



FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

March 5-6, 2005

A newspaper with issues

Volume 4, Issue 97

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

8 10 19 21 30
Meganumber: 27
Jackpot: \$12 Million

FANTASY 5

5 20 24 26 33

DAILY 3

Daytime: 9 6 6
Evening: 8 5 1

DAILY DERBY

1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 07 Eureka!
3rd: 03 Hot Shot

RACE TIME: 1:46.23

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In articles in recent issues of Current Biology, researchers separately studying the dance fly and the rhesus macaque monkey concluded that males will be males. The male dance fly was found by a team from the University of Western Australia to sometimes present a female with worthless tokens for the opportunity to mate with her, but by the time she discovered their worth, he had already hit and run. A team from Duke University found that the male monkey will forgo his own rewards (juice) in exchange for being permitted to view pictures of female monkeys' bottoms.

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1953, Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev died in Moscow at age 61.
In 1963, country music performers Patsy Cline, "Cowboy" Copas and "Hawkshaw" Hawkins died in a plane crash near Camden, Tenn.
In 1986, in Lebanon, Islamic Jihad issued a statement saying it had "executed" French hostage Michel Seurat, who had been abducted almost a year earlier.

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John Wood/Daily Press

A break in the cloudy weather Friday morning left the air clear and let the sun fall on artist Mauro Staccioli's sculpture 'Untitled: Homage to Jack Kerouac,' made of pigment, cement and wood. The 1993 piece sits on a patch of grass at the intersection of Pico Boulevard, Nielsen Way and Ocean Avenue.

Environmentalists plant faith in supreme court

By Daily Press staff

Two local environmental organizations plan to take legal steps in an effort to further scrutinize a power plant expansion that they claim would have devastating effects on the Santa Monica Bay.

The Santa Monica Baykeeper and Heal the Bay hoped to file a petition on Friday with the California Supreme Court asking

the court to hear a case concerning the California Energy Commission's February decision to license the expansion of an El Segundo power plant without knowing the likely environmental impacts or mitigation.

However, lawyers for the organizations failed to meet the court's deadline to file the legal briefs on Friday by 5 p.m. As a result, they were scrambling late Friday to file

Sex offender causes school safety concerns

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

NORTH OF MONTANA — Mothers concerned over a registered sex offender who lives across the street from Roosevelt Elementary demanded on Thursday that the school district step up efforts to ensure student safety.

"These people will tell you themselves the time they spent in prison does not rehabilitate them," said Mary Beth DeLucia, whose daughter attends Roosevelt.

"Security at our schools is not a job for volunteers, or brave little boys. We need something done right now to protect our children."

"We don't want to wait for the next tragedy to happen."

When DeLucia found out this week that a sex offender lives in her neighborhood, she said it brought back fearful memories about a 2001 incident in which a man wandered into Roosevelt and forced a boy into a bathroom stall.

See **SCHOOL SAFETY**, page 9

About turn: Input on SM traffic sought

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — Roundabouts, speed bumps and angled parking spots were expected to be among the key points of discussion this weekend at a workshop on neighborhood traffic in Santa Monica.

A study of Seattle, Wash., showed that urban roundabouts were more popular among residents than were four-way stop signs, according to Beth Rolandson, a

senior transportation planner for Santa Monica City Hall.

"More and more neighborhoods have been requesting them," she said. "They've been well received. Some preliminary

See **ABOUT TURN**, page 10

Cornered



Nicky Five Aces/Five Aces Photo
Former President Bill Clinton speaks to the Association of Southern California Defense Counsel Friday at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

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Happy at home, Libra





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)
★★★★ Others defer to your knowledge and guidance. You have a strong sense of what might be going on with a situation. Be careful not to get too personally involved. Take your time with a new acquaintance, as much as you are drawn to this person. Tonight: Invite others to join in.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ In a different setting you'll see someone with new eyes. Opportunities will appear as a result. Don't hesitate — zoom in on what you want. Add that lightness and wisdom so frequently associated with your sign. Tonight: Where you are, the party can be found.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Whether dealing with money, friends or an emotionally volatile situation, you come out smelling like a rose. You have a way that draws others out and convinces them of the rightness of your ways. Tonight: Dinner for two.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Allow others to come up with their own ideas even if their suggestions sound remarkably like yours! All the better, as you can agree without feeling conflicted. Your popularity grows. Invite others over for a get-together. Tonight: Just decide who and where.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Speak about and express what is on your mind. Sometimes you hold back in order to keep the peace. Your opinions delight others because of your keen awareness. Pitch in with a project; you will turn any happening into a party. Tonight: Easy does it.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You might spend too much to help others loosen up. Don't kid yourself — you have a great time no matter where you are. You don't have to explain or rationalize your actions. Kick up your heels. Tonight: Let love beam into your life.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Know when to put your best foot forward and make an extra effort. You will find that others need a sense of security and well-being that you alone can provide. Let your warmth stoke relationship fires. Tonight: Happy at home.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Catch up on e-mail and calls, and schedule a visit with a neighbor. Spread good news and be sensitive to those who are less happy than you are. Use your sixth sense in conversations. Answer the real question, not what is being asked. Give someone the benefit of the doubt. Tonight: You don't have to go far from home.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You act as if you have no constraints, financially or emotionally. Are you sure you want to incur the end results? Friends urge you to go ahead and be frivolous and carefree. Take responsibility. Tonight: Having a good time doesn't mean raiding your bank account.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ The Force is with you. Finally relax and follow the path you want to pursue. You have energy, intelligence and luck on your side. Deal with those in charge and clear out your calls and errands. You will want some free time. Tonight: Out on the town.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Know when to keep your own counsel. Taking a day off from the humdrum of daily life and choosing a different type of pastime feeds your mind and body. You are a sign that needs variety. Honor that desire. Tonight: Follow your imagination.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Inadvertently, you bring out the best in others. Understand what might be going on with friends. A spontaneous party could erupt at any given moment. Save time for someone you consider very special. Tonight: Enjoy the moment.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Hubble in the bubble

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College’s Friday night astronomy series is offering visitors a look back at the Hubble Space Telescope’s 15 years of discoveries as the project approaches a major crisis.

“Hubble’s Heritage” will be the college’s feature show on March 11. The guest lecture will be "Time for Mars."

On March 18, Julie Townsend of the Jet Propulsion Lab will talk about what it is like to drive Mars rovers and work a Mars-time-based schedule.

The feature show and guest lecture are at 8 p.m. Each is preceded by "The Night Sky Show," which re-creates the night sky and provides the latest information on space exploration. The show begins at 7 p.m.

The astronomy shows are held in the John Drescher Planetarium, which features the state-of-the-art Digistar projection system. It is located on the second floor of Drescher Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. The guest lecture is in science lecture hall, room 140.

Tickets are \$5 each or \$9 for the "double bill," with discounts for children and senior citizens. For information, call (310) 434-4223 or (310) 434-3000.

Something to sing about at SMC

By Daily Press staff

The Madison Project of Santa Monica College was awarded a \$15,000 grant from The Dwight Stuart Youth Foundation to support the upcoming Manzanar Youth Choir.

Auditions for the choir will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. today, March 5, in room M139 of the music building at SMC, 1900 Pico Blvd.

The youth choir will perform June 2 at UCLA's Royce Hall in the Los Angeles premiere of "Manzanar: An American Story," a music-and-spoken-text piece under the artistic direction of conductor Kent Nagano. SMC is a producing partner of "Manzanar."

The funds will be used for need-based scholarships, as well as field trips to the Manzanar internment camp in Central California and the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles.

The mission of the Dwight Stuart Youth Foundation is to support organizations that provide direct services and experiences to underserved children and youth so they can gain the skills, values and confidence to reach their potential.

The Manzanar Youth Choir will be under the direction of Niké St. Clair, who currently runs the SMC Chamber Choir program and is a professional member of the Los Angeles Master Chorale.

Besides the youth choir, the performance will feature the American Youth Symphony and the SMC Chamber Choir. Written and directed by award-winning playwright Philip Kan Gotanda, the piece was composed by Jean-Pascal Beintus, David Benoit and Naomi Sekiya.

The piece illustrates the evolution of civil liberty in America through the World War II Japanese American interment camp experience.

The Madison Project, currently under construction and scheduled to open in 2007, is a 540-seat performing arts hall that will feature both student work and professional engagements in music, theater, dance and more.

For information about the youth choir auditions, contact Anthony Jones at (310) 434-3414 or jones_anthony@smc.edu.

Samohi Symphony are national champs

By Daily Press staff

The local high school symphony has gained national acclaim.

The Santa Monica High School Symphony Orchestra has won the National Grand Championship at the American String Teachers Association Conference in Reno, Nev. during a competition held Feb. 24-27. The Samohi Chamber Orchestra also received an "Unanimous Superior" rating, but was not allowed to compete because of a one group per school policy.

Sixteen orchestras from nine states were represented and hundreds of string teachers attended from around the country. The students were adjudicated during their performance and then proceeded to a clinic with some of the most prominent string educators in the country.

Church to hit a high note

By Daily Press staff

Pianist Louis Durra will play a jazz concert with his trio on Sunday, March 20, at 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Santa Monica, 1260 18th St. Joining him will be drummer Jerry Kalaf and bassist Don Kasper.

The trio will be performing jazz standards and their original music. Durra will be performing on the church's 7' New York Steinway.

For more information, call (310) 403-8627.



SURF REPORT

The swell may hit this weekend, but whether the water will be clear enough to surf is unknown — and unlikely. Saturday a NW burst is expected, enough to bring west-facing breaks into chest-high sets, with some plus sets. SW may pick up a tad as well, but not much more than waist-high. Sunday the NW continues around chest-high, and the SW picks up to waist-high, plus. Standout west-facing breaks may see some head-high waves.

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

Today the water is:

62°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	12:18	0.7	11:22	2.6	4:24	5.2	7:20	3.4
SUNDAY	N/A	N/A	1:03	1.1	5:36	5.7	7:44	3.8
MONDAY	12:25	2.0	1:43	1.4	6:34	6.1	8:10	4.2
TUESDAY	1:17	1.4	2:19	1.4	7:24	6.3	8:39	4.6
WEDNESDAY	2:04	0.9	2:52	1.2	8:11	6.3	9:08	5.0
THURSDAY	2:49	0.4	3:24	0.8	8:56	6.0	9:38	5.2
FRIDAY	3:17	0.6	3:47	1.0	9:34	5.7	9:57	5.1

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YOU HAVE THE ANSWERS.
CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S Q-LINE
RESPONSES ON PAGE 4

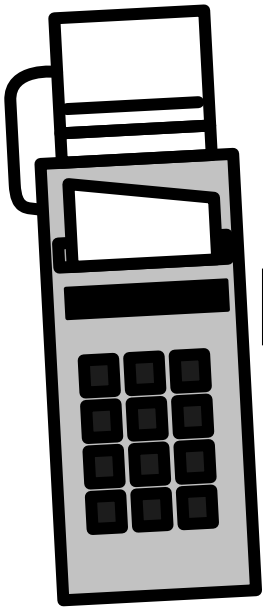


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OPINION

The Q-Line

PUSH BACK AT GANGS FOR SAFER STREETS

This past week, Q-line asked:

What needs to be included in the community's plan to end gang violence?

Here are your responses:

① "Everyone blames everyone else about gangsters and thugs except where the blame should be directed — the parents. Where are these parents? Why do they point the finger at the police or cry about racism when maybe they ought to take a look at how they are raising their children? Values instilled in children begin at home. Stop whining and take responsibility for yourself."

② "Gang violence and crime will disappear when the Pico neighborhood is bulldozed."

③ "All the proposals put forth at the workshop are admirable. But let's not forget the criminal element and drug pushers intermingled with the so-called homeless population in this city that contributes in large measure to the problem."

④ "Killing due to gang violence pales when compared to the unnecessary deaths annually in the United States and internationally due to the residual effects of smoking tobacco and alcohol consumption. Gang violence has to do with macho, and the fact that no person has a kicking license. If a person is kicked there is a very good chance that the person being kicked will kick back sooner or later. Very few people have a forgiving nature. In gang lore it is known as "vendetta." Violence has gone on since the beginning of time when Cain first slew his brother Abel. Violence will continue until the end of time, perhaps this is the reason that all of the self-defense studios are jam-packed with those people who are learning how to kick back."

⑤ "The solution to Pico neighborhood violence is simple: Eliminate the gangsters. We need a zero tolerance policy which results in the eviction of gang members and their families. Those who would promote diversity are also the first to prevent private property owners or the city from policing their own buildings."

⑥ "Some of the gang members are so rotten they should be dragged out in the streets, put in jail, and kept there forever. They're not fit to be in society. As for a lot of the kids that don't have jobs, we need more jobs in this country, the city, and the whole state for that matter. We could start by stopping outsourcing labor. As far as the kids are concerned, there has to be some sort of activity that can keep them occupied, but something that doesn't seem too goofy or lame, because kids don't want to hang out with the uncool nerds, and the dorks, and the goofy kids. They want something fun. If there's a bunch of adults involved in it, it won't seem fun. That's why they want gangs because gangs seem cool. We have to find something that's cool, but legal."

⑦ "Regarding the gangs, none of them have any respect for the law, or for their parents, or for anyone for that matter, and they should just take away their guns, their cars, and put them to work, chaingangs or whatever. They're just totally out of hand and they need somebody to shape them up. They need some discipline in their lives. That's all they need."

⑧ "Number one: End all this socialist talk that 'it takes a village.' It takes discipline and personal responsibility. Two: All City Council members, school board, Pico community leaders, need to participate in a 60-hour police department ride-along. Three: Virginia Park needs a Marine Corps recruitment center. The Marines are the best people in the world to promote discipline, self-reliance and unity of purpose, and they have good educational opportunities. Four: You need some kind of tax credit for private businesses to hire disadvantaged youth. Five: Retired or off duty police officers need to staff more workshops, promote a more positive feeling. Six: The high school needs to promote American government and civics classes in the hope of educating students of the supreme sacrifices thousands of Americans made so that we can participate in a democratic society. Seven: Some kind of inter-faith seminar, to help the neighborhood understand why some people have a harder time in life — there's a reason. And eight: This will probably happen. The city and the school district will throw money at the problem, but accomplish nothing, but everyone will feel good about themselves."

⑨ "Yes, I have a son that goes to Santa Monica High School. He's 14 going on 15 and I think it's very important to have a discussion about gang violence, because it affects my son and the greater community. So I think it's very important that we have a roots discussion about the source of gang violence. So let's get everything on the table and let's be discreet and about faith, OK?"

⑩ "How about spaying and neutering welfare-mother baby factories? I realize this is a long-term solution and very politically incorrect, so forget about it."

⑪ "I was reading in the paper about all these mothers and community leaders discussing the violence in the Pico neighborhood, and I couldn't believe that nobody is putting the responsibility on the parents themselves. It is their responsibility to raise their children so they don't become the gang members and they should value life. Parents have lost total control over their own children. I don't know how it happened, but it's the truth. Nobody has any control over our teenagers anymore. It's not the school's responsibility, it's not the police's responsibility, but it's the parents' responsibility."

Stewart is free: I know why the caged bird sings



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

Martha Stewart was just released from prison, but there are probably some people who think she didn't want to leave. The judge didn't realize that when she sentenced her, she was saying, "For your crime, I sentence your stock to double and you to get a new television show on NBC." But that's what happened.

Before she was found guilty, many people in and out of the press derided her. They said she was "too rich," "too cold," and "too perfect." But something happened when she announced that she wanted to serve her sentence "as soon as possible."

The public liked that she wasn't appealing the case and she wasn't complaining. People hate complainers even more than they hate criminals. Suddenly she went from somebody who "obviously did something wrong," to "whatever she did, it wasn't that big of a deal."

Things only got better for the Martha image once she started serving time. She took on prison reform and the humane treatment of inmates as a personal cause. And what has really worked for her is that she seems sincere about it. Nobody will be shocked if she continues to work to improve prison conditions after she's released.

That's quite a change from the image of the selfish, cold Miss Perfect. You don't hear a lot of put-downs and jokes about her now. Nobody's talking about her going from making decorative plates to license plates anymore. It's as if she's become a revered, untouchable female icon like Joan of Arc, Mother Teresa, or even Princess Di.

So, you might think that being imprisoned was a good move for her. I don't know about that. I would never presume to minimize what it must be like to be in jail. Regardless of how relatively comfortable the facilities are, you're locked up. Cynics may call certain places "country club prisons" or "sleep-away camps," but they are still jails. You can't come and

go as you please. I feel the walls of the dining room closing in on me after about 20 minutes of listening to my relatives argue about the family tree. How long could I survive in prison?

But there will probably be some "bottom line" types who only see the bottom line: "She went to jail, and while she was there, her stock went through the roof." So, some of them may conclude that it's an easy way to get even richer. "All these years, I've been stabbing my colleagues in the back and exploiting my employees, when I could have just been doing time." The search will be on for incompetent lawyers who can't keep their clients out of prison. And these executives won't all have to run out and commit some crime so they can get caught and incarcerated. CEOs with this mentality will only have to confess to crimes they've been committing for years.

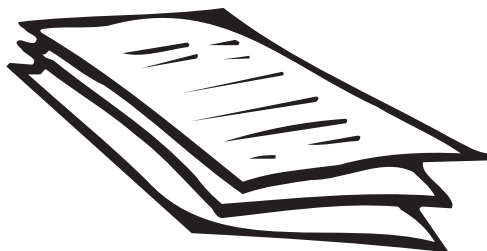
But they're bound to be disappointed. It's possible there were other reasons for the rise of her stock. I don't know enough about the world of finance to explain why it did so well. I don't even understand something as simple as President Bush taking a surplus, turning it into the biggest deficit in history and somehow that being good for the economy. Maybe her stock increase was part of an odd stock market cycle — one of those "buy stocks whose CEOs are women in years that the American League team wins the World Series and there's no hockey season" kind of thing. Regardless, no one can say that the reason the stock soared was definitely because the boss was in jail.

So, despite what some may think, I'm sure she'll be happy to leave prison and start her new life. However, if her stock starts to tank or her TV ratings slip, nobody will blame her if she's tempted to jaywalk in front of a police car, hoping to get caught.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He also has read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com.)

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

RECREATION



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EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT

BY THADDEUS REICHLEY

I am preparing for the LA Marathon this weekend. Actually, by the time you read this, I might already be done. This is not my first marathon. I have done quite a few, so I know what I am getting myself into and can no longer claim ignorance. Now, I just have to admit to stupidity. I have been training pretty seriously for the last several months, and if all goes well, I am hoping to have a fast day out there. It's funny to think back on my first marathon when I could barely imagine finishing. Now, not only do I want to finish, but I want to beat my personal record. If I don't, I have to admit that I will be a little disappointed.

The training and build-up to a race like this is a pretty amazing process. There are always lots of ups and downs, both mentally and physically. I am pretty sure that the human body was not meant to run 26.2 miles at one go, and to train for such an event can be a long flirtation with possible injuries. If you do manage to avoid injuries, and ward off all of those little illnesses that are always going around, the mental battle can be just as tough. Some days are great. You sit all day at work waiting to leave so you can strap on your running shoes and put in your scheduled miles. Other days you wonder what the hell you were thinking, and might wish that you had chosen to try something a little easier, like becoming the next "American Idol." Still, day after day you make little steps towards your final goal,

and along the way, learn things about yourself.

I have learned that shorts can cause painful chafing on any given day, no matter how many times you have worn them before. I have learned that I run faster and train harder when I listen to music. I have learned that I am happier running on a trail than on pavement. And I have learned that "just plain" GU is the only gel I can stomach during hard competition. I learn something new about myself almost every time I train for a big race, and this one is no exception. Training for this marathon has taught me that I am addicted to working out, and it might not always be healthy for me.

This realization came to me this week as I neared the end of my training. I am pretty regimented about training and like to have a plan. So, months ago I mapped out the daily workouts I was planning to complete in preparation for this race. The general workload included 50 to 70 miles of running each week broken up into variations of hills, speed work and LSD (long, slow, distance) runs. Within this framework, there were weeks aimed at building endurance, and other weeks to simply rest and recover. Finally, in the last two weeks of training I planned to begin my taper. This is a time where you gradually reduce miles and let your body recover and repair for the final race. By the second week of this taper, daily runs are two to three miles and two to three days of complete rest.

On paper this sounds wonderful. After months of running day in and day out, rain or ... heavy rain, it should be a nice change to rest and take time off. Without having to spend so much time running every day I have more time for other things. I am not as tired, and my legs don't hurt when I get up. I should feel like a

rock star. So why have I been so damn grumpy this week? The answer, I realized, is simple. I am going through serious withdrawal. Every day I count on my workout to give me that little high that comes with pushing my limits and testing myself. Without it, I don't feel the same. I am moody and irritable and probably not much fun to be around. I feel like a smoker trying to quit. Even though I know that I need to be resting, my body doesn't understand what's going on. Now I know how my dog must have felt when she used to run to the door every time she saw my dad putting on his shoes. I see my running shoes sitting there, but I'm not going running.

In the grand scheme of things, my little moodiness this week is no big deal. With all of the time that I spend trying to take care of myself and make sure that my body is in top condition, I sometimes forget that rest is just as important as a run. I don't just do this with training either. I can remember in college going weeks at a time studying, training, and working on minimal sleep until eventually I would crash and either end up sleeping all day or getting sick. Nowadays, I spend all week at work rushing around and dreaming of

the weekend when I'll be able to relax. Then, when the weekend finally comes I rush around trying to get everything done that I couldn't do during the week. I am just not very good at relaxing.

I know that I am not alone on this. There are lots of you out there just like me. Don't deny it, I have seen you running and biking with the sunrise on Sunday when most smart people are still sleeping. Denial is the first sign, so just admit it. We are not bad people, we just need guidance. I have learned that the best way to get better is to surround yourself with the right people. Sometimes your workout buddies are not the best influences. Find a friend who is not as obsessed and spend the day with them. Sleep in. Go to breakfast. Hell, take the day off. You can't get faster pushing yourself every day.

In the marathon of life, there are 20-mile days and days off. Learn to appreciate the days off as much as the others. And, to all of you running the race on Sunday, good luck. And Monday, rest.

(Thaddeus Reichley is a teacher and pro-triathlete living in Santa Monica. Look for his column on the weekends).

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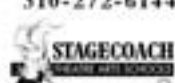


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Judge writing new chapter in Beach house essay raffle

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A judge barred the host of a failed Manhattan Beach house contest from accessing a bank account with nearly \$1 million in contestant deposits.

Superior Court Judge Andria Richey's ruling Thursday extended the preliminary injunction barring Ben Waldrep from getting to the \$881,224 he deposited Feb. 14 in the Bank of America account.

Waldrep's attorney argued it leaves his client without enough money to pay for living expenses. The injunction will last until the final judgment on the case is issued, which is expected later this month.

Attorney Stephen Bernard, representing entrants in the house contest who won a civil suit against Waldrep, told the judge that Waldrep could be expected to hide the money if he had access to it.

"Unless the court enjoins (the money) he will get away with murder," he said. "He was going to get away with it but for the jury's verdict."

Waldrep initially promised to give the Alma Avenue house to the person who wrote the best essay and paid a \$195 fee. But the contest did not attract enough interest and, by the time it ended in April 2001, only 1,800 people had entered, bringing in only \$360,000.

The house was worth \$800,000 at the time and Waldrep sold it last year for \$1.2 million.

On Feb. 2, a jury said Waldrep committed fraud and ordered him to repay the entry fees plus interest to every contestant. Jurors also inadvertently instructed him to pay each entrant \$1 million, instead of having them share \$1 million. That matter has not been resolved.

Critics say Schwarzenegger sends bad steroid messages

BY ERICA WERNER

Associated Press Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Arnold Schwarzenegger, seven-time Mr. Olympia and first-term governor of California, pays his annual visit this weekend to the bodybuilding contest that bears his name.

But this year, his embrace of pumping iron has become politically problematic because of the unfolding steroid scandal in sports.

Bodybuilding "by virtually everyone's account is totally saturated, immersed with illegal drug use," said Charles Yesalis, a Pennsylvania State University professor who has written books on steroids. "His standing up there with them, I think, delivers a very, very inappropriate message."

Schwarzenegger was scheduled to arrive in Columbus on Friday for the Arnold Classic to reconnect with adoring fans of the sport that made him famous. Instead of politics, the weekend is devoted to athletes and big muscles. But the issue of steroids is just below the surface.

The cavernous hall at Columbus' convention center included a booth that hawked protein supplements with the taunting slogan "Ban This." Nearby, a pair of lawyers advertised their expertise in steroid law while selling copies of a book titled "Legal Muscle."

At least one bodybuilder in this year's competition has admitted using steroids; another spent time in jail for a steroid-related offense. Last year, federal agents investigating steroids served grand jury subpoenas at the Arnold Classic.

California's governor acknowledges taking steroids as a competitor. Last weekend, Schwarzenegger said in an ABC interview that he opposes steroids now and dislikes the "huge monsters" they produce, but does not regret using the bodybuilding substances when they were still legal.

"It was a new thing," he said, "so you can't roll the clock back and say, 'No, I would change my mind,' or anything, because for those days that's what we did."

California state Sen. Jackie Speier, a Democrat who wrote a bill Schwarzenegger

vetoed last year that would have created a list of banned substances for school sports, said those comments amount to "a very unclear message and one that suggests, 'Do as I say, not as I do.'"

"I would expect that he would be making much stronger statements than he's made," Speier said.

Schwarzenegger, undeterred by the critics as usual, remains the weekend's headliner, and has plenty of defenders here.

"In my book, at least he's being honest, he's being upfront," said fitness photographer Amir Marandi, whose booth displayed photos of bikini-clad women flexing their muscles. "I've got to respect that because politicians lie all the time."

A few yards away, New York lawyer Marc Gann, who was preparing his booth on steroid law, said: "He's trying to take a responsible approach to all of this and he's being criticized for a community that he was involved in many years ago, at a time when steroids were not criminal."

Federal officials are prosecuting an alleged steroid distribution ring in the San Francisco Bay area. Sluggers Barry Bonds and Jason Giambi have been implicated in the investigation in recent months, and major league baseball has taken a harder line on steroid use as a result.

In Columbus, Schwarzenegger fans and critics alike will be waiting to see whether he addresses bodybuilding's worst-kept secret. The governor planned to watch the women's finals Friday night and the awarding of the top men's prizes — \$100,000 and a Hummer — on Saturday.

The fitness contest began as a much smaller bodybuilding competition that Schwarzenegger entered, and won, in 1970. He was so impressed with the event he promised organizer Jim Lorimer a partnership after he retired from competing.

He kept his promise, and the first Arnold Classic was held in Columbus in 1989. This year, 14,000 athletes will compete in 20 events. About 100,000 spectators are expected.

"It's where he came from," said Schwarzenegger press secretary Margita Thompson, "and he's proud of it."

STATE



Bye, bye, 'Baby': Race to Oscars '05 underway

BY DAVID GERMAIN

AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES — "Million Dollar Baby?" Old news. Jamie Foxx? Ancient history.

It's time to set odds on which films will dominate next year's Academy Awards, based on what's visible in Hollywood's ever-changeable lineup for 2005.

Granted, no one's seen these movies, and some haven't even started shooting, so who knows which might have that touch of Oscar gold, or which won't manage to be ready in time to qualify?

But there are keys to early Oscar handicapping. Does it have Gwyneth Paltrow in it? Does it feature a woman pretending to be a man? Does it have Gwyneth Paltrow pretending to be a man?

Beyond that, the best signposts are a film's heavyweight-drama quotient and pedigree of talent. How many past Oscar winners are involved? Does a cover-girl performer efface her looks for a stark and sober story? Is it a "master" filmmaker tackling a "momentous" subject?

These are subjective criteria, but as a studio mogul noted in "Barton Fink": "I guess we all have that Barton Fink feeling. But since you're Barton Fink, I'm assuming you have it in spades."

For this crystal-ball exercise, we're looking for that Oscar feeling, and we figure people such as these — Steven Spielberg, Peter Jackson, Ron Howard, Roman Polanski — must have it in spades.

And the Oscar could go to:

"Cinderella Man" — Oscar winners Russell Crowe and Renee Zellweger star in the story of Depression-era boxer Jim Braddock, who gets a second chance in the ring. The academy loves underdog stories, Ron Howard ("A Beautiful Mind") directs and Crowe punches people out.

"Memoirs of a Geisha" — Rob Marshall ("Chicago") directs this adaptation of the novel about an orphan girl (Zhang Ziyi) who becomes a queen-bee madame kept in style by powerful men. Sex, sumptuous sets, exotic locales, a beautiful leading lady poised for a breakout role. Sex.

"Kingdom of Heaven" — Ridley Scott ("Gladiator") directs the saga of a battling knight (Orlando Bloom) in Jerusalem during the Crusades. Scott revived the moribund Roman epic. If anyone can make a Crusades story palatable in this politically correct age, he's the man.

"War of the Worlds" — Steven Spielberg and Tom Cruise spin the spectacle of sci-fi spectacles, a new take on H.G. Wells' invaders-from-Mars classic. Everyone secretly loves to see the world toasted, and it co-stars that adorable Dakota Fanning.

"All the King's Men" — Sean Penn

stars in this update of Robert Penn Warren's novel loosely based on political kingfish Huey Long. Penn in the meatiest role since his Oscar win for "Mystic River," backed by Anthony Hopkins, Kate Winslet, Patricia Clarkson, Jude Law and James Gandolfini. Can you say dream cast?

"Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" — Johnny Depp has scored Oscar nominations as a sashaying pirate and a repressed Edwardian playwright. Can he earn another as Willy Wonka? Tim Burton's remake offers endless visual possibilities, and the story of candyman Willy playing tour guide to children is a beloved one for academy boomers.

"Jarhead" — Sam Mendes ("American Beauty") aims for another mix of drama and macabre humor with this tale of an elite sniper unit in the Gulf War. British theater vet Mendes has a keen outsider's eye for stories about Americans. And enlisting Jamie Foxx to co-star doesn't hurt.

"King Kong" — "Lord of the Rings" maestro Peter Jackson directs a remake of the great ape biopic, with Naomi Watts as the new Fay Wray. After elevating the fantasy genre to Oscar glory by treating hobbits with dead earnestness, Jackson's madman enough to do the same for a giant gorilla.

"The New World" — Colin Farrell tries to put "Alexander" behind him in this colonial tale of John Smith and Pocahontas, from director Terrence Malick ("The Thin Red Line"). Malick hardly ever makes movies, but when he does, they're awesome.

"Oliver Twist" — For his first film since winning the best-director Oscar for "The Pianist," Roman Polanski has a go at Charles Dickens' classic of an orphan among pickpockets. Oscar winner Ben Kingsley as the nefarious Fagin. Doesn't everyone prefer Sir Ben in "Sexy Beast" demeanor rather than "Gandhi" mode?

"The Producers" — Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick reunite for a movie based on a stage hit based on a movie, about con men bilking investors on a Nazi musical. A best-picture trophy for producer Mel Brooks would make a nice companion bookend for his screenplay Oscar on the 1968 original.

"Walk the Line" — Joaquin Phoenix is the man in black, Johnny Cash, with Reese Witherspoon as wife June Carter. In the same way people went, "Huh? Jamie Foxx as Ray Charles? ... Oh, yeah. I see it," Phoenix bears a curious resemblance to Cash. But can he lip-synch?

"Untitled Steven Spielberg Project" — The director goes for another twofer in one year, this one featuring Eric Bana in a drama chronicling events at the 1972 Olympics in Munich, when 11 Israeli athletes and coaches were killed by Palestinian militants. It's his most "important" film since "Saving Private Ryan."

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STATE

Frankly speaking, house on a hill seemed unsafe

BY GREG RISLING

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Architect Frank Lloyd Wright once wrote that a home should not simply be plopped on a hill: "It should be of the hill, belonging to it, so hill and house could live together each the happier for the other."

After weeks of drenching rain in Southern California, it turns out that one of Wright's landmark creations, a Mayan-inspired concrete-block compound featured in several movies, is so much of its shifting hill that this week safety inspectors declared parts of it off-limits.

Across Southern California, the storms have relented, but some homes on hill-sides and mountains are slowly sliding apart, and the risk of landslides remains.

In the hills north of downtown Los Angeles near the Griffith Observatory is Wright's Ennis-Brown house, which looks like a temple straight out of an "Indiana Jones" movie and was a location for such movies as "The House on Haunted Hill," "Blade Runner" and "Grand Canyon."

The house, built in 1924 and now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was named for original owners Mabel and Charles Ennis and the couple who donated it to the Trust for Preservation of Cultural Heritage in 1980. The nonprofit organization opened it to the public, giving tours of its intricate stone- and ironwork, art-glass doors and luxurious pool.

The building was declared uninhabitable earlier this week after inspectors found a retaining wall was crumbling. Pressure from the sliding soil was causing heavy stones to pop out of the wall. After

a second look, city officials gave the go-ahead for people to enter the main building, which was erected on bedrock. But other parts of the compound remain closed.

"The main building isn't going anywhere," said Bob Steinbach, a spokesman for the city Department of Building and Safety. "We want them to shore things up so there are no further problems."

The structure has needed repairs for several years because of age and damage sustained during the 1994 earthquake. It had been closed since December for the renovation and is not expected to reopen until the summer.

The trust's executive director, Franklin De Groot, said there is greater urgency to fixing the compound now because more rain could worsen the situation.

"The longer we wait, the more possibility of damage and cost exists," he said.

The organization has chosen Wright's grandson, Eric Lloyd Wright, as the project's primary architect. The federal government is providing about \$2.5 million, but officials estimate as much as \$10 million more is needed to complete the restoration.

The Ennis-Brown house was one of the first homes to be built from concrete block. About 400 of the homes Wright designed were built, and all but 60 endure.

"He felt that if you built a house, you build it to last for a long, long time," said Bruce Pfeiffer, director of the Frank Lloyd Wright Archives in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Pfeiffer said he can recall only one instance in which a Wright house lost a battle with nature: A waterfront home in Mississippi was destroyed by a hurricane in the 1960s.

Cops crack down on unsafe vehicles and faulty permits

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Fourteen shuttles, taxis and limousines were taken off the road in a law enforcement crackdown on unsafe commercial vehicles and faulty permits at Los Angeles International Airport.

Some 118 vehicles were inspected and 14 were towed during Thursday's operation.

"There were some serious safety violations discovered today. We would consider this a success," airport spokeswoman Nancy Castles said.

Violations included vehicles using a gasoline-soaked paper towel as a gas cap, a hotel courtesy shuttle with its emergency door wired shut and a hotel courtesy bus with bad brakes.

The morning sweep cited 19 drivers for

such misdemeanors as lacking insurance, driving without a permit or proper class license as well as serious mechanical problems.

Another 35 drivers received repair warnings for minor problems such as worn tires or faulty brake lights.

Of the 14 impounded vehicles, five were impounded for lacking state utility permits, five for lacking airport permits and four for faulty steering, brakes and vehicle suspensions.

Participants in Operation Terminal Sweep included airport police, the California Highway Patrol and the Public Utilities Commission.

Airport officials also announced they suspended the operating permits for 103 CLS Limousine cars until its new parent company, Empire International, received proper licensing from the PUC.



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LOCAL



Police: Offender's crimes didn't involve children

SCHOOL SAFETY, from page 1

The incident caused concern among parents and, according to DeLucia, was never fully addressed by the school district.

Alex Okner, 50, a white male described as being six feet, four inches tall and 285 pounds, lives in an apartment on the 600 block of Lincoln Boulevard, across the street from Roosevelt. He is listed on the California Justice Department's Megan's Law Web site, which tracks the whereabouts of registered sex offenders throughout the state. The site became available to the public in December.

DeLucia said rumors began circulating this week among Roosevelt parents that Okner was listed on the site for having had "oral copulation with a person under 14."

The implication is false, according to Santa Monica Police Department Lt. Frank Fabrega.

"All of the crimes he (Okner) has committed are against adults," Fabrega said. "He has never been charged with committing a crime against a minor."

Fabrega said that because of how the California penal code is written, sometimes sex offenders such as Okner who have committed crimes against adults appear to be categorized on the Web site with those who have committed the same crimes against minors, even if they have not.

"The Santa Monica police is working with the Justice Department to correct the problem," Fabrega said.

Okner's mother, who declined to give her name, said on Friday that her son was convicted more than 20 years ago for a crime involving a prostitute outside of Santa Monica. She said she's concerned with the attention the crime has been attracting recently. Okner has received phone calls from people in the community who know nothing of his crime and how difficult it has been for himself and those close to him, she said.

DeLucia said she was reassured to know Okner was not a convicted pedophile, but she said it doesn't change the fact that better security is needed at Roosevelt. She said she organized a parent watch after the incident at Roosevelt in 2001. Two students entered the bathroom and saw the man. They notified

school staff, who then notified police, and the man was taken away by police.

To help ensure similar incidents were not repeated, DeLucia said she spoke to the school board about her security concerns in January 2001. She said the school board promised to have a permanent plan in place to address security by the fall, but there was no mention of it again.

"You saw the need. You said you would do something about it, and it fell by the wayside," DeLucia told the school board at its Thursday's meeting. "I consider it negligent."

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Superintendent John Deasy said budget cuts are forcing the district to consider other options to address security issues at the elementary schools.

"The budget cuts have been clear, so that's why I've been working with the city and police to patrol the elementary schools," Deasy said.

Roosevelt parents said that any steps the district took toward improving security at the elementary schools would be a step in the right direction. They said doors are supposed to be locked at all times during school hours. Even so, parents said they would like district officials to place a fence with a gate around the school, or provide paid-for security from an outside source.

Roosevelt parent Jody Kasten said Deasy's idea of increased police patrols was a good one, depending on the frequency.

"Everything is secondary to the safety of our children," she said.

MEGAN'S LAW AND SANTA MONICA

According to Fabrega, there are six detectives, one criminal analyst and one supervisor who track sex offenders in Santa Monica for the police department. He said the police notify community agencies of sex offenders in the area on a case-by-case basis, and schools are patrolled regularly during peak traffic hours.

California Assembly Bill 488 was passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Schwarzenegger in September 2004. The bill allows the public to access on the Internet detailed information on sex offenders who are required to register

with local law enforcement under Megan's Law. California's Megan's Law was enacted in 1996, allowing local law enforcement agencies to notify the communities about sex offender registrants who may pose a threat to the public.

The law is named after 7-year-old Megan Kanka, a New Jersey girl who was raped and killed by a known child molester who moved across the street from the victim, without her family's knowledge. In the wake of the tragedy, the Kankas sought to have local families warned about sex offenders in the area. All states now have some form of Megan's Law, according to the California Justice Department. Before December, information on registered sex offenders through Megan's Law was only available by personally visiting police stations or sheriff offices.

According to the Web site, there are 43 registered sex offenders in Santa Monica but 17 of them are in violation, meaning they have failed to update law enforcement agencies on where they live, as required by Megan's Law.

There are more than 63,000 ex-convicts required to register in California as sex offenders, more than half of whom have their last known address displayed, according to the Web site.

Fabrega said there are three types of sex offenders. "High-risk" offenders are those who have committed multiple sex crimes. They must update law enforcement every 90 days on where they live. There are no high-risk registered sex offenders living in Santa Monica, Fabrega said. "Serious" offenders, such as Okner,

Accounted for

Known registered sex offenders in Santa Monica based on zip code:

90401 - 10
90402 - 03
90403 - 07
90404 - 11
90405 - 12

Source: California Justice Department.

have committed a felony which requires them to be registered in the Megan's Law database and notify law enforcement where they live on an annual basis, within five business days after their birthday. "Other" sex offenders are those who have committed a misdemeanor, not requiring them to notify law enforcement agencies where they live.

It's not known how many un-registered sex offenders may be living in Santa Monica. Transient sex offenders, who may be among the city's homeless population, are required to update law enforcement every 30 days on where they live. Transients in Santa Monica who have committed a sex crime and have violated terms of their parole are arrested. Last year, 14 transient sex offenders were arrested. This year, there have been five arrests, Fabrega said.

To find out more about Megan's Law, visit the California Justice Department's Web site www.meganslaw.ca.gov.

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LOCAL

Bicyclists pushing for better connected bike lanes

ABOUT TURN, from page 1

information does say that there is a decrease in the number of injuries that happen when there are accidents in Seattle ... There might be more fender benders, but less broadside accidents."

There is an existing roundabout in Santa Monica on 26th Street and another miniature roundabout on Fourth Street in Ocean Park. Both have been met with mixed reactions from residents — some praise the circles for slowing traffic, others contend the roundabouts are out of

place on relatively busy roads.

Mayor Pam O'Connor acknowledged adding new roundabouts to Santa Monica roadways would be controversial, but said the debate had a familiar ring.

"If you look at newspapers from the early part of the 20th century, when traffic signals were proposed ... it was a controversial subject," she said Friday. "Any time you're talking about any kind of traffic engineering and traffic control, you're going to have some folks who want the open road and nothing in their way. Sometimes the same people, when they're

on their feet though, when they're walking with their kids, they want to be safe and be sure cars don't run them down."

No decision on whether to add new roundabouts will be made at the Saturday morning meeting, which begins at 10 a.m. and is expected to draw 50 people to the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium on Main Street. The input received will be considered as part of an ambitious project to update the city's circulation element and general plan, documents that will control development throughout Santa Monica for the next two decades.

Another topic expected to be discussed at the workshop is whether streets in Santa Monica's residential neighborhoods should add more speed bumps to slow down traffic. Proponents argue what once were quiet streets are now being overwhelmed by motorists attempting to avoid increasingly clogged traffic arteries. Opponents say the bumps add critical seconds to emergency response times.

According to Rolandson, the city was researching "speed cushions," or specially designed speed bumps with a cutout specifically tailored for emergency vehicles, which can drive through the bumps rather than over them.

O'Connor said she was interested in the new technology, but added some things are more important than emergency response times.

"There are many things we could do to make it easier for public safety vehicles to get through, but then that detracts from the whole quality environment that people

want to live in," she said, making an analogy that City Hall could cut down all the trees in Santa Monica to increase visibility.

Different ways of organizing street parking spaces also was expected to come up during this weekend's workshop. Rolandson said residents will be asked their opinions on angled parking and other options.

"On a wider street, you might be able to put in angled parking," she said. "On a narrower street, it's a decision of maybe you want to have parallel parking on just one side of the street, or on both sides of the street."

The traffic workshop is the second in a series of meetings where transportation officials solicit input to help draft a new traffic plan. The first meeting was for bicyclists, and Rolandson said the key piece of feedback received was bicyclists wanted a more integrated network of bike lanes. The current series of bike lanes in Santa Monica are sporadic and often end abruptly, without warning.

Transportation officials were scheduled to hold a joint meeting March 15 with the City Council and Planning Commission on what methodology to use for measuring and quantifying traffic. In the meantime, Rolandson said she hoped the Saturday workshop would solicit broad input.

"Traffic tends to be the area of greatest concern of development in Santa Monica," Rolandson said. "We want to hear their (residents') concerns in their own neighborhoods, but we also want to hear about their thoughts citywide ... what they want to encounter when they travel throughout Santa Monica."

School's in sesh



Devon Meyers/Special to the Daily Press

Students of the Mako Sharks Surf School, based in Malibu, recently head for the surf at Zuma Beach.

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LOCAL



Environmentalists concerned about power plant expansion

TROUBLED WATERS, from page 1

objections from the Commission's own staff, the California Coastal Commission, the environmental community and local residents, the organizations' representatives said.

The power plant's proposed redevelopment calls for the plant to withdraw 127 billion gallons of sea water from the Santa Monica Bay each year for cooling purposes — the equivalent of four Rose Bowls worth of water every day of the year, environmentalists claim.

"Our primary concern is understanding the impacts that this expanded facility will have on the marine environment," said Dr. Craig Shuman, staff scientist at Heal the Bay. "There needs to be a study done to understand how many organisms will be sucked in and killed by this intake, how that will affect marine life in the Santa Monica Bay, and the CEC needs to require El Segundo Power to mitigate these impacts."

"We're not asking for the project to be stopped or even delayed, all we want is to understand the impacts of the redevelopment without slowing down the project," he added.

According to expert testimony in the record, the proposed redevelopment will result in the deaths of thousands of fish, millions of invertebrate and fish eggs and larvae, and trillions of plankton, environmentalists say.

Heal the Bay and Santa Monica

Baykeeper contend that the people of California are lacking the right of due process with the California Energy Commission. In California, the only process through which to appeal an Energy Commission decision is by petitioning the California Supreme Court to hear the case. Should the Supreme Court decline the petition, there would be no other legal recourse and no judicial review of the decision, the organizations' representatives say.

"From a legal perspective," said Tracy Egoscue, executive director of Santa Monica Baykeeper. "It's troubling that the Energy Commission asserts that this project will not result in significant adverse environmental impacts, while the same agency has determined that every other coastal power plant is indeed harmful. Furthermore, this is our only opportunity to appeal the Energy Commission's decision."

"We're also questioning the legality of the CEC's decision to ignore the California Coastal Commission's right to approve or disapprove the project," she said.

Santa Monica Baykeeper is a community-based environmental organization whose mission is to protect and restore Santa Monica Bay, San Pedro Bay and adjacent waters. Heal the Bay strives to make Southern California waters safer and healthier for people and marine life through an approach that combines science, advocacy and education.



Chris Floyd/Special to the Daily Press
The Brazilian Girls will play at Temple Bar this Tuesday.

Brazilian bringing the funk

BY KURT HEIM
Special to the Daily Press

The Brazilian Girls, a four-piece band — none of which are Brazilian and only one of them is a girl — will be bringing their tropical-funk-meets dub affair to Santa Monica's Temple Bar on Tuesday. The show begins at 11 p.m.

The band is earning tremendous criti-

cal acclaim for their self titled debut album on Verve Forecast "The Brazilian Girls." The New York Times describes the band as "catchy, musically ambitious and proudly theatrical" and Entertainment Weekly calls them "... unceasingly irresistible."

The band comprises four globetrotting members — Brazilian Girls formed less than two years ago getting their start with weekly shows at the New York club Nublu. Singer Sciubba hails from Rome, Munich and Nice; keyboardist Didi Gutman is from Buenos Aires. Bassist Jesse Murphy is from California and drummer Aaron Johnston is from Kansas City. All four now call New York home. Their self-titled album is co-produced and engineered by Hector Castillo (Bebel Gilberto, Phillip Glass) and mixed by Mark Plati (David Bowie, The Cure).

The Brazilian Girls debut album presents 12 songs in five different languages: English, German, French, Italian and Spanish.

After listening to this hypnotic electro dub and the sultry tones of Sciubba's voice, you are definitely left wanting more. The single "Don't Stop" lends itself to a distinct French slant reminiscent of St. Germain's Ludovic Navarre meets Hotel Costes. This buoyant house number is bound to get the house hopping.

The night is being presented by KCRW. Also on the bill are singer-songwriter Sara B at 8:30 p.m. and Juju Namjai on at 9:45 p.m. Admission is \$8 and tickets can be purchased on the at www.templebarlive.com or by calling 1-800-594-8499. Tickets also can be bought at the door but are only available on Tuesday after 8 p.m.



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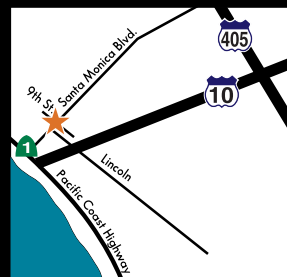


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NATIONAL

Bush push for Social Security reform underway

BY JENNIFER LOVEN

Associated Press Writer

WESTFIELD, N.J. — President Bush, on the first leg of an intensified push for a Social Security overhaul that faces daunting challenges, said the government retirement system's long-standing problems urgently need fixing.

"Very soon, in a very quick period of time, as a matter of fact in 2018, the money going out exceeds the money coming in to Social Security," Bush said before thousands of mostly hand-picked supporters. "Now 2018, some people say that's pretty far down the road. ... We're talking about right around the corner when you think about it. Those of us in public office must look down the road."

Part of Bush's plan involves allowing younger workers to set up personal retirement accounts with a portion of Social Security taxes, and the president said the interest from those accounts would be in addition to the traditional benefit check. He did not mention that future retirees' government checks would be lower as a result.

"See, personal accounts is an add-on to that which the government is going to pay you. It doesn't replace the Social Security system," he said. "It is a part of getting a better rate of return."

Calling his plan an "add-on" was an interesting choice of words. That is the term Democrats use to describe their alternative plan, an account that workers would be free to set up outside the Social Security system without diverting any portion of payroll taxes.

The president's use of the term suggested support for

the Democratic idea.

Bush also offered language meant to suggest he has no intention of entirely killing a popular government program credited with keeping millions of seniors out of poverty.

"Social Security provided a safety net for many retirees and that's an important safety net," Bush said. "But the safety net has got a hole in it and we need to make sure we save that safety net for future generations in America."

The White House has been claiming progress in the effort to bring Americans around to Bush's view.

Recent developments, and Bush's retooled remarks that appeared tailored to counteract criticism, suggest otherwise.

A new poll by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press indicated that while the number of people who know about the plan has doubled, the number supporting private accounts is tumbling.

Earlier in the week, Sen. Charles Grassley, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee recommended focusing instead on the long-term solvency of Social Security. That reflected doubts in Republican ranks about the president's desire for personal accounts.

Congressional Democrats, meanwhile, remain almost unanimously opposed to Bush's Social Security plan.

"Republicans are talking about a privatization plan that cuts benefits, adds trillions in debt and does nothing to strengthen the program," Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said. "That is unacceptable and the American people are rejecting that approach."

Bush was traveling later Friday to South Bend, Ind.,

and both stops were meant to shore up the electoral prospects of Republican lawmakers — Mike Ferguson of New Jersey and Chris Chocola of Indiana — who are getting heat over the issue.

Ferguson has not yet taken a position on Bush's proposal, and while introducing Bush he merely talked about the "important national conversation" the president has launched. Chocola has said town meetings in his district last week left him willing to follow Bush's lead, even as he talked of the difficulty of the politics surrounding the issue.

The Democratic Party put up radio advertisements in both districts that accuse Bush of putting forward a "risky scheme" that would "end Social Security's guaranteed benefits." And advocates opposed to Bush's ideas scheduled rallies near at both events.

Bush's travels on Friday were the start of a new two-month blitz in which he and other top administration officials are visiting 29 states. Bush already has attended Social Security events in eight states since his Feb. 2 State of the Union address.

Unwilling to allow the president to remain alone on the national stage on the issue, Democratic senators planned their own "fix it, don't nix it" forums in four cities over two days.

Although Bush has not put forward a comprehensive plan, he foresees no change for current retirees or workers age 55 and older. Younger Americans, however, could divert up to 4 percent of their income subject to Social Security taxes into personal accounts in exchange for a reduction in their guaranteed benefit.

Other tax increases or benefit cuts would be needed as well to bring the system into solvency.

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NATIONAL



Perplexing state motto: That's just the way 'it grows'

BY DEBORAH BAKER

Associated Press Writer

SANTA FE, N.M. — It's displayed on the outside of the Capitol, etched into the giant state seals in the legislative chambers, and inlaid in brass on the floor of the rotunda. But one lawmaker says it's time to jettison New Mexico's state motto.

"Crescit Eundo" doesn't sound half-bad in Latin, but the English translation — "It Grows As It Goes" — leaves New Mexicans and visitors alike scratching their heads.

State Sen. Joseph Carraro says when he recites it to visiting school children, he draws blank stares.

"They couldn't figure out what it meant. I couldn't figure out what it meant," said the Albuquerque Republican. "As best I can figure, it has something to do

with urban sprawl."

The phrase first showed up in 1851 — five years after the United States invaded New Mexico, which was then part of Mexico — on the seal used by a territorial governor, according to former state historian Robert J. Torrez.

"I've never been able to find out who originated it, or what they thought it meant," Torrez said. Most likely, it's a reference to progress or expansion or modernization, he speculates.

Mysterious as it may be, New Mexico's motto does have some virtues.

It's shorter than Hawaii's "Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono," or "The Life Of The Land Is Perpetuated In Righteousness."

But it's not as lyrical as Oregon's "She Flies With Her Own Wings" nor as succinct as Texas's "Friendship," nor as grounded as Michigan's "If You Seek A Pleasant

Peninsula, Look Around You."

Carraro says New Mexico needs to "jazz it up a little bit." His proposal: "Antiqua Suspice, Crastina Accipe," or "Respect the Past, Embrace the Future."

He says that would evoke New Mexico's diverse history — peopled by American Indians, Spaniards, Mexicans, then Anglos — as well as the possibilities for its future.

Selling it to his colleagues, however, has been a problem.

With the end of the legislative session approaching, lawmakers aren't in the mood to do much with the motto except have some fun.

In a backhanded slap at New Mexico's ranking near the bottom on social issues such as education, a committee that considered Carraro's bill changed the proposed new motto to: "Thank God For Mississippi."

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900 volunteers make a run for border watch

By The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Organizers of a volunteer border patrol group say nearly 900 people have signed up for the program, nearly twice the initial goal.

Jim Gilchrist, a retired California accountant behind the Minuteman Project, said Thursday that he initially hoped to recruit 500 volunteers.

"I'm elated to see that so many people are willing to come out," Gilchrist told the Tucson Citizen.

Volunteers plan to conduct round-the-clock patrols in the San Pedro Valley, a popular smuggling corridor, during April. They say they'll call the U.S. Border Patrol if they find illegal immigrants.

Douglas Mayor Ray Borane, however, was doubtful about the group's volunteer estimates.

Actual turnout for similar organizations "always turns out to be much lower than their predictions," he said.

Borane is concerned about the types of people the project will attract, fearing that some will be from openly racist groups that have shown interest in the project.

"How are they going to screen these people?" he asked. "They won't know who they are, and they won't be able to control them."

The Border Patrol is also concerned.

"It's not safe for agents, residents or their own safety," said Tucson sector Border Patrol Chief Mike Nicley. "Border Patrol does not condone this kind of activity and does not need this kind of help."

British Columbia mulls end to U.S. wine imports in softwood lumber rift

By The Associated Press

VICTORIA, British Columbia — British Columbia may stop importing U.S. wines because of the softwood lumber trade dispute between Canada and the United States, provincial Forest Minister Mike de Jong says.

Such action could in turn be followed by an escalating series of retaliatory action against punitive U.S. tariffs on Canadian lumber, de Jong said by telephone from Washington, D.C., after meetings Wednesday with U.S. politicians and Frank McKenna, Canada's new ambassador to the United States.

"I'll have discussion with my colleagues first, but it's an option," Jong said. "In the case of wine and beer, wine at least in British Columbia, that may be a discussion around whether or not the government's purchasing habits should change."

Rich Coleman, British Columbia's solicitor general and the minister in charge of alcohol imports, said the provincial government is prepared to take whatever steps are needed to resolve the trade dispute.

De Jong cited recent World Trade Organization rulings that would permit some retaliation by Canada.

A week ago the WTO established a panel to determine whether Canada can apply \$3.43 billion in sanctions against the United States in the lumber dispute. Canada agreed previously not to apply sanctions until a decision is reached by a second WTO panel.

The second panel, also created a week ago, is to determine within three months whether the United States complied with an earlier ruling that some U.S. duties on Canadian lumber violated international trade rules.

"We have some authority now, albeit very limited authority, from the WTO," de Jong said. "We should exercise those rights quickly as a way of reinforcing that we are serious, and proceed with the application for the broader retaliatory authority."

The United States has imposed punitive tariffs on Canadian softwood lumber used to build homes since 2002, when U.S. trade officials ruled that subsidies by six Canadian provinces allow their producers to sell lumber in the United States at below normal value. Canadian producers have dispute those findings.

In December the tariffs were cut from an average of 27.2 percent to 21.2 percent.

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INTERNATIONAL



Four Mounties killed in Alberta marijuana raid

BY BETH DUFF-BROWN

Associated Press Writer

TORONTO — Canadians were stunned Friday by the deadliest attack on police officers in 120 years, the slayings of four Mounties while they were investigating an illegal marijuana farm in western Canada.

"Canadians are shocked by this brutality and join me in condemning the violent acts that brought about these deaths," Prime Minister Paul Martin said. He has called for a moment of silence before opening his Liberal Party's annual conference later Friday.

The four Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers had been investigating a farm near the village of Rochfort Bridge in northwestern Alberta when they were shot, RCMP spokesman Cpl. Wayne Oakes said. The four and the suspected gunman were found in a Quonset hut late Thursday, Oakes said.

A government source told The Canadian Press the suspect killed himself after shooting the officers. State-run CBC-TV identified the gunman as 46-year-old James Roszko and said he had a long rap sheet, including the use of illegal firearms and sexual assault.

"It's my sad duty to inform you that four members of the RCMP were killed today in the line of duty — four brave, young members," said Bill Sweeney, commanding officer of the Mounties in Alberta.

"The loss of four police officers is unprecedented in recent history," Sweeney said. "I'm told you have to go back to about 1885 in the RCMP history during the

Northwest Rebellion to have a loss of this magnitude."

The Northwest Rebellion was an unsuccessful attempt by indigenous rebels to establish an independent nation in the northwestern frontier.

One of the four officers killed Thursday was a young constable who had been on the job for only two weeks, Canadian Press reported. Another was a 33-year-old ace marksman who entered the service with his twin brother.

Police have not officially released the names of the officers but family members confirmed that 29-year-old rookie Constables Brock Myrol and Leo Johnston were among the dead.

David Myrol, an Edmonton lawyer, said his cousin Brock was part of a close-knit family, which is devastated by his death.

"We'll be asking questions about what happened," he told the National Post newspaper. "There's no doubt."

The officers were armed only with handguns. Some

have asked why the officers didn't have better backup and how all four could have been killed by a single gunman.

Sgt. Rick Oncescu of the Calgary RCMP said two SWAT teams were called into the area and Mounties from surrounding jurisdictions also responded when the four officers didn't respond to radio calls Thursday afternoon.

Maj. Scott Lundy, a spokesman for Edmonton Garrison, said the military received a request from the RCMP for assistance early in the afternoon. He said two armored personnel carriers, an ambulance and about 20 military personnel were dispatched from the military base.

Public Safety Minister Anne McLellan said she would consider tougher penalties for growers in a proposed marijuana decriminalization bill. The Liberal Party is preparing to debate a resolution that asserts legalizing pot would curb drug dealers and organized crime.

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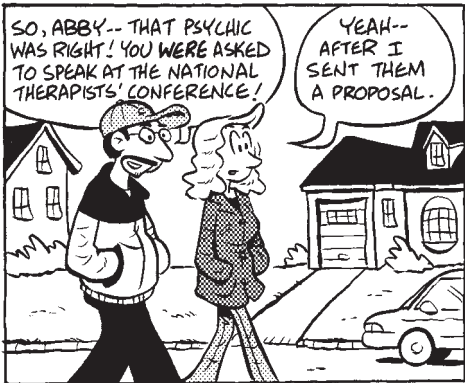
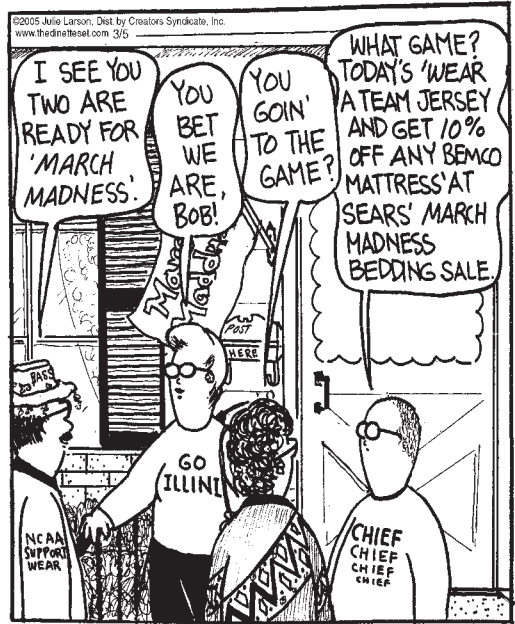
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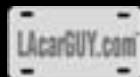
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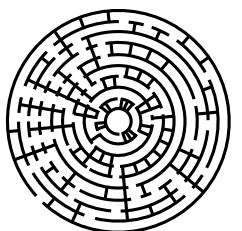
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