster to hit the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is school superintendent John Deasy's "Robin Hood" tax scheme, wherein a percentage of all educational gifts and donations would be placed in an equity fund and doled out to needy schools.

The "Deasy Tax" is designed especially to redistribute a portion of donations raised by well supported schools to schools that are less successful at fundraising. The proposal mandates 15 percent of the first \$100,000 in donations must be set aside in an equity fund, with 13 percent of the second \$100,000, and 11 percent of the third \$100,000, and so on.

To make things worse, the tax also would apply to money raised by student activities such as the orchestra and band, field trips, athletics, scholarships, and state and federal grants.

The purpose of the scheme is to achieve economic equality between rich and poor schools through redirecting resources. But it's a dumb idea, possibly illegal, could cost a cash-strapped school district critical financial help, not mention the good will it so desperately needs and depends on.

Typical of statements in support was a

comment by school board president Jose Escarce who described the proposal as, "A vehicle for fostering greater educational opportunities throughout the district."

School board member Julia Brownley who first argued that it isn't a tax, predicted "with the new policy in place fundraising will ... continue to increase" and then hedged her bet with this statement: "If we find fundraising declines dramatically, we can revisit the policy."

School board member Emily Bloomfield went so far as to turn down donations outright that didn't agree with her social agenda by "not accepting gifts that would prohibit our goal of parity."

Bloomfield wants to throw the baby out with the bath water and I'm not sure Brownley would know a tax if it bit her. And, being that the district has been less than successful at voluntary fundraising, (which is why taxpayers districtwide are now paying for a bond, two parcel taxes and why school supporters want the city of Santa Monica to commit \$6 million annually to the district), how prudent is it to risk losing even a dime of support?

Board member Shane McCloud had it right when he said, "I don't think we should be altering someone's charity." Board member Mike Jordan wisely observed that "funding might be withdrawn with ensuing litigation."

Unfortunately, it's almost certain the full board will support Deasy's proposal, proving once more that personal social agendas rule fiduciary responsibility. A

final decision is expected at the March 11 school board meeting.

I'm willing to bet the family Buick that all those socialists salivating to tax gifts have rarely, if ever, written a check to Edison Elementary or McKinley Elementary, or anything else in disadvantaged neighborhoods. Besides, why contribute when they can force everyone else to do it?

I advocate helping poorer schools, but another way can and must be found instead of robbing donors and student activities. This could only play in the former Soviet Union and present day Santa Monica. It's irresponsible to gamble on losing income and good will, although we shouldn't be surprised. The district's financial house has been an embarrassment for years.

Deasy was hired in the spring of 2001 to remedy rising budgets deficits and mismanagement issues left in the wake of the former superintendent.

Then, in April 2002, Deasy approved and participated in a pro-union rally (along with Brownley and current board president Maria Leon Vasquez) organized primarily by an off-campus labor union and current board member Oscar de la Torre. The rally originated on the Santa Monica High School campus and culminated at a nearby non-union hotel, thus infuriating the business and tourism community who are both big-time school supporters.

Two weeks later, Deasy requested a

\$100,000 loan to help finance his \$900,000-plus condominium near Montana Avenue. The board voted to give him district money — then found out such loans are illegal. Deasy withdrew his request after the board was willing to skirt illegalities by giving him an \$85,785 advance.

Malibu resident Ken Peterson, in a letter dated Feb. 20, 2004, printed in the SMDP wrote that Deasy had claimed publicly that many other school districts had similar equity sharing policies. Yet, when Peterson contacted those districts, he found that their policies were "100 percent of donations to specific schools must remain with that school."

Although Deasy also had asserted that charitable foundations and corporations would be "OK" with the redistribution of their funds, the school board received a letter on Feb. 19 from a very large corporate foundation specifically objecting to the diversion of its funds.

How about our children? A recent posting on a high school e-mail bulletin board by a frustrated senior who is on the aquatic teams puts it in focus. He said it was hard enough to practice and beg for money for the team and then to have to surrender 15 percent of it, especially when they're short of their fundraising goal.

"God, I can't wait until I graduate from this socialistic school," he wrote.

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

OPINION

LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 6

Diddy on the down and out**Editor:**

This poem is in response to Fay Riley's poem (SMDP, March 4, page 4).

Hickory, dickory dock
Feeding bums in the park must stop
They've hit the skids
They scare our kids
Compassion for them, we have not.

Our local government always puts the bums first
While our children's education only gets worse
Cut the music program, who needs driver's ed?
They'll give it all to the drunks and the loonies instead.

There's red carpet treatment for freeloading losers
Free lunches and razors for druggies and boozers
Watery-eyed do-gooders with bleeding hearts
Encouraging the decline of our city and parks.

Residents and businesses are quite fed up
With the liberal dribble — enough is enough!
Laws are passed, please don't feed the bears
But enforcement, like school funding, is extremely rare.

We live and pay taxes in this city by the sea
Our kids get less, and everywhere we smell pee
And our carpetbagging council can't claim they don't know
That our once beautiful Santa Monica is now skid row.

Yes, Fay Riley, we are awake
We are painfully aware of all that's at stake
The system sucking losers have become an invasion
It's time for this City Council to seek re-location.

Tim and Lori Emerson
Santa Monica

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Tumultuous times lie ahead at Santa Monica College

Over the past three years, I have had the pleasure of taking several classes at Santa Monica College. From Spanish and oil painting to finite math and biotechnology, I have developed a deep love and respect for the school in all its varied missions. As most Santa Monica residents know, the past year has been especially challenging for SMC and really involved the California Community College system.

As of Sept. 9, 2003, the LA Times cited an estimated 90,000 students had either dropped out or simply not enrolled in California's community colleges this year because of increased tuition and reduced class offerings following the budget cuts. Many working and studying in this system fear a further drop in the head count, as the combination of increased tuition and reduced class offerings continues to reverberate through the state.

Many might not realize that California actually spends 23 percent less per community college student than the U.S. average, ranking 45th out of 49 states in spending per student. With state spending per UC student hovering around \$20,000 per student, Cal-State spending at just below \$10,000, and community college spending at just below \$5,000 per student, historically Californians have spent the least amount of money supporting students who are often the most financially and academically vulnerable.

According to a report by the non-profit Public Policy Institute, despite low levels of state funding, "the system enrolls three times as many students as CSU and six times as many as UC, including most of the African-American, Native American and Latino students who attend institutions of higher education in California."

The sudden removal of seven large vocational programs from Santa Monica College in the spring of last year left an especially deep and bitter rift in the institution. The programs eliminated included automotive technology, architecture and office information systems among others.

The decision was made in the wake of proposed cuts that, following months of unabated protest statewide, were reduced from 10.6 percent to 1.7 percent. Despite this dramatic reduction in the proposed to actual cuts, the programs were not reinstated, nor were there any serious public discussions about the possibility of reinstating the expensive but valuable programs on a limited basis.

Following this move and the subsequent layoffs of eight full-time faculty and 18 classified employees, SMC's students, faculty, and their administration went to war over what many campus constituencies felt was the hasty and the

unnecessary decision to eliminate the programs and staff members. Dissent poured in from all over campus.

This coming year the SMC president and the Board of Trustees have an extremely challenging job. In addition to the task of cooling the smoldering flames of anger from students and faculty, they must return to attendance levels — plus approximately 2 percent more — than what they had before the cuts, in order to maintain certain state funding. SMC alone lost an estimated 6,000 students at the beginning of this school year following a 26 percent reduction in class offerings.

In attempt to fully restore the school's head count, administrators are undertaking an ambitious recruitment program, and introducing a new set of vocational programming rooted in training classroom teachers and healthcare professionals. SMC spokesman Bruce Smith said the administration will be attempting to restore all class sections that had been cut, "regardless of how the budget shakes out."

In the meantime, SMC's embattled president Piedad F. Robertson was appointed to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's task force as a representative on education. It's a move dripping with irony, if you ask any of her myriad of crit-

ics — 413 members of the faculty (or 86 percent) voted no confidence in her job as president following the program eliminations. For better or worse, Robertson has shown herself to be a powerful character — charming, confident and entirely willing to be extremely unpopular.

One factor that may prove helpful is the fact that Gov. Schwarzenegger is a SMC alumni. He has, thus far, not proposed any mid-fiscal year cuts to the system, and he has included in Proposition 57 an item called "equalization" that would assist SMC with an additional \$3.6 million this year. Since Prop. 13 passed, SMC has consistently had the lowest per student funding in the state. Equalization attempts to begin to rectify those numbers.

Though things seem to be looking up for the students that remain, the question lingers as to what will happen to those students whose programs were lost. Columnist Danny Grace, a fellow SMC student, and I will be writing on this topic in the coming weeks.

Time will tell if the governor will indeed maintain his commitment to this system and perhaps more importantly, if an increased budget will be enough to begin healing the wounds of the last tempestuous school year.

(Deb Helt is a college student who lives in Los Angeles.)

**Guest
Commentary**

By Deb Helt

Entertainment

Don't give up on 'Starsky & Hutch'

Review

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

An element that's been conspicuously absent from many recent so-called comedies has been the comedy. I'm happy to report that is not the case with "Starsky & Hutch," writer-director Todd Phillips' satiric big screen rendering of the late '70s buddy-cop TV drama. While not quite as consistently hilarious as "Old School," the most notable gut-buster in Phillips' short but impressive oeuvre, "Starsky & Hutch" is easily the funniest film of the year so far and well worth the trip to your local immeasura-plex. Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn lead an irresistible cast that boasts solid supporting efforts from Snoop Dogg, Will Ferrell, Carmen Electra, Amy Smart and Jason Bateman.

Detectives David Starsky (Stiller) and Ken "Hutch" Hutchinson (Wilson) are the odd couple of the Bay City police force. Starsky's a monomaniacal crime-fighter wound tighter than his '70s-chic blue jeans, while Hutch is a rule-bending slacker with an insatiable appetite for pleasure. Drug kingpin Reese Feldman (Vaughn) has a large shipment of cocaine headed to Bay City — actually, Los Angeles — and our heroes must intercept it and prove they're not the total screw-ups their captain (Fred Williamson) thinks they are. That's all the plot Phillips needs to turn his leading men loose on disco-era excess: The fat rides, the dance clubs, leisure suits ... it's all in there, along with funkadelic informer



Owen Wilson, Ben Stiller and Fred Williamson in 'Starsky & Hutch.'

Huggy Bear (a pimped-out Snoop Dogg making the most of his screen time), a prison inmate (Ferrell) who entertains homoerotic fantasies about dragons, and a pair of cop-craving cheerleaders (Electra and Smart). There are several laugh-out-loud set pieces, including a "Saturday Night Fever"-inspired dance-off and Wilson crooning "Don't Give Up On Us, Baby" — a No. 1 single for TV's Hutch (David Soul).

Stiller's got his foot on the gas the entire ride, while Wilson is happy to glide along on cruise control. The contrast is highly effective

and the actors' harmony undeniable, as well it should be, considering "Starsky" marks the duo's sixth film collaboration. Vaughn plays the slick bad guy with typical aplomb, and Electra and Smart, well, they kiss each other. Production designer Edward Verreaux authentically captures the retro look in all its muted ingloriousness, and the soundtrack is a tasty mélange of freedom rock, soul and funk.

(Rated PG-13 for drug content, sexual situations, partial nudity, language and some violence. Running time: 100 minutes)

Vaughn still swingin' despite onset of fame

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

Hollywood's "Bad Boys" had a coming out party last weekend at the Academy Awards ceremony, with notorious firebrands Sean Penn and Bill Murray both vying for the Best Actor Oscar. Penn took home the precious gold statue, and in so doing served notice that a temperamental star need not play nice (or be named Jack) in order to emerge victorious in showbiz's most hallowed arena. On the heels of Penn's triumph, it's fitting that we honor another renowned rascal with a coveted feature. "Starsky & Hutch" villain Vince Vaughn was arrested a few years back for a barroom brawl in North Carolina, and more recently was captured on "Celebrities Uncensored" discharging phlegm on the paparazzi outside a LA nightclub. Though he drinks, smokes and carouses with reckless abandon, his lifestyle has yet to impede his career. If anything, Vaughn's swagger is part of what makes him such a hot commodity.

QUESTION: You worked with Luke Wilson in "Old School" and with his brother Owen on "Starsky & Hutch." How do the two siblings measure up?

VINCE VAUGHN: I can't win on that. Both of them are good. I'm going to get a chance to work with Owen next, in a more direct way than we did on ("Starsky & Hutch"), but I've been a fan of his for a long time. And Luke did a great job in "Old School," and was fun to work with.



Vince Vaughn

Q: Can you tell us about the project you're doing with Owen?

VV: It's called "Wedding Crashers." We play guys who go to weddings and pretend to be related to someone, trying to meet girls.

Q: You're also filming "Be Cool," the sequel to "Get Shorty."

VV: I shot until 6 in the morning today, yeah. It's got a great cast. John's (Travolta) in it, obviously. Uma, Cedric the Entertainer, The Rock, Andre 2000, I believe. I don't know if he's 2000 or 3000.

Q: 3000.

VV: Is he 3000? Updated version? OK.

Q: You've got a movie coming out in the summer called "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story." Do you got game ... in dodgeball?

VV: It was fun playing it, but it's a bit of a bear, that sport. I'm not embarrassed to say that I really got injured a lot playing dodgeball because it's very spastic, and I'm not — despite my appearance — not necessarily athletic or in shape. I've managed to be thin, but not have a muscle on me. So I threw my arm out throwing the ball. I don't have great mechanics with throwing. And then you run and stop a lot, and then you have pains in your legs and back and stuff.

Q: "Swingers" came out of nowhere and launched the careers of you, Jon Favreau, Heather Graham and Ron Livingston. Are you surprised by the level of success enjoyed by the people who made that little movie?

VV: I thought all those guys were really talented, so I'm not surprised they did well. But on the other hand, it's kind of strange because in making that movie, it was so far off the radar that it was just about getting it done. At the time, we thought there was no way that Miramax was really going to buy it. They did, and it was really well-received, and the life it's had since then and the influence it's had on pop culture — there was no planning for that.

Q: Was it difficult to adjust to the sudden fame?

VV: I have relatives who've had much harder experiences than learning how to be famous. Whatever your journey is in life, there's always stuff that you're not prepared for, that you have a learning curve with — where you grow up and mature at the same time you're dealing with new information.

What's playing

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

A misguided, almost unendurable frenzy of explicit violence intended to inspire exaltation but that ultimately leads to revulsion.

TWISTED

Stinks so exquisitely that theaters should be required to hand out nostril clamps.

EUROTRIP

Vapid young American backpackers encounter virtually every played-out European stereotype in the book in this contemptible clunker.

WELCOME TO MOOSEPORT

The film, like the sleepy Maine hamlet where it's set, certainly has pastoral charm, but there just isn't much going on. Nice place to visit, but you won't want to spend two hours there.

AGAINST THE ROPES

Ryan and Epps both hang tough and deliver despite being saddled with some weak dialogue and a story that loses focus midway through.

CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN

There's no mistaking what this ridiculously predictable fairy tale is about: Promoting Lindsay Lohan's pop music career.

50 FIRST DATES

The film see-saws between laugh-out-loud-funny and downright stupid, ultimately hopping aboard the Hokey Express, with direct service to Cornball.

THE DREAMERS

Flawed, yet undeniably provocative. Even when he's missing the mark, Bertolucci's incomparable perception of the human condition is inspirational.

THE FOG OF WAR

Errol Morris may be our greatest living documentarian, and his virtuosity is on full display in this examination of former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara

MIRACLE

Twenty-four years after broadcaster Al Michaels famously posed the question, this film elicits another emphatic answer from a nation that finds itself in crisis once again: Yes, we still believe in miracles.

THE PERFECT SCORE

A morality play that doesn't play very well at all, due to bad pacing, lame dialogue and a half-baked plot held loosely together by a series of preposterously opportune circumstances.

WIN A DATE WITH TAD HAMILTON!

Forty years ago, this film would have been a hit. Today, it misses.

THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

A no-thrills thriller that gets sillier as it lists toward a wholly preposterous finale.

MONSTER

Serves as a grim reminder of humanity's very real and limitless capacity for evil. Charlize Theron delivers a career-defining performance.

BIG FISH

If you're willing to lose yourself for a few hours in a surrealist fish story, well, it's hard to imagine anything better than what Burton has conceived here.

HOUSE OF SAND AND FOG

Manages to be compelling despite a host of implausibilities thanks to the lead actors, both of whom bring such conviction to their roles that what transpires almost seems feasible.

ENTERTAINMENT



'Hidalgo' historical lapses have epic struggling down the stretch

Review

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

There's a bit of controversy surrounding Disney's "Hidalgo," a film based on the life of a famous cowboy named Frank T. Hopkins. It's not a "Passion of the Christ" type hullabaloo, mind you — after all, the famous Frank T. Hopkins isn't exactly a household name — but it does raise some interesting questions about the delusory tactics Hollywood employs when offering up entertainment that is "based on actual events." Hopkins did exist, but there's little credible evidence that he ever participated in — let alone won — the grueling 3,000-mile horserace across the Arabian Desert that is the backbone of the movie. Not that this ruse qualifies as a crime against humanity, but there's certainly something shady about creating a hero and pawning his exploits off as actual history. Next thing you know, they'll be telling us Frank T. Hopkins served in the Alabama National Guard.

Viggo Mortensen emerges from Middle Earth and winds up in the Middle East, where he and his two-toned, scrappy little mustang Hidalgo endure all manner of treachery en route to one-upping a host of horse-crazy Arabs on their own turf. To offset the jingoism, the filmmakers give Hopkins a backstory lifted straight out of "The Last Samurai." He was complicit in the slaughter of American Indians, became disillusioned and wound up a drunk in a traveling Wild West show. After an improbable challenge is issued by Sheikh Riyadh (Omar Sharif), Hopkins and his horse find themselves in an exotic land where the locals don't suffer the likes of cow-



Viggo Mortensen (right) and Omar Sharif in 'Hidalgo.'

boys and mustangs in their most prestigious equine event ... at least, not until the cheeseball finale.

"Hidalgo" looks great, boasting one stunning sand-soaked vista after another, and the race sequences are quite a rush. Mortensen's portrayal is awfully stony, but he compensates with his mastery of the physical demands of the role — the guy can flat-out ride a horse. On the downside, there are far too many pace-halting interludes involving the Sheikh's free-spirited daughter, a conniving British sexpot and a pack of marauding thieves, all of whom want a piece of Hopkins in one way or another. These episodes aren't very original, don't propel the narrative, and only serve to make this already lengthy pic (141 minutes) seem a bit tedious. Had director Joe Johnston ("October Sky") shaved 45 minutes off and told Mortensen to lighten up a bit, he'd have had a damn good western adventure. As it stands, this one rates pretty good.

(Rated PG-13 for adventure violence and some mild innuendo. Running time: 141 minutes)

'You Mutha' is a must-see

Review

BY HEATHER RICH
Daily Press staff

Jennie Fahn is your mother. She's my mother, too.

In her new one-woman show, "You Mutha!" Fahn manages to transform herself into one mother after another, somehow resonating with each and every member of her audience. Whether she's rhyming hysterically or

dancing maniacally, you can literally feel her commitment to the subject at hand.

Fahn not only performs the hour-long show solo, she also wrote the whole thing with two kids running around, in between little league, playdates and tutoring. Although the joy and frustration of being a mother is forefront in this stellar performance, having a mother also is gloriously represented.

Hearing the commentary of Fahn's own mother, I remembered when my own nutty mom called from Florida to make sure that the creaky window in my bedroom was shut. She heard there might be rain in L.A. that night. Nevermind that it was 2:30 a.m. her time, that she had already left me two messages warning me about the potential

downpour, and that the last time she was out here we had the creaky window fixed just to calm her down.

It is these sentiments, these occurrences with our mothers that Fahn brings to light so well. Reminding us of the bittersweet relationship that is like no other in our lives. Good or bad, nobody gets it or gives it like your mother. The script is laugh-out-loud funny, but lyrically astute. Other than the misinformation regarding Dumbo's mother, the entire play flows and feels dead on. Fahn is dripping with talent and the TV producers in attendance knew it. Whether you have a mother, are a mother, or think you might want to be one, see this play. Get a babysitter. I guarantee you won't regret it.

"I'm a mom who knows what an ordeal it can be to go to the theater," says Fahn. "By the time you drive, park, see the show, have a little nosh, drive home and pay the babysitter, it's five hours and \$300 later."

As an added bonus, all the proceeds will go to benefiting the theater.

The remaining performances of "You Mutha!" are split between two local theaters. March 10-11, you can catch it at the Powerhouse Theater at 3116 2nd Ave. in Santa Monica. On March 19 and 26, Fahn will perform at the Santa Monica Playhouse at 1211 4th St. All shows begin at 8 p.m.

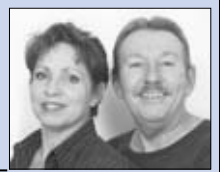
For more information, go to www.youmutha.com



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

BY MAUREEN TOBIN & THOMAS YOUNG

Special to the Daily Press



"Indulge," as defined by Webster's Unabridged Dictionary: "Yield to an inclination or desire; satisfy, or gratify desires; yield to the whims of..."

How about "indulge," as defined by Thomas & Maureen: "the act of rising off your gluts at least once a week for fun, games, and dining."

Review

■ From its heyday during the Roaring '20s and the grandeur of another era, to the rebirth of absolute splendor and beauty, Casa Del Mar Hotel in Santa Monica, where Pico Boulevard meets the ocean, is the crème de la crème, evoking a time when elegance was customary, and etiquette and good manners were the norm. Opened in 1926 as a posh Santa Monica Beach club, Casa Del Mar Hotel by the Sea has recently been revitalized with a magnificent \$50 million renovation.

Enter, go up the imposing stairs, and let the splendor and radiance of this room overtake your senses. It is surely the most beautiful room in Los Angeles. Our knowledgeable, cordial host for this evening was director of outlets, Sherry Abedi. She led us into the revamped Oceanfront Restaurant, a big open space with sweeping ocean views and a cozy fireplace. Here, experienced, sought-after executive chef Collin Crannell gives you a dining experience you will not forget. This innovative New American cuisine is sensational, pricey, but well worth it. The pan roasted cod with artichokes and olives was a delicious plate, presented beautifully. The rib eye was perfectly tender, cooked in an excellent port wine sauce with creamy mashed potatoes. The menu changes as the chef creates delights that will keep your palate dancing with joy. Rest assured each choice is simply perfect.

For the next couple of months, indulge in your love of jazz in the lounge. Every Wednesday, from about 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., some of the most sizzling performers will entertain you. During February, Barbara Morrison, with her sassy sounds and easy-breezy style and excellent backup combo is what listening to jazz is all about. In March, another performer will take the mike. Every other evening, from about 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., a pianist sends delightful sounds through the lounge. Most nights the pianist is the highly talented Gerard, who also played keyboard for Morrison. There is an excellent lounge menu with appetizers, sandwiches, and delectable desserts and coffees, and of course any drink you may desire. Relish this lounge before, during, or after dinner. There really is no better spot for this kind of mood and atmosphere. 1901 Ocean Way. (310) 581-7724. www.hotelcasadelmar.com.

■ In our never ending quest for great music venues and outstanding hang-outs for

the hungry masses, 14 Below/Over Under Grill in Santa Monica stands out. The shrewd, astute owner Todd Christianson, has conjoined two jumping joints and turned them into a pair of hot spots for the musically inclined, the hungry and the sports fan.

Take 14 Below to start. Since 1993, this rocking/rolling night spot gives you a different themed live band nightly, magic, two full bars and a big dance floor. Regular locals make up the scene. The Over Under Grill has been around since 2001 and is the sports bar with pool tables, game machines and restaurant, and an atmosphere like "Cheers." It's packed for sporting events especially Lakers and Kings games, as well as other local teams — the bar has satellite TVs. During March Madness it's full of revelers. Beer and wine are served here and bartender/host extraordinaire, Rory Lovett will see to it that merrymaking is the name of the game. The food is far above your average bar fare. With the large kitchen and amazing chefs, they are serving up nightly specials, comfort food, appetizers, fabulous salads, hamburgers and hoagies. The best Philly Cheesesteak sandwich on the West Coast comes from the Over Under Grill. The cobb salad is so big and so tasty. The fries are first rate. We really like these connected spots where you usually can go from one through to the other, always meeting someone along the way. They are open every night until late (or early, depending on your point of view). Some nights there is a cover and \$5 valet parking. Visit their Web site at www.14below.com. 1348 14th St., and 1333 Santa Monica Blvd. (310) 451-5040 and (310) 899-0076

■ Are you ready for some wild fun at the bar at Cozy Inn in Culver City? Cozy Inn's the name ... Shuffleboard's the game. Have you ever been on a cruise and watched as people passed the time playing shuffleboard? Well this isn't it. Shuffleboard, the bar game, is an intense, competitive, blood-thirsty game with ardent fans. Devotees is a better word. It's as popular with royalty as with the commoners. This is played around a finely coated, waxed, narrow wooden table, with shiny metal-bottomed weights. Think hockey pucks. As many as eight people can play at one time. Players are divided into teams. There is an art and finesse to playing shuffleboard, and the technique takes years to master. The crowds scream and yell for their team. The noise level is deafening at the Cozy Inn, an unobtrusive little bar from the outside, yet considered the best shuffleboard spot in L.A. County. Peek inside one evening and you won't believe your eyes at the wild evolving scene. 11155 Washington Place. (310) 838-3826

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STATE

Republicans hope Schwarzenegger boosts Bush

BY BETH FOUHY
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — His own status as leader of the free world notwithstanding, President Bush is counting on the unprecedented star power of another Republican, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, to offer him a much-needed political boost.

Bush, who flew to California this week for a two-day campaign swing, was set to appear with Schwarzenegger at a Republican Party fund-raiser in Los Angeles. The event was expected to net \$3 million for the party and give Bush an opportunity to stand shoulder to shoulder with the state's most popular and effective politician.

"Gov. Schwarzenegger is a very important part of our mission to change the face and reach of party," said Gerry Parsky, Bush's California campaign chairman. "The support he gets from the people and his success at establishing a bipartisan approach to governing, we believe, can be

"Gov. Schwarzenegger is a very important part of our mission to change the face and reach of party."

— GERRY PARSKY

Bush's California campaign chairman

translated into a real plus for us."

Schwarzenegger, who was swept into office in October after voters decisively ousted his Democratic predecessor, Gray Davis, saw his celebrity status firmly cemented Tuesday when voters overwhelmingly endorsed his \$15 billion bond proposal to pay down the state's debt. But at the same time, a whopping 83 percent of Democratic voters in that election said they were angry or very dissatisfied with the performance of the Bush administration, exit polls showed.

Bush lost the state to Democratic Vice President Al Gore in 2000 by 1.3 million votes, and despite an uptick in GOP voter registration since the recall election,

Democrats still outnumber Republicans by 43 percent to 36 percent.

Republican officials insist that largely because of Schwarzenegger, the party has never been more unified or better positioned to mount an effective campaign on the president's behalf. But mindful that Bush cannot possibly defeat likely Democratic nominee John Kerry on the strength of Republican votes alone, strategists say they will rely heavily on Schwarzenegger's bipartisan appeal to shore up support for the president among the state's Democrats and Independents, who hold the key to victory here.

But Schwarzenegger himself has signaled that a victory for Bush in California would only come with a price. While he is serving as honorary co-chairman of Bush's California campaign, Schwarzenegger has bluntly stated that the president's chances of winning the state's 55 electoral votes will be directly tied to his willingness to extend more money to the state.

"If the federal government does great things for California this year I think there's no two ways about it, that President Bush can have California, he can be elected, I'm absolutely convinced of that," Schwarzenegger said on NBC's "Meet the Press" last month. "I think it is totally directly related to how much he will do for our state, there's no two ways about it. Because Californian people are like a mirror, you know that what you do for them they will do back for you."

Despite Schwarzenegger's own pledge to be the "Collectinator" for federal aid for California, the budget Bush sent to

Congress in February offered the state little good news.

Another potential complication for Republicans has been Schwarzenegger's highly publicized differences with Bush on social issues such as abortion and gay rights.

An avowed moderate on those issues, Schwarzenegger recently parted ways with Bush on the volatile and visible topic of gay marriage. While Schwarzenegger has directed state Attorney General Bill Lockyer to halt San Francisco's high-profile gay wedding spree, he told "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno Monday that he opposes a constitutional amendment banning such unions that Bush recently endorsed.

"I think those issues should be left to the state," Schwarzenegger said. "So I have no use for a constitutional amendment or change in that at all."

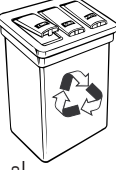
Schwarzenegger also told Leno that he would not object if voters changed the law currently banning gay marriage in California.

Parsky sought to minimize such differences, saying that on the matters of greatest concern to most voters — including the economy and the war on terror — Schwarzenegger and Bush are firmly in lockstep.

"When the governor stands behind the president despite some minor differences on those issues, that sends an important message," Parsky said. "His willingness to speak out for the president means his followers will listen."

But Kerry spokeswoman Laura Capps predicted that in the end, Schwarzenegger's own personal magnetism would do little to affect Bush's political prospects in the state.

"Californians are really angry," Capps said. "We still have 300,000 people who've lost jobs since Bush took office and 6 million who don't have health insurance. No matter who is in Sacramento, I don't think there's a lot of faith that Bush can turn it around."



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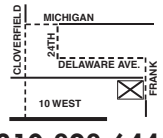
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ENVIRONMENT, from page 1

blighted by wildfire in Oregon, a state he narrowly lost in the 2000 election and where battles over logging and water rights polarize voters.

"We've got to understand that it makes sense to clear brush," he said from a road dividing the Douglas firs that paralleled his black-and-white message. On one side, its trees unmanaged, was a bleak moon-scape of dead trunks; the other side, thinned of undergrowth, held surviving trees and regrowth budding in the ash.

The new law sums up some core Bush beliefs: Nature requires intervention, market forces are better than regulations, and environmental protections are not possible without economic growth.

After wildfires consumed more than 3,600 homes in California alone last year, and 28 firefighters were killed battling the blazes, Congress agreed to let companies log large, commercially valuable trees in national forests in exchange for clearing smaller, more fire-prone trees and brush.

The contracts give timber companies incentive to invest in equipment while saving the government money on wildfire prevention. Critics say timber companies are unlikely stewards, and that the government is paying off in trees an industry that supported Bush in 2000. But, looking at the jobs that will be generated, many Democrats abandoned environmentalists they had sided with in the past.

Bush and his aides say their view of nature as requiring upkeep is in the tradition of Theodore Roosevelt.

"That's an important part about conservation. It's man's ability to make sure that God's beauty is maintained and preserved," Bush said last August.

Environmentalists would prefer he leave nature alone.

"There is a philosophy that everything is put on earth for humanity's sake. And that's a very arrogant and somewhat selfish perspective," said William H. Meadows, president of The Wilderness Society. "Those of us who have worked around wildlands believe nature takes

care of itself and, in fact, the biggest problem is where man has interfered."

When it looks like persuading Congress to change the law will fail, Bush uses executive orders, regulatory changes and court positions to carry out his pledge "to protect both the claims of nature and the legal rights of private property owners."

Just as his predecessor, Democrat Bill Clinton, filled top environmental jobs with a cadre of environmental group activists, Bush plucked lawyers, lobbyists and experts from environmentally regulated industry.

The result is a catalog of policies that reflect a sophisticated insiders' knowledge of government.

"He has figured out on environmental issues that you sometimes need to do what Clinton did, which is to use the regulatory agencies, rather than try to get something out of Congress — especially environment, where 60 votes can block the Senate," said William L. Kovacs, a vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

That the policy changes in most cases have conformed to ideas put forth by the industries that were among his biggest campaign contributors has fed an outrage and cynicism about his motives.

"Disconcerting to people in the environmental movement, pleasing to people who want to see their regulatory apparatus relaxed or rolled back somewhat" is how environmental historian John R. McNeill of Georgetown University characterizes the reaction.

McNeill views Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney, a former chief executive of the Halliburton Co., as "almost reflexively hostile to environmental regulations" owing to their backgrounds in the oil industry.

"Many years hence, I think that Bush will be regarded as having swum against the tide in this respect. He represents, in some ways, the tail end of the fossil fuel era in human history," McNeill said. "And their efforts to make the world safe for that industry is the central motivation in their environmental policy, or so it appears."

Much of Bush's approach to air and water

pollution, as well as global warming, is tailored to the continued use of coal — among the dirtiest of fuels but also the source for more than half the nation's electricity.

Within months of taking office, Bush withdrew from an international climate treaty negotiated in Kyoto, Japan, that required the United States and other industrial nations to reduce by 2012 greenhouse gas emissions blamed for global warming to levels below what they were in 1990.

Vice President Al Gore's signature in 1997 on the treaty, which caps carbon dioxide from power plants, was viewed by the coal industry as a declaration of war. Bush used the fallout to help take him to the White House, upsetting Gore in West Virginia, the first win there by a GOP presidential nominee in the overwhelmingly Democratic state since President Reagan's re-election in 1984.

Shortly after assuming office, Bush also reversed a 2000 campaign pledge to regulate carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels, considered the biggest culprit for a warming effect.

Christie Whitman, the former New Jersey governor who headed the Environmental Protection Agency the first two years of Bush's presidency, recalled how Bush's turn on carbon dioxide occurred just after her meeting with other industrial nations' environmental chiefs in Trieste, Italy in March 2001.

"It wasn't an issue that we focused on until I went over to Trieste and talked about regulating carbon, where a whole lot of people got very upset," she said.

Bush then moved to assure coal's future by creating new incentives for utilities to keep old coal-burning power plants operating — without having to install more pollution controls — instead of replacing them with new plants fueled by cleaner but costlier natural gas.

The EPA issued the last of its new regulations in October, but a federal appeals court has temporarily blocked a key feature at the behest of states claiming the added pollution will endanger public health.

Citing language in the Clean Air Act

calling for the "best available" technology in most cases, officials in the Clinton administration had used lawsuits to force several utilities to install hundreds of millions of dollars in new pollution-control equipment on older plants.

Bush's senior environmental advisers question whether "best available" technology always produces the best results.

"If you want the greatest environmental outcome the soonest, what typically happens is you end up picking the technology standard that's one step short of perfect," said James L. Connaughton, chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. "The technology that's one step short of the best technology is the one that people will tend to be able to afford and will, in fact, buy."

Nonetheless, Bush espouses the view that new technology driven by marketplace demand rather than government requirements will be the means by which pollution is reduced in the future.

"In this century, the greatest environmental progress will come about not through endless lawsuits and command and control regulations, but through technology and innovation," he said in his State of the Union speech last year.

To stimulate demand, Bush wants to set broad, gradual, nationwide caps on both water and air pollutants that are below current levels. Polluters could then buy and sell among themselves the rights to pollute. Plants unable to reduce their pollution enough could buy allowances from other plants that cut more than is required.

That approach is based on the idea that innovators will find new, cheaper pollution-control methods as prices for pollution rights rise. Eventually, innovation and the market should lower pollution control costs to the point where it becomes cheaper for a company not to pollute.

For example, Bush's "clear skies" initiative would set annual nationwide caps to be met by 2018 on three major power plants' pollutants at well below current levels and then rely on pollution-trading schemes to reach them.

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LISA GRACE KELLOGG SBN 191988 Attorney at Law 210 S. Spring Street Los Angeles, California 90012 Telephone: (313) 628-4384 Attorney for Petitioner, SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES IN RE THE PETITION OF ROSS FURUKAWA TO ESTABLISH THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS AS A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION AND NO. 8508728 NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION TO ESTABLISH A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION; MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES (Government Code §6000) NOTICE IS GIVEN that on March 17, 2004 at 8:30 a.m. or as soon after that time as the matter may be heard, petitioner Ross Furukawa, will move for an order pursuant to Government Code §6000 adjudicating The Santa Monica Daily Press as a newspaper of general circulation for the County of Los Angeles. The hearing will be held in Department 45 of the Los Angeles Superior Court, 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. The Petition sets forth the following: 1. Petitioner, Ross Furukawa, is editor of the newspaper known as The Santa Monica Daily Press, which is seeking adjudication under Government Code §6000 as a newspaper of general circulation for the County of Los Angeles. 2. The Santa Monica Daily Press is published for the dissemination of local news and intelligence of a general character in the County of Los Angeles, California. It is not devoted to the interests, or published for the entertainment or instruction of a particular class, profession, trade, calling, race, or denomination, or for any number thereof. 3. The Santa Monica Daily Press has a bona fide subscription list of paying subscribers numbering 36 in the County of Los Angeles for a total of 26 bona fide paying subscribers. 4. For more than one year preceding the filing of the petition, the petitioning newspaper has been established and has been printed and published at regular intervals in the County of Los Angeles. 5. During the whole of such one-year period, the mechanical work of producing the petitioning newspaper, that is, the work of typesetting and impressing type on paper, has been performed in the County of Los Angeles; the newspaper has been issued from the same county where it is printed and sold; it has been both printed and published in the County; and it has been published as a daily newspaper on each weekday and Saturday and has a daily paid circulation of 26. WHEREFORE, petitioner prays that The Santa Monica Daily Press be adjudicated pursuant to Government Code §6000 as a newspaper of general circulation for the County of Los Angeles, State of California. DATED: January 13, 2004 LISA GRACE KELLOGG Attorney for Petitioner

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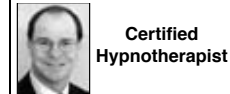
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