WEEKEND EDITION

FREE!

Santa Monica Daily Press

March 6-7, 2004 | A newspaper with issues | Volume 3, Issue 99

LOTTO

FANTASY 5
34, 17, 23, 11, 4

DAILY 3
Afternoon picks: **3, 9, 9**
Evening picks: **4, 6, 7**

DAILY DERBY
1st Place: 5, California Classic
2nd Place: 6, Whirl Win
3rd Place: 4, Big Ben
Race Time: 1:44.78

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
by Chuck Shepard

- The first international camel beauty pageant was held in November in the Alxa League area of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous region of China, according to an Associated Press dispatch, featuring nearly 100 dressed-up camels judged (by veteran herders) for the shine of their hair and the uprightness of their humps.
- Duke Medical Center study, announced in December, concluded that doses of nicotine might reduce age-associated memory impairment ("senior moments"), thus adding to the conditions (others: schizophrenia, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder) that can benefit from nicotine.

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High-wire act

Nicky Five Aces/Special to the Daily Press

This squirrel sunbathes almost every day on an area telephone pole. Have you seen him? The first person to guess where this photo was taken will receive two free movie tickets to Loews Theater on the Third Street Promenade. E-mail answers to sack@smdp.com. Hint: The squirrel hangs out on the city's main thoroughfare where libations are to be had on every corner.

No class? Pink slips for teachers are in the mail

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

DISTRICT HDQTRS. — It's pink slip season again.

Dozens of teachers will lose their jobs this fall if the local school district's finances don't improve soon.

Facing a worst-case shortfall of $3.5 million, the local school board on Thursday voted unanimously to warn the equivalent of 52 full-time workers that their jobs are on the line.

Superintendent John Deasy said the projected $3.5 million shortfall is based on Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's most recent budget proposal. It also assumes City Hall will give the school district $5.25 million — the same figure as last year.

Part of the reason for the shortfall, Deasy explained, is rising worker's compensation costs, utility bills, and health and welfare expenses — which will increase

See SLIPS, page 7

focus on SANTA MONICA

INSIDE THE CHAMBER

A month-long series that examines the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber proves you can fight City Hall

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — In the game of Santa Monica politics, the local chamber of commerce has found itself playing on the defensive side — a strategy not executed until recently.

That's because the rule book has changed in the past decade, chamber officials say. In a typical city, the traditional role of a chamber of commerce is to solely advocate for and promote businesses, as well as tourism. But in Santa Monica, which is anything but typical given the nature of its liberal majority in politics, the chamber has been forced to fight City Hall rather than be on the same team.

"It used be that it was the good guys fighting the good guys," said Bob Gabriel, who first joined the chamber in 1955 and is a current board member. "Now we're forced to protect the viability of business."

Many perceive that City Hall has its own agenda and, therefore, has become anti-business. That theory is based on policy decisions, a perceived lack of response to the business community's concerns and inaction on specific issues, like the number of vagrants who reside here.

"It's become more confrontational in recent years," said Dick Lawrence, president of Encino State Bank, who also sits on the chamber's board of directors and is a past president.

Two decades ago, the chamber acted more like a convention and visitor's bureau, promoting tourism and business. Back then, City Hall was a member — something that would never happen today because the two entities are on opposite ends of the political spectrum, presenting a conflict of interest for both sides.

Today's chamber is the most political it's ever been. It has created a political action committee,

See CHAMBER, page 5

Mission statement: "The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce advocates and represents business' interests and issues affecting the community. We provide the environment to help our members prosper and succeed through a proactive working partnership with all levels of government and community organizations to achieve a healthy local economy and quality of life."

Pier pressure: Gump gearing up

BY JAMIE WETHERBE
Special to the Daily Press

After months of legal delays, a Santa Monica landmark is expected to finally be demolished next month to make way for the movie-themed chain restaurant Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.

Bubba Gump's construction on the Santa Monica Pier — expected to cost about $4 million — will likely be underway by mid-April, beginning with the demolition of the 50-year-old Boathouse restaurant, said Howard Laks, the project architect for the restaurant.

The City Council and City Planning Commission have already given Bubba Gump the go ahead, and the restaurant should receive its final building permit in four to six weeks,

See BUBBA GUMP, page 7

Photo courtesy of Howard Laks Associates Architects

An artist's rendering of the proposed Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. restaurant on the pier.

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You're all smiles tonight, Virgo

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)
★★★ You could feel stretched like a rubber band, as you have so much to do and so much ground to cover. Sooner or later, you will need to relax and take care of yourself. Feel free to say you've had enough or to take a nap. Tonight: Remember yourself first.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Extremes manifest without you even trying. Though you might feel unusually indulgent in the morning, later on, you will feel pulled in many different directions. Look at it as if you are so popular that everyone wants you. Tonight: Take your time choosing!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You might not be able to deal with someone as well as you'd like to. Demands appear in all different realms of your life. Everyone wants some of your time. Recognize that you will be happiest close to home. Invite a pal over. Tonight: Your place, please.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ You could be overwhelmed by others' responses, which could be all over the map. How do you let someone know just how important he or she is? Squirrel some time away for this particular person. He or she will be quite touched. Tonight: Think before you speak.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Realize your limits financially and emotionally. Others might try to draw on your resources. You need to establish boundaries immediately, or you could be tugged in many different directions. Understand those boundaries. Tonight: Treat, only if you want to.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Put your best foot forward, but don't be surprised when someone challenges you. Misunderstandings can happen if you are extremely defensive. Realize more of what you want through working within certain constraints. Understand that everyone could be a touch "off." Tonight: You're all smiles.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★ Though you feel refreshed in the morning, you might feel as if someone is pulling at you. Realize more of what you want from a loved one or key person in your daily life. You don't have to be domineering — quite the contrary. Tonight: Go for some privacy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ How you say what you feel could have a greater impact than you realize. Others want to be with you; however, a demanding loved one might make it difficult. Approach this situation calmly and with fortitude. Tonight: Follow your friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ You might have mixed feelings about a must-show happening. Realize more of what you want through discussions and a clear sense of direction. Family members might pout that they don't have more time with you. Tonight: In the limelight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Reach out for someone at a distance. The reception you receive could be unusually touching. You might want to change plans, but others are expecting you. Practice juggling until it becomes an art form. Tonight: Be open to something different.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ A partner could be endearing, but what is it that he or she really wants? You might get down to brass tacks midday. You could feel pulled in two different directions. Remember to look at both sides of the equation. Tonight: Make nice.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ While others seem docile in the morning of the day, by late afternoon, you could be questioning exactly how much you want to go along with others' programs and ideas. Realize much more of what you want through diplomacy rather than being challenging. Tonight: Sort through invitations.

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Latinas, look into the future

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College has announced that it will sponsor the 15th annual Latina Youth Conference on March 13. The day-long event, designed to help young women build strong foundations for future achievements, will be held on the SMC campus.

The conference is open to girls in grades 8 through 12 and their mothers. Slated for the day will be workshops, the Career and College Expo, peer panel discussions, speakers, food and entertainment. The keynote speaker will be Maria Elena Durazo, president of HERE — the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union.

At the expo, attendees will have the opportunity to speak to representatives from several colleges and universities — including UCLA, USC, SMC and more — as well as to Latinas in a wide variety of professions.

The Latina Youth Conference, which is free, attracts as many as 600 attendees each year. The conference will start at 9 a.m. in the SMC Concert Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd.

Co-sponsors of the event are America's Cup Espresso Bar, Back on Broadway, Hint Mint, the mayor's office for the city of Los Angeles, Microvista, the Pico Youth and Family Center, the Rotary Club, Sanford Corp., the city of Santa Monica, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, St. Anne's and St. Monica's churches in Santa Monica, Student Loan Express and United Commercial Bank.

For pre-registration and information, call (310) 434-4179.

SMC Emeritus facility shoots for high marks

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College's newest facility, designed specifically for its older students, will officially open this month.

SMC's Emeritus College will celebrate the grand opening of its new facility — including a new art gallery — at 4:30 p.m. on March 18 at its four-story headquarters at 1227 Second St. in downtown Santa Monica.

The ceremony will include music, tours of the facility and the opening of the Emeritus College faculty art show, "Individual Perspectives," in the ground-floor art gallery. The exhibit is the first to be installed in the gallery.

"This ceremony celebrates a dream come true for all of us who hold Emeritus College close to our hearts," said Maggie Hall, associate dean of the program, designed for older Americans.

Emeritus College moved into its new headquarters last October, but work has continued in some parts of the building that were not quite complete. The move made history in two ways: It secured a permanent home for the program and it marked the first completed project funded by Measure U, the $160 million bond passed by Santa Monica-Malibu voters in 2002.

Highlights of the new building include the art gallery; a 99-seat multi-purpose room used for theatre readings, recitals, film screenings, lectures and more; an aerobics and physical fitness room comparable to established dance studios; and the D'Arcy Hayman Art Center that takes up an entire floor and includes two large art classrooms, a student lounge and a music and theater library.

The building also includes conference rooms, lecture classrooms and a computer room that will eventually house 24 computers, all connected to the Internet. Located next to a large parking structure and right on bus routes, the building also features outdoor patios and balconies.

Emeritus College students and instructors have praised the new facility for its ample space, light-drenched design, and custom-tailored classrooms for everything from yoga to art to stroke rehabilitation courses.

The new Emeritus College facility was designed by Santa Monica Councilman Herb Katz's company, RTK Architects. With 24,000 square feet, it is four times larger than the former Emeritus facility, which also was on Second Street in space rented from the city underneath a municipal parking structure.

In 2002, the SMC Board of Trustees voted to purchase the contemporary glass building for $8.65 million. Still under construction at the time, the structure was custom designed on the interior for Emeritus. With additional interior work, the college has spent a total of $8.8 million of Measure U funds on the project. On top of that, Emeritus College has spent about $750,000 in private donations for interior work and furniture.

College officials had said their first priority for Measure U funds was a permanent home for Emeritus.

Emeritus is a program that provides a wide range of classes — ranging from the arts to current affairs to health — designed for older adults. In its 28-year history, it has grown from less than 200 students to a current enrollment of 2,500, with about 70 instructors.

surf report

Look for our NW wind swell to drop off rather quickly Saturday, while the steep NW ground swell will wind down more gradually through the day. Look for average areas to see waist-high and below surf. We'll also have a touch of small SW swell that will fade through the weekend. Look for smaller surf on Sunday.

OUTLOOK: A steep, new NW ground swell arrives on Monday to level the surf off. Average areas are below waist-high on Monday.

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

Today the water is: 60°

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	LOW ONE	LOW TWO	HIGH ONE	HIGH TWO
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SUNDAY	3:02 AM	3:29 PM	9:05 AM	9:48 PM
MONDAY	3:43 AM	3:59 PM	9:45 AM	10:15 PM
TUESDAY	4:23 AM	4:23 PM	10:29 AM	10:42 PM
WEDNESDAY	5:15 AM	4:51 PM	11:18 AM	11:23 PM
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FRIDAY	7:49 AM	5:57 PM	12:07 AM	2:25 PM

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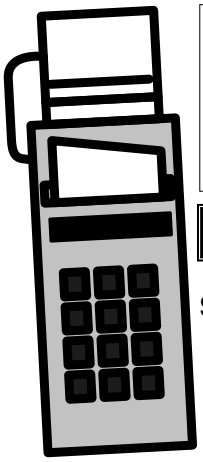

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OPINION

LETTERS

Compassion can go too far

Editor:

During the last holiday season, my wife and I were walking along Ocean Boulevard across from the park. We were approached by two street people — one male and one female — asking us for money. When we continued to walk past them they began to taunt us by singing "we wish you a lousy Christmas and a lousy new year."

Today, while having lunch in a small restaurant just off Ocean Boulevard, we saw a couple of street people taunting some people from Japan. And a few minutes later, another street woman came into the restaurant yelling at a customer. The employees had to chase her away. But, not more than 30 seconds later, she came back. Only this time, to our table. She started to mumble something to us and again the employees had to chase her off.

Is this the new Santa Monica?

In addition to the March 3 letter to the editor ("Feed them and they will come"), I would like to add "Let them lay down anywhere in Santa Monica and they will stay."

Not only is the quality of life rapidly disintegrating in this town, but the tourists will be telling their friends back home what is really going on here. Once all the tourist agencies get the word, then what?

Richard Kukler
Santa Monica

Some like it hot

Editor:

Lori Emerson and her husband (SMDP, March 5, letters to the editor, page 7) need to learn a thing or two before judging a book by its cover. I do agree about the schools needing help, but everyone is a paycheck away from becoming homeless. For your information, there is a housing shortage as well as a Section 8 crisis happening at this point in time. As a homeless person myself, I work at a homeless newspaper office, but do help feed those in need. How would you feel if you had no food because there are not jobs available for those who want to work? Wouldn't you want the same help they get? I know I would, and many people I have talked to have said the same thing. So my advice to you and your husband is this: Get off your high horse and grow up and face reality. I know where I will go when I die. Do you, with all that self-righteousness?

Do you know God personally? Apparently not, because in the Bible it talks about people like you and that when you go for judgment day he will not know you.

Viper Meade
Santa Monica

The Q Line

Gibson film 'Passion' provokes, perturbs

This past week, Q-line asked:

"What do you think of 'The Passion' and why?"

Here are your responses:

■ "Mel Gibson made a box-office classic for all time. Bigger than 'The Ten Commandments.' Bravo, Mel."

■ "If there is a God, as Moses described, and there is a Christ, as Matthew, Mark, Luke and John described, then I believe there would be more love involved in the world and less room for greed. I personally give praise to the creator of the universe every time I look out at the ocean. A beautiful piece of work by a power so great — it is beyond the comprehension of mortals."

■ "I saw 'The Passion.' It is the worst movie I have ever seen. Historically, the Gibson family has been nothing but anti-Semitic. The movie is very anti-Semitic. I don't think it should have ever been shown. This is not a good film."

■ "'The Passion' is a horrible movie that should have been rated X for violence. Anybody that takes a child to see this should be charged with child abuse. If I want to see a slasher film, I'll go to a slasher film."

■ "This movie was beautiful, perfectly portrayed, and I cant wait until Mel Gibson does another film, which I hope will be the miracles of Christ. I think everyone should see this film, especially the young, so they can get an idea of what this man went through for all of our souls."

■ "I think that the film Mel Gibson made is really what needed to be done for years. Every other film I have seen about the Bible has been boring or cartoonish. Nobody has really taken them seriously. I have real respect for Mel Gibson now. I think he heard a calling to make this film. I think this is truly what happened. I think that Christians need this movie. We believe that this happened. We believe it with all our hearts."

■ "I think 'The Passion' is an immensely important film, whether or not you choose to engage in the political debates that have obscured its intended message. Unfortunately, it has proven near impossible to enter the theater and take in this movie — and movies are really just pieces of art, intended to provoke thought and conversation — without forming some kind of preconceived notion about the morality of the subject and way in which it is depicted. Form your own opinion. It is not a film for the faint of heart, and anyone who has read one iota about the film before knows that going in. Whether you agree with the manner in which the story is revealed, you must admire the passion with which the director reveals it. In this day and age of overt commercialism and gratuitous violence for violence sake, it is refreshing to see a film in which the auteur just lays it all out there. It's art, people. Like it or loathe it, but discuss it. That's the point.

When the going gets tough, the tough take advantage

MODERN TIMES

By Lloyd Garver

"Survivor" and similar television shows are popular because there are so few ways in modern society for people to test themselves that they feel they have to do it vicariously. We all wonder how we would hold up in a crisis. Would we be one of the survivors on a journey to the North Pole, interrupted by an avalanche? Would we run back into a burning building to get our elderly neighbor's beloved photographs? Would we get back on our surfboard after a shark has taken a chunk out of our arm? I no longer have to ask myself these questions. My mettle has been tested. I survived 15 hours of no television, no computer, and, yes, no microwave.

I'm still not sure what caused the power failure in our neighborhood. It wasn't particularly windy and it wasn't raining. Although, here in Southern California, if there are two drops of rain, our entire infrastructure falls apart. So it's possible that the outage was the dew's doing.

Our electricity and phones went dead last Monday at 1:17 p.m. Almost immediately, I was called on to rescue somebody. The guy had been doing some work in our backyard and couldn't get out because the electric driveway gate wouldn't work. I didn't let him panic. Thinking only of him, and risking scraping my knuckles on various tools in our drawer, I found the appropriate Allen wrench, and manually opened the gate for him. He embraced his freedom. He could join his friends and coworkers. I, of course, was left to face the elements alone.

I couldn't work at my computer, so I took a deep breath, and then I looked fear in the eye, and I didn't blink — I would tackle the adventure of cleaning and organizing my office. I threw away mountains of papers, old files, and magazines. I put books where they belonged. I ignored my sweat and my tensing muscles, knowing how good I'd feel when the task was finished. I dusted, I straightened, and I leaned photographs up against the wall where I wanted them to be. (I'll get around to actually nailing up hooks for them during the next power outage).

When my wife got home, we decided to go to an early movie. This, too, was a test of Herculean proportions for both of us — we sat through the entire new Adam Sandler movie.

Then we went out to dinner. Many of the others in the restaurant were probably soft-bellied techno-dependos who couldn't go for an hour without checking their phone messages. I, on the other hand, had the hearty soup and the earthy salad.

When we got home, our son was in the living room, his schoolbooks and a flashlight at his side. I smiled, proud of my firstborn's resourcefulness. And the more I thought about it, I realized that it was quite possible that he had actually studied more than he would have if there had been electricity. He couldn't watch TV or e-mail his friends. What was left for him to do but study?

This wasn't the only way that the power failure was a blessing. While I realize that major power outages can be tragedies for people and disasters for cities, a minor one isn't bad at all. I recommend you taking advantage of it the next time you have one. Being without power was empowering. It was very quiet, very peaceful. We talked, we read, I wrote longhand on a yellow pad. My wife and I probably wouldn't have had a nice evening out if it weren't for the outage. And my office hasn't looked this good in years.

At about 11 p.m. that night, I took the dog out for a walk — with my trusty flashlight. As I stood on our darkened block for a moment, my loyal canine at my side, I was proud that I was able to live "off the grid." Then I noticed almost every house had a car parked in front of its garage. Obviously, these people could not use their electric garage door openers because there was no electricity. I knew they could probably open all of their garage doors manually, but apparently, they weren't aware of this little trick. I guess some people are survivalists, and some aren't.

(Pacific Palisades resident 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.

Chamber's political bent attracting newcomers

CHAMBER, from page 1

which takes on key issues within City Hall, and it plans to endorse and raise money for city council candidates this fall.

"We can't do anything without starting from the top," said Kathy Dodson, the chamber's president and CEO. "We are putting out a lot of brush fires. We can talk all we want, but they aren't going to deal with the homeless and they aren't going to deal with the inefficiencies of government."

Those two issues, as well as parking and traffic, are the chamber's top priorities. The committee will be looking for a slate of candidates to run on that platform, among other pertinent issues facing businesses in Santa Monica.

It wasn't until the living wage issue was introduced in 1999 that the chamber found itself fully engaged in politics, said local attorney Tom Larmore, who has been involved in the chamber for 20 years and heads the political action committee.

"Back in the 1980s, the council was more balanced," he said, adding there were more business-minded politicians elected to office. Today, the majority of the council are members of a liberal group called Santa Monicans for Renters Rights.

"It was a lot more reasonable then," Larmore said. "It wasn't so essential (to be involved politically). It's not the role the chamber seeks out in a normal setting."

Still, the chamber's relationship with City Hall isn't always adversarial, working together on many programs that are positive for businesses and promoting a healthy quality of life here. One of them is awarding local businesses with sustainable quality awards, which recognize merchants for being environmentally and socially responsible. Santa Monica is known for being a leader in environmental stewardship.

"That was a great city-chamber project," Dodson said, adding the awards will be issued in May at a chamber luncheon.

Another project the chamber worked with City Hall on was an audit of the planning department in an effort to make it run more efficient. In that case, the chamber worked closely with city staffers for a mutually beneficial outcome, Dodson said.

POLITICS A DRIVING FORCE

The Santa Monica Chamber is one of the largest on the Westside and it continues to grow. A few years ago, membership was at 840. Today, it's 1,050. Dodson said, based on feedback from members, they believe the chamber is headed in a positive direction.

"We've got people joining because we're getting more involved in politics," Dodson said, adding it's the chamber's intent to encourage people to get involved in the community.

The chamber is considering establishing a candidates academy for individuals thinking about running for political office — everything from exposing them to a media specialist to educating individuals about what to expect once elected.

Other political committees include government affairs, public safety and land use. The chamber also endorses ballot measures and supports other political groups — most recently the charter amendment brought forward by "Community For Excellent Public Schools," which is attempting to force City Hall to dedicate $6 million to the local school district each year. Voters are expected to decide on that this November.

And Dodson just became the head of the Westside Chamber, which includes 14 chambers from Hollywood to Santa Monica to LAX. It advocates for businesses and the local economy on the state and federal level on issues ranging from light rail to worker's compensation.

WHAT DOES THE CHAMBER DO FOR YOU?

"Nobody knows what chambers of commerces do," Dodson said. "Chambers represent cities, not city government."

While that may be clear in Santa Monica because of the political lines drawn, it's not always apparent to the public.

Politics aside, the chamber also focuses on quality of life issues — advocating for businesses and residents. It markets Santa Monica by promoting the community, and provides educational opportunities to its members. Several expos and seminars are held annually, as well as a weekly update e-mailed to members that informs them of current issues facing the city.

"It's our job to represent businesses and to promote them," Dodson said. "We're not just focused on hard core, right wing positions."

Through the chamber's marketing, members are able to network and promote their businesses within the organization's events and publications. The chamber allows members to develop relationships by making contacts, as well as giving and receiving referrals.

Through the chamber's six annual events — the Westside Business Expo, the Taste of Santa Monica, Health Festival, Education Celebration, the championship golf tournament and the installation dinner — members can showcase their businesses by sponsorships and participation.

It also provides members with educational and informational products to help grow individual businesses through seminars, consultants and forums.

The organization has a $600,000 annual budget and a 35-member board. Individuals are nominated by a committee and then elected by chamber members. There are between five and six past presidents who serve on the board to keep the continuity and historical perspective alive, Dodson said.

"We are so lucky ... people on this chamber board care so much," she said. "They care about this city, and you better be doing things right."

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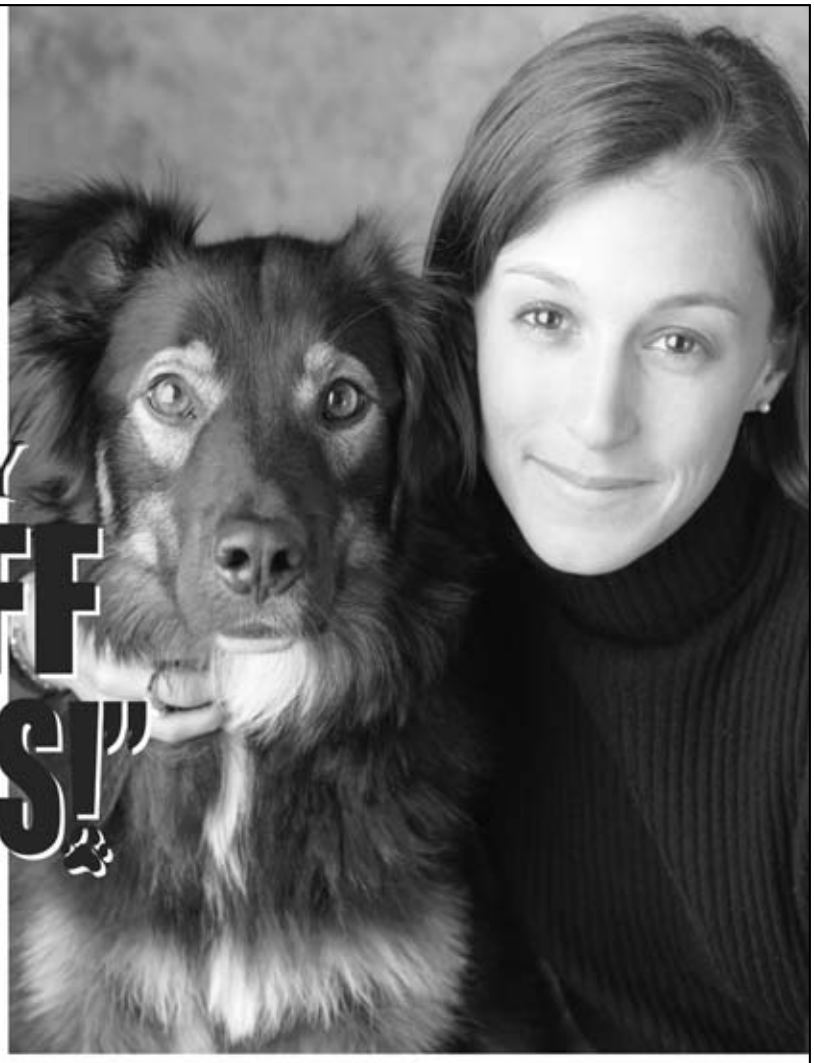

PET OWNERS SAY "PAWS OFF OUR RIGHTS!"

Some people want the city of Santa Monica to do what Los Angeles officials rejected two years ago. Namely, change the language in our city codes to make us "guardians" of our pets, instead of "owners."

At first glance, the words "owner" and "guardian" may appear to be synonymous.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

The terms "owner" and "guardian" are two entirely different legal designations and cannot be used interchangeably. In fact changing the term may reduce the legal status and value of pets, thereby restricting the rights of owners, veterinarians and government agencies to protect and care for companion animals. It may also unleash frivolous and expensive lawsuits.

This could happen to us as "guardians" of our pets:

- Our pets could be taken away from us without judicial review.
- We would only have temporary "possession" of our pets.
- We could lose our right to make medical decisions on behalf of our pets.
- Our right to legally sell or give away our animals could be taken away.
- Medical care for our pets could be delayed or refused because we do not have legal responsibility for our pet.
- Public safety could be threatened because "guardians" do not have the same legal responsibilities for the behavior of aggressive or dangerous animals.

This "feel good" idea is nothing more than a proverbial Trojan horse.

The Southern California Veterinary Medical Association, California Veterinary Medical Association, American Kennel Club, Cat Fanciers Association and many nonprofit and consumer groups oppose changing the city code language from owner to "guardian" or "owner/guardian."

Join us in protecting the rights of pet owners and opposing frivolous ordinances by contacting your city council member today to voice your opinion.

Paid for by the California Veterinary Medical Association

Spring Break offers little respite from uncertain future

SLIPS, from page 1

by 18 percent.

"It's a worst-case scenario," Deasy said after the meeting. "Obviously, you don't do best-case scenario. You have to be sure you can handle any cuts coming from the state."

Deasy estimated about 40 full- and part-time teachers will receive pink slips, adding six administrators also will be noticed that their jobs may be eliminated come fall if the district's financial outlook doesn't improve. By law, all certified workers must be told by March 15 if they will have a job the following school year.

"We hope that the majority of these notices will be recalled," said Deasy, adding the Los Angeles Unified School District is facing a $444 million reduction next year. "But there's no way that we can construct next year's budget without having to make reductions, and that will mean positions will be lost.

"Most districts are doing this."

Fifteen of the positions in jeopardy are elementary school teachers. The remaining faculty instruct in the following subjects: Woodshop, Art, English, English as a Second Language, Humanities, Industrial Technology, Music, Physical Education, Spanish, French, Japanese, Social Studies, Science and Math.

The pink slips come as the battle over a controversial charter amendment is beginning to heat up. The proposal would force City Hall to hand over at least $6 million each year to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, with modest increases comparable to the city's revenue growth.

Supporters of the proposal on Tuesday gathered about half of the 8,000-plus signatures it needs to place the charter amendment on the ballot this November. More than 200 volunteers gathered signatures at every polling place in Santa Monica.

Louise Jaffe and Shari Davis, co-chairs of the Community for Excellent Public Schools, sponsor of the charter amendment, said the $6 million donation is a small portion of the city's budget, but would greatly benefit the cash-strapped district.

"We believe it's in the city best interest to have good schools," Jaffe said Friday. "That's the issue."

"It's a horrible (financial) situation throughout the state," she added. "But this is not your everyday, run-of-the-mill town. This is a prosperous community and this is a priority of the community. They have proven that time and time again."

Mayor Richard Bloom said the proposal is dangerous because it earmarks money for the schools without finding a source, meaning it will lead to cuts in other programs. He added that City Hall spent in excess of $17 million last year on schools and school-related programs. Two major labor unions at City Hall have come out against the proposed charter amendment.

"Its one thing to ask somebody to sign a petition for a ballot measure by saying, 'Wouldn't you like the city to allocate another $3 million for kids,'" Bloom said. "It's another thing entirely to vote for that, when one understands, as I think the public will, that that will have significant financial impacts.

"It's well-intentioned and I understand that people will be inclined to sign a petition," he added. "It's fatally misguided."

A similar charter amendment passed in San Francisco on Tuesday with more than 70 percent of the vote. Called Proposition H, San Francisco's charter amendment created a public education fund that would increase city funding of schools by $10 million or $15 million a year until 2011, when the amount of the increase will be the same percentage as the general fund revenue increases. If there is a decrease, the city will get less money.

Something fishy happening on pier

BUBBA GUMP, from page 1

according to Laks. The restaurant could be open for business early next year.

With a lease good until 2026, Santa Monica seems to have a new landmark.

"The commission is pleased with the design," City Planner Elizabeth Bar-El said. "(Laks) really followed the pier design guidelines."

The building's exterior follows a "California mission-Italianate-style," said the architect, while the interior will be consistent with the 13 other Bubba Gump restaurants, a spin-off from the 1994 movie "Forrest Gump."

"They'll be pictures of Forrest Gump ... and artifacts from the movie," Lax said, with a rough-wood interior to resemble a warehouse."

Whereas the existing building at 301 Santa Monica Pier occupies about 6,900 square feet, the proposed Bubba Gump will measure close to 9,000 square feet, a feature that slowed city approval due to potential parking and traffic pitfalls.

Alcohol service issues further delayed approval at the planning commission, Bar-El said.

The city initially wanted to limit Bubba Gump's alcohol sales to 25 percent of its total revenue. Bubba Gump appealed to the City Council for 30 percent and won.

"The main concern is that it was a family-oriented restaurant ... dedicated to serving food," Bar-El said, and not a bar.

The city's preference for a family restaurant on the pier promoted legal battles with the existing restaurant, and delayed Bubba Gump's initial plans to open last spring.

The city in 2001 ended its month-to-month lease with the 50-year-old Boathouse because city officials said they feared the restaurant's motorcycle theme could attract an undesirable clientele.

Boathouse owner, Naia Sheffield, sued the city for breach of contract in an effort to keep the restaurant her grandfather founded, but a U.S. District Court ruled on the city's behalf.

While officials said Santa Monica has been harmed financially because of Bubba Gump's delays, the city should be able to recoup its losses after upping rent on the property.

Bubba Gump is expected to pay $10,417 a month — almost double the Boathouse's rent — plus $1,889 annually for common maintenance and 2.5 percent of the restaurant's food, beverage and retail gross sales.

While Bubba Gump's Cajun-inspired menu features a lot of seafood, its fare won't be fished out of the Santa Monica Pier.

"It's farm-raised," said Matt McQueen, a spokesman for Bubba Gump.

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Reign for rent: Bush talks up economic leadership

BY JENNIFER LOVEN
Associated Press Writer

BAKERSFIELD — President Bush talked up his economic leadership this week, rounding out a California tour that gathered $5 million for his and other Republicans' campaigns and marked the start of more direct criticism of presumptive Democratic nominee John Kerry.

"The economy is getting stronger," Bush said from an outdoor stage at a family-owned company, Rain for Rent, an irrigation system business. "One of the reasons why I think we're doing so good here in America is because of the tax relief we passed, is because people have more money in their pockets."

Bush's positive picture on the economy was designed to counter criticism from Kerry and other Democrats, who blame the president for job growth that has lagged behind other signs of improvement in the nation's fiscal health.

The Kerry campaign distributed new numbers Thursday showing that the unemployment rate in Bakersfield rose to 13.6 percent in January from 12.7 percent in December. Statewide, the jobless rate was 6.1 percent in January, compared with 5.6 percent nationally.

"George W. Bush has consistently promised that his tax cuts will deliver jobs but the results are terrible," the Kerry campaign statement said.

Bush, meanwhile, headlined a luncheon in northern California's Silicon Valley that added $700,000 to his campaign operation. The president has already collected more than $153 million for his re-election bid.

About $10 million of that money swung into action Thursday with the first airings of a television advertising blitz by the Bush campaign. The ads, featuring images of the destroyed World Trade Center, drew sharp criticism from relatives of the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The White House defended the ads, though Bush himself did not address the criticism.

On his way to the Bakersfield airport, Bush stopped along the side of the road where about 800 cheering elementary school students stood with American flags. Bush made his way down the line of children, shaking hands and hugging them.

The president has wasted no time going after Kerry after the Massachusetts senator assured his party's nomination with this week's Super Tuesday victories. At a cocktail reception benefiting the Bush campaign in Los Angeles Wednesday night, the president made clear he will contrast himself as a straight-talking president against Kerry as a flip-flopping challenger.

"He spent two decades in Congress; he's built up quite a record," Bush told the crowd of 600 that added $800,000 to his campaign coffers. "In fact, Senator Kerry has been in Washington long enough to take both sides on just about every issue."

Bush repeated his Kerry criticism nearly word-for-word Thursday in Santa Clara. He accused the senator of wanting to raise taxes, expand the federal government, oppose effective job-creation measures and endanger American security.

"Voters have a clear choice," he told contributors, with "Leadership" in blue and white capital letters over his head. "I'll leave no doubt where I stand. We look forward to winning on the second of November."

Although Bush lost California's 55 electoral votes by a wide margin in 2000, the election of GOP Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who attended a swanky Bel Air fund-raiser Wednesday night, has the White House hoping for a better result in November.

"With Arnold in the game it's a totally different ballgame," Bush's California campaign chair Gerald Parsky said:

From California, Bush was going to his ranch in Crawford, Texas, for a long weekend that will include a visit by Mexican President Vicente Fox.

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Border Patrol chief believes the buck will stop at Arizona

BY ARTHUR H. ROTSTEIN
Associated Press Writer

TUCSON, Ariz. — The U.S. Border Patrol has a shot this year at sealing the Arizona-Mexico border, the busiest spot for illegal entries along the entire frontier, the agency's top official said.

Chief Gus de la Vina, touring patrol operations along the Mexican border this week, said that with manpower expected to reach 2,000 agents in the agency's Tucson sector this year, "we're finally building our resources in Tucson to the point that we will have a definite impact."

For several years, more illegal immigrants have been apprehended in the Tucson sector than anywhere else along the 2,000-mile Mexican border. Immigrant smuggling has also been rampant in the sector, which covers all but the 50 westernmost miles of the Arizona border.

A lot of the agency's success will depend on the flow of illegal immigrants, the economy and the lures for them, de la Vina said.

But a host of other factors, including getting the personnel, equipment and technology "has come together this year and I think we've got an excellent shot at closing the border," he said.

He also said the agency has made significant headway in building up its manpower along the porous northern border, from only 300 to more than 1,000 agents, in response to terrorism fears.

On the technology front, De la Vina said that use of unmanned aerial vehicles, particularly in surveillance along vast and remote stretches of both the desert and the northern border, can and should play a role as "an eye in the sky for us."

"So we are supporting the UAV program. Hopefully we will get one before too long," he said.

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NATIONAL

French toast: Oregon vineyard proves Burgundy wrong

BY RUKMINI CALLIMACHI
Associated Press Writer

DUNDEE, Ore. — It was the climatic charts that first convinced David Lett, an iconoclastic winemaker from Utah, that the French had it wrong.

In 1965, at age 25, he moved to Oregon's Willamette Valley, armed with 3,000 baby vines of the world's most difficult red wine to produce.

Pinot noir has been called the "masochist's grape." A single mistake at harvest or in the cellar can ruin the taste of the aromatic, but highly volatile wine — and for generations, the French had preached that only the soil of a 32-mile stretch in Burgundy could nurture it.

Lett was convinced it wasn't the soil. If you could match the climate, he thought, the delicate grape would take hold.

"The word you're looking for is 'preposterous,'" said wine critic Matt Kramer, author of "Making Sense of Burgundy."

But in 1979, when Lett's 1975 vintage almost unseated a glass of Burgundy's best in a blind judging at a wine olympiad in Paris, one of France's famous winemakers took notice.

"Quite frankly, I thought it was a mistake," said Robert Drouhin, who ordered a re-tasting in his 13th century cellar in the village of Beaune, the capital of Burgundy's Cote D'Or.

Drouhin is the vice president of the Institut National des Appelations d'Origine, the body that controls all French winemaking. His family is the guardian of the statue of St. Vincent, the patron saint of winegrowers in Burgundy.

He thought that Lett's wine would falter against his own creation, but when the Oregon Pinot finished second by two-tenths of a point to one of Drouhin's coveted 1959 vintages, Drouhin began dreaming of Oregon.

Now, not even a mile from where Lett coaxed into being his award-winning red, Drouhin's daughter Veronique runs one of the largest wine operations in Oregon.

The Drouhins have discovered that the climate is like the Cote D'Or. But the rules that have straitjacketed French producers for generations are absent.

"I look out and it reminds me of home," said Veronique Drouhin, 41. "But here, I have all the freedom. So I try different things."

On her family's vineyard in Beaune, legislation dictates every step of production — from what kind of grape the winemaker can plant, to where, when and how much. The laws began as an attempt to ensure authenticity after a wave of fraud swept the French countryside at the turn of the century and grape juice began appearing on dinner tables.

But the legislation has snowballed, leaving scant room for creative expression.

"The Cote D'Or is like Stonehenge — it's a national monument," said Kramer. "For Veronique to try something different would be like someone saying, 'Hey, let's see what would happen if we rearranged the rocks.'"

In 1986, fresh out of enology school in Dijon, Veronique apprenticed in "Papa Pinot's" cellar, the nickname given Lett by the French. Two years later, she began her own.

High on the slopes of Dundee's Red Hills, Veronique used drip-irrigation on her young vines, forbidden in Burgundy. She pulled the leaves off the plants to give the fruit more sun. Although not illegal, the technique was never a part of Burgundy's tradition — but now, after Domaine Drouhin, the name of the family's Oregon vineyard, pioneered the technique it caught on in the Cote D'Or.

Most of all, she is experimenting with "terroir," French for territory — and an overarching term referring to differences in geology that translate into a shift in flavor.

Cisterian monks built walls around different patches of Burgundy earth where they detected a change in the taste of the grape. Since 1905, French legislation has attempted to protect these distinct boundaries, of which an estimated 380 have been legally defined. Bottles bear the label of the terroir they came from. But if grapes from even adjacent terroirs are mixed, the wine loses its distinctive "Musigny" or "Chambertain" appelletion and becomes nothing but "Bourgogne," or Burgundy, on par with ordinary table wine.

In Oregon, Veronique mixes freely. Her most expensive wine, the "Louise," named after her daughter, is a mixture of her top eight barrels — culled from an estate that now stretches over 225 rolling acres.

Over the last 14 years, Veronique has begun to notice that one patch of earth speaks more clearly than another, as those who named the Burgundy appellations did long ago.

"It's too early to tell if it's just luck — the weather, the clone — or if it's an expression of terroir. But there is one piece. Year after year it's shown a higher quality," she said.

For all the experimentation, said Kramer, at the end, the result is often to agree with tradition.

"You can't confirm that Notre Dame should be gray, until you get a chance to paint it red," he said.

From Lett's original 15 acres, the Oregon wine industry has grown to 13,000 acres shared by 673 vineyards. Lett planted not just the first Pinot Noir in Oregon, but also the first Pinot Gris, the red's white cousin.

Winemakers here now grow not just the two Pinots but also Cabernet, Merlot, Syrah, and Sauvignon Blanc, among others. But Pinot Noir is Oregon's showcase wine — and the industry is showing no signs of slowing. More than 10,000 tons of Pinot Noir were crushed in the last harvest, an increase of 12 percent over 2002.

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NATIONAL

GOP contributor in NM gets leeway for oil drilling

BY PETE YOST
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The government has eased Clinton-era oil and gas drilling restrictions on a large tract of desert grassland in New Mexico in a decision that benefits a large Republican donor in the state.

The donor, George Yates, says his contributions and fund-raising assistance to Vice President Dick Cheney had nothing to do with the decision. The Interior Department says its drilling plan, while opening up more land in Otero Mesa, will be the most restrictive ever.

The Bush administration "would allow 141 oil and gas wells over about 7 million acres; Interior is committed to protecting our public lands," department spokesman Mark Pfeifle said.

However, environmentalists are crying foul.

"We expect to see a lot more drilling than the BLM will admit, given the number of companies that now want access."

— PETER ALTMAN
Campaign to Protect America's Lands

The Bureau of Land Management "surrendered to the demands of one oil company and the political power of the name to which it was connected," the Campaign to Protect America's Lands said Thursday in contrasting the Bush administration's plan for Otero Mesa with the Clinton administration's.

The environmental group said the Interior Department's estimate of 143 wells is based on an outdated plan for Otero Mesa before Yates drilled a successful well there in the late 1990s.

"We expect to see a lot more drilling than the BLM will admit, given the number of companies that now want access," said Peter Altman.

Pfeifle called the environmental organization "a special interest fund-raising group that focuses exclusively on partisan misinformation." Among its supporters is Eric Schaeffer, who resigned from the Environmental Protection Agency, contending the Bush White House was undermining anti-pollution efforts at power plants that violate clean air laws.

During the Clinton presidency, one of Yates' companies previously drilled a successful natural gas well six years ago at Otero Mesa.

BLM subsequently proposed restricting drilling in many areas to near roadsides, drawing sharp criticism from one of Yates' companies.

"With all due respect, the notion that we can explore and develop the fluid minerals resource on federal lands by directionally drilling from the existing roads is silly!" a family member from George Yates' firm wrote the government in 2000.

Two months ago, the Bush administration eased the proposed drilling restrictions, saying that well drilling in Otero Mesa should be limited "to no more than 5 percent" of a leased area at any one time.

"The environmentalists are claiming that I was able to change a process to my benefit when in fact the result of the process is highly restricted land use," Yates said.

Cheney participated in a political fund-raiser hosted by Yates in 2002, and Yates has made over $90,000 in personal campaign donations over the past five years, almost all to Republicans, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, which tracks political donations.

"I never discussed Otero Mesa with the vice president," said Yates. "Having him in my home for a political fund-raiser and discussing personal business would be in my judgment bad form."

Yates said, "I'd give to more Democrats if I really wanted to buy influence. CEOs of large corporations that are worried about political access give to both, but I don't play that game. I give to people who represent my political philosophy, and as a result I stand to be criticized."

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, who was energy secretary in the Clinton administration, is among those protesting the development plan.

Yates Petroleum, an oil and gas company controlled by relatives of Yates, contributed over $100,000 in the 2002 elections, making it the No. 1 donor in New Mexico, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

"My uncles and cousins don't have an interest in Otero Mesa on federal lands and I have no ownership in Yates Petroleum," George Yates responded.

Steven Griles, the No. 2 official at the Interior Department, once lobbied for Yates Petroleum, but "that has nothing to do with me or Otero Mesa," Yates said.

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WORLD BRIEFLY

Marines getting mixed reviews

By The Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Some smiles but also some hostile words greeted U.S. Marines as they expanded their patrols in Port-au-Prince as the capital took faltering steps toward normalcy after the resignation of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

"You took our president — now you're taking our country!" a young boy shouted Thursday as a U.S. convoy passed an angry crowd.

But people also laughed as one Marine, fighting a sweltering heat, emptied a canteen of water of his head. Most Haitians walk many miles to get clean water. "I feel much safer now the Marines are here," said Frantz Labissiere, 44.

The Organization of American States announced the establishment of a tripartite council that is the first step toward forming a government of national unity in the impoverished Caribbean nation of 8 million.

Within a week, the three members will choose, by consensus, seven members for a Council of Sages. That council will propose a new prime minister.

The killings of Haitians continued despite the arrivals of international troops — the vanguard of a U.N. peacekeeping mission — and a pledge by rebel leader Guy Philippe that his men would disarm.

In Gressier, just west of Port-au-Prince, an Associated Press reporter saw the bodies of four men in the street Thursday. All were shot in the head and three had their hands tied behind their backs.

Bishop to face day of reckoning

By The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — One boy was a recent immigrant who eagerly accepted an offer of English lessons from his parish priest. The other was the boy's high school friend.

What followed, according to lawyers, is a sordid tale of abuse in which the priest allegedly plyed the two altar boys with alcohol and sexually molested them in the 1970s.

On Thursday, Hampden District Attorney William Bennett announced he will pursue sex abuse charges against retired Springfield Bishop Thomas Dupre, 70, who is accused of abusing the two boys, who are now 39 and 40 years old.

If a grand jury indicts him, Dupre would become the first bishop charged in the sex scandal that engulfed the Roman Catholic Church two years ago.

Bennett said the statute of limitations on the abuse itself has likely expired. But because Dupre allegedly tried to recently conceal the abuse, it may still be possible to charge him with molesting the boys, Bennett said.

Nationally, there have been at least a dozen grand jury investigations involving bishops, and four have resigned after being accused of sexual misconduct.

Senate steps in to save jobs

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Voicing anxiety about the flow of American jobs to foreign shores, the Senate voted to restrict federal contractors from using tax dollars to relocate work abroad.

The 70-26 vote Thursday to insert the ban into a corporate tax bill represented an early victory for Democrats, who have piled up a stack of proposals aimed at stemming American job losses to other nations. Democrats voted unanimously to back the ban.

Republicans were split over the restriction, though many said it would harm the nation's relations with foreign countries and eventually backfire.

"I think retaliation would be the order of the day," said Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

GOP leaders succeeded in including one condition, that the policy not go into effect until the Commerce Department certifies it wouldn't harm the economy or exacerbate job losses.

If signed into law, the ban would stop contractors from moving work offshore in cases where the government privatizes work once done by federal employees, when the federal government contracts for goods and services, and when state governments contract work using federal funds.

Kerry looks for gravy train

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrat John Kerry is setting an ambitious $105 million goal for his effort to unseat President Bush and will soon start a 20-city fund-raising blitz aimed at scooping up at least $15 million by May.

If Kerry reaches his target, it would be a fund-raising high for the Democrats and roughly match the record $106 million that Bush raised for his primary campaign in 2000. Bush has already surpassed that total this year, collecting more than $155 million for his re-election bid, with millions more to come.

Kerry raised about $25 million last year and hopes to take in $80 million more this year before the party's convention in late July.

He can raise money through the spring and summer, before the party's nominating convention, because he opted out of the public financing system and its $45 million spending cap for the primary season.

Kerry's fund-raising blitz starts March 29.

Kerry will enlist help for events in smaller cities from surrogates such as his wife, Teresa Heinz Kerry, and former presidential hopefuls Dick Gephardt and Wesley Clark.

Bush vs. Kerry too close to call

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — John Kerry and President Bush are starting the general election campaign tied, according to an Associated Press poll, while independent Ralph Nader is drawing enough support to make Democrats squirm.

The Republican incumbent had 46 percent support, Democrat Kerry had 45 percent and Nader, the 2000 Green Party candidate who entered the race last month, was at 6 percent in the survey conducted for the AP by Ipsos-Public Affairs.

Bush and the four-term Massachusetts senator, who emerged as the nominee Tuesday after a string of primary race wins over several rivals, have run close or Kerry has been ahead in most recent polls that did not include Nader.

LISA GRACE-KELLOGG SBN 191988 Attorney at Law 210 S. Spring Street Los Angeles, California 90012 Telephone: (213) 628-4384 Attorney for Petitioner, SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES IN RE THE PETITION ROSS FURUKAWA TO ESTABLISH THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS AS A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION avid No. BS087128 NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION TO ESTABLISH A NEWSPAPER AS 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 adjudicated 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 26 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 an 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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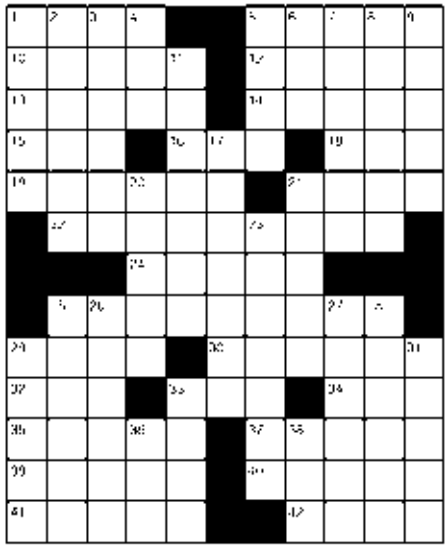

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Boob tube: Janet Jackson will return to live TV

By The Associated Press

■ **NEW YORK** — Echoing her on-stage partner, Janet Jackson says her breast exposure during the Super Bowl halftime show was a "costume accident."

"It was not intentional. It was a costume accident," Jackson tells Ebony magazine for its April issue in her first interview since the now-infamous Feb. 1 performance.

"It was an accident," she says. "That was basically it."

Timberlake has said that when he reached for Jackson's top, exposing her right breast covered only in a sun-shaped nipple shield, it was a "wardrobe malfunction."

In the article, Jackson also discusses her boyfriend of the past year and a half, record producer Jermaine Dupri, about whom she's been reticent in the past.

"Things are great with us," the 37-year-old singer says. "I'm sorry, but I get so tickled when you say his name. It's so funny because I've never been in a relationship when my friends adore him and my family just loves him. It's a first me for me.

"But more importantly," she added, "I love him. Everything is great."

Jackson is headed back to network television on April 10 as the host and musical guest of "Saturday Night Live," NBC announced.

■ **ASPEN, Colo.** — Playwright and poet August Wilson was awarded the Freedom of Speech Award during the U.S. Comedy Arts Festival.

Cartoonist Garry Trudeau, who presented the award Thursday, called Wilson "the most influential playwright of our time."

Wilson won a Pulitzer Prize and a Tony Award for his 1987 play "Fences." He's working on the 10th play in a cycle that depicts the black experience during every decade of the 20th century.

"This emboldens me in my search for the limitations of my art," he said while accepting the award.

Wilson wore a T-shirt reading "I am supposed to be white" on the front and "I am an accident. This didn't turn out white" on the back.

He said he had only a few opportunities while growing up in the Hill District of Pittsburgh: the "opportunity to die young, the opportunity to buy some dope and the opportunity to go to jail."

He credited his courageous mother and a colony of artists, poets and painters for shaping his sensibilities.

Wilson said he discovered his writer's voice in middle age.

"In my 35th year, I came to a road marked 'theater,'" he said. "I plan to write until I'm 97. Then I'm going to retire."

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Shaquille O'Neal is partnering with the owners of Staples Center on a new team merchandise store at Universal CityWalk.

O'Neal will spend part of his 32nd birthday Saturday attending the opening of the 4,000-square-foot Team LA store, owned by AEG. He'll help introduce a 40-foot neon sign of his likeness in his Los Angeles Lakers uniform that will hang over the store's entrance.

The store is similar to one that opened at Staples Center in 1999. It features officially licensed merchandise from all NBA, NHL, NFL, major league baseball and major league soccer teams.

"I'll be stopping by regularly, making suggestions on ways to make the store even better, and of course, checking out the books," O'Neal said in a statement. "The sports fans in Los Angeles are the best. ... In Shaq's superstore, they can dig it."

O'Neal's understanding of marketing and his commitment to the project persuaded AEG to join with him on this deal and potentially others, AEG president and CEO Tim Leiweke said.

■ **VENICE, Italy** — Organizers for the Venice Film Festival said Friday they have named Italian Marco Muller to replace Moritz de Hadeln of Switzerland as head of the festival.

Muller, 50, is an Italian movie producer and former head of smaller festivals in Italy and abroad, including those in Turin, Rotterdam and Locarno. He's also a movie historian and critic, and an expert on Chinese cinema, according to the cultural association organizing the festival.

Highlights of his career include the co-production of the 2001 Oscar-winning movie "No Man's Land."

Organizers said Muller's appointment was for four years — a term meant to give stability and continuity to the festival. The director's work will be reviewed at the end of this year's edition, however.

De Hadeln, a Swiss national, led the festival for two years and was the first non-Italian to ever hold the position in some 60 years. Some of his artistic choices have been criticized.

In 2002, de Hadeln was at the center of controversy when the film festival jury awarded its top award, the Golden Lion, to "The Magdalene Sisters," director Peter Mullan's scathing depiction of an abusive Catholic convent.

Some members of the Biennale's board had questioned the jury's choice, as many considered the movie to be anti-Catholic. De Hadeln, who had inserted Mullan's movie in the festival's program, also was criticized for presenting the movie "11 '09 '01," about the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The festival usually starts at the end of August. This year's dates have not been announced.

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