

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

2, 9, 10, 37, 26

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 9, 3, 1

Evening picks: 8, 6, 1

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 11, Money Bags

2nd Place: 7, Eureka

3rd Place: 5, California Classic

Race Time: 1:44.19



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

From a Jan. 1 police report in the Gainesville (Fla.) Sun: A motorist who was clocked at 15 mph over the speed limit in Waldo, Fla., claimed that since state troopers' policy is to give a 5 mph leeway before ticketing, and since Waldo police often claim to give a 10 mph leeway, he thought the two leeway speeds could be combined to allow him to drive 15 mph over the limit.

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CORRECTION —

The headline in the March 9 article regarding the chamber of commerce's finances was misleading. While the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce most likely won't meet its budget projections this year, it will not lose money as it was suggested. The chamber's revenues will exceed its expenditures this year.



John Wood/Daily Press
(Above) The apartment building at 815 Ashland Ave. where Sunday's murder occurred. (Left) Gabriel Becerrada was found dead, lying in front of his girlfriend's doorway.

SM homicide victim had long rap sheet

SM police investigating murder; three arrested

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN PARK — The first homicide victim of the year in Santa Monica was a four-time felon who was released from prison just three months before he was fatally shot.

Gabriel Becerrada, 38, had been in and out of jail for drugs, guns, burglary and robbery since 1986, according to the Department of Corrections. He was shot and killed early Sunday morning at the doorstep of an Ocean Park apartment rented by his girlfriend, Sandra Alfaro, 34, and her two children, both minors.

The apartment is on the third floor of a low-income housing

"I was on the phone, right here in my room, and I heard gunshots."

— VICTOR PRADO
Neighbor

project at Ashland Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard in southern Santa Monica. Police arrested Alfaro, her 17-year-old son and his friend, Luke Yeron, 19, in connection with the murder. The 17-year-old isn't being named because he's a minor. It's unclear

See VICTIM, page 4

DA's office files charges against accused con man

By Daily Press staff

POLICE HDQTRS. — Four felony charges were filed on Tuesday against a man accused of using a famous actor's name to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on lavish stays at luxury hotels and expensive rental cars.

Samuel Jackson, 23, of Beverly Hills, was charged by the Los Angeles District

Attorney's Office with commercial burglary, defrauding an innkeeper, fraudulent use of an access card and auto theft. An access card is a term used for a debit card, and Jackson allegedly used it fraudulently to rent a BMW, police say.

Jackson, who is being held with no bail, was caught by Santa Monica Police

See CHARGES, page 4

Santa Monica City Council rejects youth participation

BY LAUREN BONIFACIO
Special to the Daily Press

CITY HALL — Supporters of a youth commission failed to convince elected leaders last month to officially get teenagers involved in local politics.

Council members questioned at their Feb. 24 meeting whether teenagers would really get involved if a youth commission was set up to serve as an advisory board to City Hall regarding

young people's issues. And despite the dozens of kids that showed up to rally for more parking at Santa Monica High School, only one student spoke in support of a commission.

The obvious imbalance in support of the two youth issues might just mean that a full-fledged commission, on par with the commissions representing the senior community, women and people with dis-

See COUNCIL, page 5

'Pickin' to be picked



John Wood/Daily Press

Sandra Snell, 41, picks the afro of her son Dabir, 8, on Tuesday afternoon in downtown Santa Monica. The Long Beach youngster was one of a handful of finalists at an audition for an American Express commercial to feature Los Angeles Laker Shaquille O'Neal.

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ What you determine needs to happen will take close team work and resolve on your part. You might not be thrilled that a certain task has dropped on you, but you will feel rejuvenated and successful when you finish it and see the results. Tonight: Make nice with your sweetie.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Others appeal to your sense of what is appropriate. You set out with determination and the support of others. Know what must happen. Your follow-through can make or break a situation. Indulge a child or special friend. Tonight: Let the good times roll.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ You might be wondering where a project ends and where it begins. You might resent a financial commitment but understand that it is necessary. Not everything happens as easily as you would like. Know that you have what it takes. Tonight: Feel good.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Your sober approach does not impact your creativity and imagination. Work with others, realizing that you could be overly serious. Once you put on a smile, you are all grins. Others respond to your positive energy. Make what you want happen. Tonight: Feel empowered. Do what makes you smile.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Use your inner knowledge, and you will succeed. You don't need to tell everyone what you are doing right now. What might be key is keeping your actions and thoughts private, or to a select few. Work closely with one person, if need be. Tonight: Comfort lies at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Your actions can and will make all the difference in the end results. You might be very serious about what you want to achieve, but you don't need to be a curmudgeon getting there. A pleasant way will open the path. Tonight: Enjoy yourself to the max.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Financial matters and responsibilities weigh heavily on your shoulders. You might be overwhelmed by what is going on, and be very serious because of it. Your instincts still prove to be beneficial with a money dealing, but don't take any risks. Tonight: Work as late as necessary.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ A lack of information could motivate you to find out more. Stretch and do some thinking outside of the box. As a result, you'll come closer to achieving long-term goals. You might be overwhelmed by associates' responses. Dress for success. Tonight: Hook up with your friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Take your time, especially if you're feeling pressured by various forces in your life. Sometimes taking action might be harder than you think, especially as others could be difficult. Talking helps. A boss expresses pleasure in your performance. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Meetings and networking need to play greater roles. You could find an associate to be unusually closed off or stern. Recognize that sometimes you, too, might be perceived in the same way. Good news will head your way if you demonstrate openness. Tonight: Friends and music mix well.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ A must appearance could be overwhelming, and as a result, you could be stressed out. Recognize your limits and ask for support from a needed friend or associate. Together you can jump over this hurdle. Listen well. Tonight: Make togetherness the theme.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Visit with someone via the telephone. You will find that you have a lot to share. Open up to possibilities rather than close doors. You find others jovial and only too willing to help. A child still could be testy. Tonight: Find a new restaurant.

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LOCAL

Santa Monica Pony League celebrates its opening day

BY PAUL FEINBERG

Special to the Daily Press

"Play ball!"

With these words, Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom concluded the opening ceremonies for Santa Monica Pony League at Los Amigos Park last Saturday, while simultaneously opening another season for the venerable league, which has been serving Santa Monica ball players for more than 50 years.

Bloom was among a number of Santa Monica dignitaries who participated and threw out ceremonial first balls. Joining the mayor was Santa Monica Police Department Capt. Gary Gallinot and Santa Monica Fire Chief Jim Hone.

The ceremony began with the introduction of all the teams, players and coaches. Santa Monica Pony League has about 300 players ranging in age from the "Shetlands," ages 5 and 6, through to the "Pony Division," ages 13 and 14.

Many of the coaches in the league can trace their involvement back to their days as players at Los Amigos. That includes league president Fernando Padilla, a captain of the Santa Monica Fire Department. Padilla used the ceremony to honor a longtime supporter of the league, Mike Tennant. Tennant grew up playing baseball in Santa Monica, then went on to prominence as a player at Santa Monica High School. Despite his skills as a ball player, Tennant never made it to the

major leagues. He later used his experience to remind young players about the value of education and that they couldn't neglect their studies in favor of sports. Tennant passed away earlier this year and in his honor the league has created an annual education award. All players in the league who achieve a 3.5 grade point average will be treated to a pizza party and will receive a special award that denotes their earning the "Mike Tennant Education Award." The Tennant family was on hand for the announcement.

Former Dodger Bobby "Babo" Castillo was the event's special guest. Castillo's message summed up the spirit of the day. Reminding everyone that Santa Monica Pony was a community league, he urged everyone to "get involved" so that the kids of Santa Monica can have the best time possible.

Also recognized by the league were a number of individuals key to getting the park ready for the season, including Rich Rollins, principal of the city's Community and Cultural Services; Brett Horner, senior analyst of the city's Community and Cultural Services; Chris Corliss, coordinator of athletics and educational services for the local school district; and Ruben Molina, senior groundskeeper for Santa Monica open space management. The league also inducted Fabian Padilla and Glenn Hammond as lifetime honorary board members for their many years of service to Santa Monica Pony League. Former mayor Tony Vasquez served as master of ceremonies.

Venice Family Clinic gets thousands for medical care

By Daily Press staff

The Venice Family Clinic this year raised almost \$800,000 toward another year of medical care for the poor.

Founded in 1970, Venice Family is the largest free clinic in the nation and serves 18,751 patients at seven different locations.

"The best part is that all of the funds go to people who have no access to medical care, including 5,510 children," said co-chair Irma Colen.

At the 22nd Annual Silver Circle Gala, stars Harry Shearer and Martin Short were on hand to bestow awards.

Receiving the clinic's Humanitarian Award were the co-heads of DreamWorks Pictures, Walter Parkes & Laurie McDonald. The pair have been involved

with the clinic since 1992 and presented a \$25,000 check for a new counseling room addition named for their family.

The Irma Colen Leadership Award was given to Dr. Al and Pam Markovitz. Al Markovitz has been a dedicated volunteer physician and has not only recruited his colleagues over the past 30 years, but has facilitated numerous donations.

The Skirball Foundation received the first ever Philanthropy Award for its record-breaking gift of \$750,000. This single largest gift will endow the medical director position, which means thousands of adults and children will be cared for no matter what their financial situation.

The mission of the Venice Family Clinic is to improve the health of people and communities through accessible, quality care.

surf report

A steep NW swell mixes with building local windswell and a touch of background southern hemi swell today. Most spots have 1-2' surf while the standouts see some better crashers.

OUTLOOK: Thursday and Friday will have a mix of local windswell and quick pulse of WNW swell helping to round it off. Most spots will have knee- to chest-high surf.

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

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MONDAY	12:49 PM	N/A	5:12 AM	7:48 PM
TUESDAY	12:04 AM	1:22 PM	6:02 AM	8:05 PM
WEDNESDAY	12:43 AM	1:46 PM	6:39 AM	8:18 PM
THURSDAY	1:17 AM	2:16 PM	7:18 AM	8:40 PM
FRIDAY	1:45 AM	2:37 PM	7:50 AM	9:00 PM

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The Q Line

The criminal cases, including all of City Hall's prosecutions for misdemeanors, will soon be moving from Santa Monica to the Airport Courthouse near LAX in an effort to save the county \$500,000 a year.

But the move will increase costs for City Hall and the local police department. Though the costs are unknown, it could be upwards of \$300,000 to place lawyers full time at the Airport Courthouse and transport prisoners from Santa Monica

Jail to the new location.

So this week Q-line wants to know, "Do think it's fair that Santa Monica should absorb the costs in an effort to balance the county budget?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Friday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in the March 13-14 weekend edition. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.



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LOCAL

Murder prompts community security meeting

VICTIM, from page 1

who allegedly pulled the trigger, and the investigation is ongoing.

Neighbors on Tuesday said they were shaken by the shooting. They said it emphasizes the need for better security in the 45-unit complex, where other crimes have occurred. A meeting will be hosted Thursday night by Community Corp. of Santa Monica, the nonprofit organization that owns the property at 815 Ashland Ave., as well as numerous affordable housing projects throughout the city.

"It's not a pretty story. It's a scary story, when it happens under your window. It's so frightening," said a four-year neighbor, who requested anonymity for fear of retribution. "I'm afraid, to tell you the truth. It's the first time in my life that I heard shooting — not in the movies, but in real life. It's scary."

Becerrada had spent nearly 11 years behind bars before he was killed Sunday, authorities said. In 1986, Becerrada, then 20 years old, was sentenced to five years

"I'm afraid, to tell you the truth. It's the first time in my life that I heard shooting — not in the movies, but in real life. It's scary."

— ANONYMOUS NEIGHBOR

in prison for attempted robbery. He served two years and was released on parole. Then, in 1992, Becerrada served seven months for second-degree burglary. Three months after being released, he was arrested for possessing a firearm and spent a year in prison. Most recently, Becerrada served seven years for drug possession. He was released Dec. 2.

Victor Prado, 22, who lives in the building with his parents and brothers, said he was startled when he heard five gunshots ring out after 1 a.m. Sunday.

"I was on the phone, right here in my room, and I heard gunshots," said Prado, who knows Alfaro's children, both stu-

dents at Santa Monica High School. "I got in the elevator and went all the way upstairs, and I saw this body lying in front of the door ... I thought it was (the minor arrested) ... I didn't touch him or anything, I just came down here and told my little brother to call the ambulance ... It was pretty scary, just seeing him right there."

The residents said security at the building needs to be heightened. Blanca Martinez, who's lived in the housing project with her husband and three children for six years, said car thieves have been seen frequently in the building's large under-

ground parking lot. Prado said his father also has seen the thieves and added he thinks video cameras should be installed.

Those issues are expected to be discussed at this week's meeting between residents and Community Corp., which has been criticized in the past for renting to tenants with criminal backgrounds. Community Corp. officials didn't return calls seeking comment on Tuesday. However, they have defended their properties in the past by saying not all low-income housing is inhabited by criminals.

Eric Castellon, 19, a neighbor and student at Santa Monica College, said he never could have foreseen Sunday's shooting, which took place frighteningly close to him.

"It was right above my room, where we sleep," said Castellon, an eight-year resident with his brother and mother. "It was just strange, because nothing like this had ever happened before."

Accused allegedly posed as actor Samuel Jackson's son

CHARGES, from page 1

last Friday after he allegedly tried to check into Loews Hotel on Ocean Avenue by posing as actor Samuel Jackson's son.

Jackson allegedly traveled the country for the past two months using a fraudulent debit card to pay for his hotel rooms, car rentals and other expenses. Police said Jackson called Loews Hotel and made a room reservation using the fraudulent card. At about 11 a.m., Jackson arrived at the hotel and for unknown reasons ran out of the building, police say. Santa Monica detectives, who arrived at the hotel at about 10:30 a.m. after being tipped off by hotel employees, saw Jackson running and gave chase. He was arrested shortly

after a few blocks away. Loews employees had been alerted of Jackson through an association of hotels across the country and were waiting for him to arrive.

Since his arrest, several local businesses and hotels have alerted the SMPD that they too were conned by Jackson, who police say allegedly racked up more than \$170,000 in debit card charges during his spending spree. At one hotel, he allegedly charged more than \$40,000 in one stay.

SMPD warns all merchants to call the credit company directly using the phone number on the card or on file to verify potential charges.

Jackson was on felony probation for similar charges and was wanted by authorities in Oklahoma.

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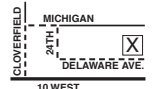
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LOCAL



Council exploring options for student involvement

COUNCIL, from page 1

abilities, might not be the best way to incorporate youth into City Council actions, Mayor Richard Bloom said.

"One thing that we look for ... is some enthusiasm on the part of the people it will serve," Bloom said. "A commission setting that works best for adults might not work at all (for youth)."

But some students think a youth commission could affect change on issues ranging from taxes on teenagers' after-school jobs to the perceived "achievement gap" in education to the lack of parking at city schools, said Santa Monica High School senior Andy Knab, who participates in the school's student government.

"A commission would help as a stepping stone for students ... into the political process," Knab said.

Jerry Rubin, coordinator of "People for a Santa Monica Youth Commission," said his young supporters' lackluster attendance last month could be explained by the City Council's late meeting, which lasted past midnight. But teenagers still need a voice in city government, he said.

"Just because they're not old enough to vote doesn't mean that their input is any less important," Rubin said after the meeting. He estimated the commission would cost City Hall about \$7,000 in staff time and overhead costs. "What better investment is there?"

Young people deserve no less than their own commission, school board member Oscar de la Torre said. He pointed out that there are youth members to advise the school board, yet the City Council has none.

"Obviously, there are many avenues for youth to get involved," de la Torre said. "But a youth commission would provide one of the only ways ... for young people to give some guidance on youth policy."

Like at last month's meeting, Rubin has remained unsuccessful in convincing elected leaders to form a youth commission. For the past year, he has been pushing for Santa Monica to follow the lead of other nearby cities, such as Malibu.

The Malibu Youth Commission's 15 school-aged members make recommendations to the City Council on youth issues and are responsible for planning and organizing activities and events for young people in the city, said Malibu Recreation Supervisor Theresa Odello.

Although Santa Monica council members argued a youth commission might lack continuity because students could likely lose interest in city government,

"One thing that we look for ... is some enthusiasm on the part of the people it will serve.
A commission setting that works best for adults might not work at all (for youth)."

— MAYOR RICHARD BLOOM

Odello said that a minimum two-year commitment from commissioners keeps the Malibu commission functional. She added that many of the commissioners reappear once their terms are over.

"We think that we're getting a lot done," Odello said.

Before putting off a discussion on a Santa Monica commission last month, the council said it would explore the different — and possibly more cost effective — options for youth and revisit the idea of a youth commission in the future.

In cities across the state, young people are taking part in local politics in different ways.

The West Sacramento Youth Commission is one of four advisory subcommittees of the Parks and Community Services Commission. The young people help plan youth services and help distribute the Parks Department's \$12,500 in funding each year.

And with the exception of staff time, the city gives its youth valuable government and leadership experience at zero cost, said Recreation Supervisor Julie Leber.

"There are a couple of youth commissioners I have dealt with that are more responsible than the adults," Leber said.

Youth commissioners in San Francisco have been liaisons between the Board of Supervisors and city youth on issues ranging from police presence in schools, substance abuse treatment, the rights of juvenile hall inmates and young people's health coverage, said 19-year-old commissioner Shanell Williams.

Youth in Redondo Beach can participate in a youth commission that advises the City Council on youth-related policies and plans activities. Also in the area is the South Bay Youth Project's Youth Advisory Committee, which plans youth activities in the beach cities.

Calabasas once tried to get students involved in its government.

The struggling Teen Advisory Council was "never able to get too much off the ground," city special events coordinator Amy Eastman said.

After members discovered that their highest priority was planning activities for their age group, the council reorganized into the Teen Activities Council last summer. The council drew more than 400 young people to its first event.

In Santa Monica, Bloom said youth can already get involved through Rosie's Girls, a summer camp program, and the Pico Youth and Family Center. He also floated the idea of placing youth representatives on other commissions.

But youth commission supporters said existing programs aren't enough and the city

owes young people a voice in government. Organizations that endorse the idea include the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education, the Santa Monica Classroom Teachers Association, the Santa Monica College Board of Trustees and various student councils and clubs throughout the city's schools.

However, council members remain hesitant to add yet another commission onto the city's list of more than 15 commissions and boards. A commission might degenerate into a sort of student government, overrun with school issues, Councilman Bob Holbrook said.

"If I started hearing concerns from the young people that are in the arena the city can deal with, like extended library hours ... and beaches, and if they weren't able to be addressed by the different boards and commissions, I would consider (a commission)," Holbrook said. "But it seems 99 percent of the input I get from students is generally revolving around (school issues)."

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LETTERS

SMDP got chamber numbers wrong

Editor:

Your article on March 9, "Chamber tries to stop the bleeding" was rife with errors. You started off saying that the chamber would lose money this year, later quoted me as saying that I "expect the organization to be out of the red by the end of the year" and then followed by saying that I thought it unlikely that the chamber would meet its budget and would dip into a savings account to make up for the shortfall. Only my direct quote was correct — the chamber is not expect to lose money this year, and will be making a donation to our savings account. On another point you mention that membership is part of the problem. While our membership numbers have only increased slightly this year — over the past two years they have increased by 20 percent, with the chamber adding 200 new members. This is the fastest membership growth rate of any chamber in Los Angeles County. Your final major error was in reporting that our salaries were half of our budget. As I explained to your reporter, our personnel expenses include health insurance, workers' compensation, payroll taxes, our retirement plan and reimbursements for expenses. As with most non-profits, our salaries are not on par with for-profit businesses, however we have a dedicated staff that works hard for our members and our community.

Kathy Dodson

President and CEO, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce

Take your ticket and shove it, City Hall

Editor:

I received a ticket at the 2600 Beach Lot in Santa Monica yesterday. It enraged me, as well as many other Santa Monica residents who were standing nearby enjoying the beautiful sunset. They all told me to "write an angry letter." I did. I'm sending it with my check for \$47. I thought other residents and/or people who received tickets in a lot that has been free for everyone to enjoy for years might enjoy it.

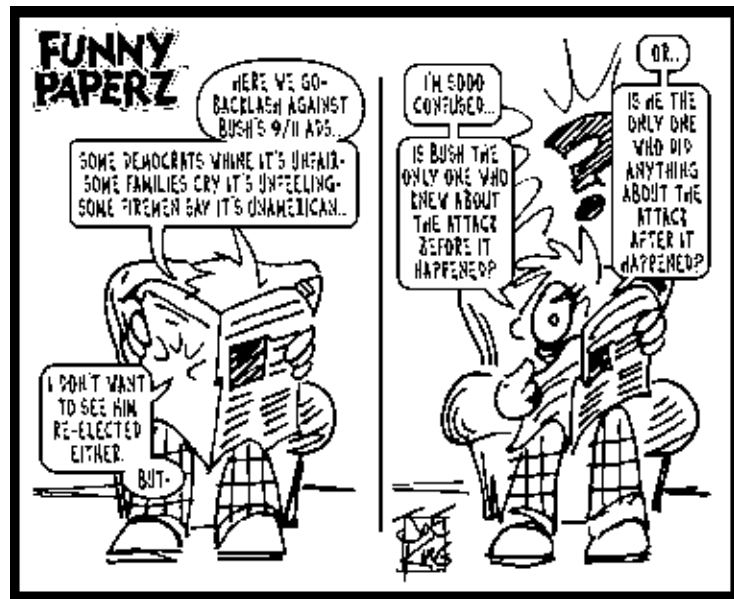
To whom it may concern:

I wanted to express my complete and total disgust at the ticket I was issued yesterday at the 2600 Beach Lot. I have been parking in that lot after hours for six years without one mention of a problem and without seeing one ticket issued. The fact that this policy, of many years, was changed without issuance of warnings or at least the posting of a large sign is completely unacceptable. I know that there is a very small sign on the side of the parking booth — clearly the city of Santa Monica has no interest in properly informing people they want to fine for monetary purposes. Instead they

prefer to sneak around and change policies without any dissemination of the necessary information essential to living life in Santa Monica ticket-free.

I understand that this ticket was issued to generate more funds for the city of Santa Monica. I understand how much money Santa Monica makes from the combination of preferential parking, after-hours parking meters and parking lots. I can see that this is clearly not enough revenue to keep the behemoth that is Santa Monica running. I've rented in Santa Monica for four years, before that in Venice for two. This area becomes more difficult to traverse without incurring the ever-present fines around every corner. I consider myself a law-abiding citizen and a reader of the small print,

See LETTERS, page 7



Member: AACC, NCS, SCS, SCS, SCS

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A sign of the times: Words rather than deeds offend



INCITES

By Ed Silverstein

Even though the administration had discussed declaring war on Iraq within days of taking office, Bush's decision to declare war on Iraq apparently had nothing to do with ideology or even fear of Dick Cheney.

The Bush Administration was nothing more than a hapless victim of faulty intelligence. And anyone who suggests that the president's administration manipulated intelligence to create a worst-case scenario or claims that they intimidated intelligence analysts who didn't tow the party line with threats of demotion or loss of job are simply unpatriotic and probably terrorists.

In a related story, Bush fired two members of the bioethics council because they did not tow the party line. The two members denied claims that embryo research presented an imminent threat to the American people. The president replaced the rogue scientist and moral philosopher with three ultra right wing flunkies, thus sending a strong message to other council members who might let silly scientific reasoning cloud their judgment.

“... Apparently God hasn’t been keeping up with the times as the vast majority of AIDS cases are now entrenched in the heterosexual community.”

■ Extremist churches are once again providing their special brand of inspiration.

On Ash Wednesday, coinciding with the opening of Gibson's "The Passion Of The Christ," Lovingway United Pentecostal Church erected billboards in Colorado and Mississippi that read: "Jews killed the Lord Jesus" and the word "Settled."

The actual facts, that Jesus was killed as a result of Roman concerns that the Jewish leader would achieve enough prominence to cause insurrection and that complicity by the Jewish priests was most likely motivated by fear of Roman retribution, were too complicated for the ministry to understand and so were ignored.

In fairness, Rev. Maurice Gordon, pastor of the Denver Ministry, did bow to pressure by changing the sign to read: "I am deeply sorry for offending the Jewish people whom I love." Gordon then inexplicably added that the Jews should forgive the Germans for the holocaust, however stopped short of suggesting that the Jews should throw a party for Palestinian suicide bombers.

In related signage, Pastor Michael

Jordan used the sign outside his New Era Baptist Church in Elyton Alabama for a message that read: "AIDS is God's curse on a homosexual life."

"I get my orders from God," claimed Jordan. But apparently God hasn't been keeping up with the times as the vast majority of AIDS cases are now entrenched in the heterosexual community.

The sign might more accurately have read: "AIDS is God's curse on blacks," as nearly 70 percent of adult HIV cases and 80 percent of children infected are in Africa. But Jordan, an African American, might have taken offense at using God to justify bigotry. The pastor might even have fought against Alabama churches who claimed God ordered their followers to prevent blacks from receiving the right to vote or end segregation.

Mainstream religious groups have universally condemned the actions of both groups, though with some notable exceptions. Four percent of Catholic priests had no comment as they were too busy becoming God's curse on children, and several Cardinals denied that the signs

existed, and then moved them to another church. Asked to comment, the Pope responded: It is as it was.

"Settled."

■ KCRW has fired Sandra Tsing Loh, a commentator for the station and a well-known comedian and monologist, for using a four-letter word on the air.

Loh claims that the use of the word was a mistake and that she had asked her assistant to bleep the word from the pre-recorded tape. But KCRW, in a rush to the right, or at the very least trying to cover their collective ass (only three letters), has adopted a zero-tolerance policy toward these highly offensive words, which are somehow not offensive and are entirely permissible if they are part of a news story.

The station's management, which allowed the tape to be aired a second time without bleeping out the offending word, is apparently immune from the zero-tolerance hypocrisy.

Asked for a comment, Lenny Bruce rose from his grave and said the whole thing is a bunch of bullshit (eight letters).

(Ed Silverstein is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica. Despite threats, he has never had his mouth washed out with soap. Your comments, complete with four-letter words, may be e-mailed to edsincites@aol.com).

OPINION



LETTERS

LETTER, from page 6

but clearly one has to also be psychically connected to the offices of the city of Santa Monica to know which policies they are going to be in the mood to enforce which day.

I am going to pay my ticket, because fighting you is not worth the time and energy, because in the end all you care about is the money. I think it's a sad statement, but I also realize that caring about money first and foremost is the way this world, country, state and city works. Sometimes I like to think that Santa Monica is an oasis in a clearly insane world, but then I have days like I did yesterday when I understand that in the end money is the motivating factor. Period. Oh well, the ticket costs me \$47, it costs the city of Santa Monica its integrity and peace of mind. But clearly that isn't the concern.

Here's your \$47 bucks, hope it was worth it.

Alyson Yester Shelton
Santa Monica

Replace marriages with unions

Editor:

This is to suggest that the legal aspects of marriage be separated and replaced by civil union. This union would be a contract between any two persons of age and with the state. The terms of the contract would include responsibility for future debts of one of the pair by the other; rights of inheritance in the absence of the appropriate will or trust agreement; rights of visitation in a health care facility; responsibility for the care

and actions of minor children, of natural or unnatural issue of the union; conditions for termination (death, divorce), etc. The obligations of the state would pertain to the enforcement of the granted rights, relevant tax matters, etc. The clerk would supply the standard document, oversee the signing by the two parties and witnessing of the signatures, would register the document of civil union and provide a certification of the registration. The other aspect of marriage concerns the blessing, or equivalent, of the union. In the Christian church, this second aspect would be the same as what is generally accepted as "getting married" and could be as plain or elaborate as weddings currently carried out.

A certificate of marriage would be issued to the married couple. Marriage would have no legal consequences. Religious organizations could make any requirements they choose in deciding whether or not to perform particular marriages, quite independently of the state.

The proposed separation would satisfy all of the requirements of civil equality and at the same time preserve the institution of marriage. One could be both pro-civil rights and pro-marriage. I would expect that the legislative aspects might be a bit complicated, probably because the several rights may not now be explicitly stated in a single text and would vary from state to state. Complexities are to be expected in any event, but it would be an advantage to have the rights and obligations compactly stated in a single text.

Max R. Mickey Jr.
Santa Monica

Are you in need of health care? Call your broker



POLITI-GIRL

By Beth Solomon

How are you feeling?

Well, feel better because Uncle Sam is writing another \$10 billion check to HMOs so they can keep providing that excellent health care they give to Medicare patients.

If Mom and Pop can actually reach a doctor through the HMO's 800 number, they'll soon be able to get a few more pills at the same inflated price they paid before. Only now, part of the money will come out of their other pocket — I mean, your pocket — I mean, Uncle Sam's pocket. It's all part of President Bush's plan to overhaul Medicare and make a lot of people rich — I mean healthy!

Just ask Merrill Lynch. He's not exact-

ly a doctor, but one of the nation's new health experts. He said the president's plan will mean another \$10 billion in extra health care business in the first year of the "initiative," about half of which will be profit. The government will chip in another \$400 billion over the next 10 years and become responsible for half of all prescription drug purchases.

That's what I call healthy — as in balance sheet. The good news is that Uncle Sam is picking up the tab.

You're worried, you say? You sound like a hypochondriac. Pick up the phone and buy stock in Pfizer! I'm telling you, health care is improving every day.

People just don't understand what a great time in history it is for health care. Those lowans listed it as one of their top concerns. Did their brains freeze? The only thing to be concerned about is whether to buy Merck or Amgen. Call your broker now!

Your mother already bought a health care index fund. One of the clean ones. Thank you, Eliot Spitzer!

That loopy guy, Rep. Dennis Kucinich, who calls himself a politician, said that this country spends \$1.3 trillion a year on health care, more than enough to pay for medical care — not just insurance — for everyone, if a huge chunk of the money weren't spent on marketing, profit and CEO bonuses. (Note to myself: Write off Schwab's commission as "medical.")

No wonder Kucinich is in last place. "Health is our common wealth." He said that. Health care as a moral issue? Please. I'm calling Ameritrade.

According to government statistics, the United States spends about \$4,631 per capita on health care — more than any other country and 30 percent more than the next biggest spender — but ranks 27th in life expectancy. That puts us 16 places behind Canada, which spends a little more than half of what we spend, and just as far behind as the French, who smoke like chimneys, don't take showers, and always have some smart remark to make about us. All I can say is, good thing we got our Freedom Fries back.

Even Singapore came out three places ahead of the USA. And Japan came out way on top. But we're not talking about the Olympics. Let's not blow this out of proportion.

Now, I'm sorry to report to those of you who do yoga, get acupuncture, joined a gym, or engage in other types of health care that — God forbid — don't involve pills, there's not a penny in the \$400 billion for you.

In fact, there's nothing in it for anybody under 65. Some say that's an awful lot of money and pills for a small portion of the public when more should be spent on preventing disease in the first place.

But look on the bright side. We might be sick, overweight, have heart disease, diabetes and bad backs, but once we make it to 65, we can have all the pills we want. And given those sorry life expectancy figures, it won't be long after that until we make it to that big HMO in the sky.

(Beth Solomon is a Left Coast writer reachable at bethsolomon@earthlink.net).

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LISA GRACE-KELLOGG SBN 191988 - Attorneys 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 OF ROSS FURUKAWA TO ESTABLISH THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS AS A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION AND 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 adjudication under Government Code §6000 as a newspaper of general circulation for the County of Los Angeles. 2) The Santa Monica Daily Press is published for the dissemination of local news and intelligence of a general character in the County of Los Angeles, California. It is not devoted to the interests, or published for the entertainment or instruction of a particular class, profession, trade, calling, race, or denomination, or for any number thereof. 3) The Santa Monica Daily Press has a bona fide subscription list of paying subscribers numbering 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 and published in the County; and it has been published as a daily newspaper on each weekday and Saturday and has a daily paid circulation of 26. WHEREFORE, petitioner prays that The Santa Monica Daily Press be adjudicated pursuant to Government Code §6000 as a newspaper of general circulation for the County of Los Angeles, State of California. DATED: January 13, 2004 — LISA GRACE-KELLOGG, Attorney for Petitioner

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Tax exemptions are abounding in home ownership



DAYS ON THE MARKET

By Jodi Summers

There are so many benefits to home ownership — it's one of blessings that we can currently count on as U.S. residents in the new millennium. As we grow as proud homeowners, the government encourages us by revitalizing some very promising tax deductions.

Take Andy, for instance. He bought in the Oakwood section when it was a scary place and watched the renaissance. His property is now worth many times what he paid for it. Lucky guy.

Like many lucky men, Andy found a complimentary woman, fell in love, married and chose to move into a bigger house. And he has found big benefits. Because Andy had lived in his property for two of the last five years, Internal Revenue Code

121 allowed him to exclude up to \$250,000 in home-sale profits from taxable income on his 2003 tax returns.

If he had married and the missus had lived there before selling the property, they would have been able to take the married couples' exemption at up to \$500,000. (Profits in excess of the excluded amounts are taxed as capital gains.)

Another nice thing about IRC 121 is that the method of holding title is not important. For a married couple to claim up to \$500,000 tax free, only one spouse's name needs to be on the principal residence title — providing both meet the occupancy test. If the title is held in a living trust, new IRS regulations clearly state that the full tax exemption is still available.

The new and improved tax code also offers partial exclusions to home sellers who don't meet the minimum two-year residency requirement. Under the old rules, taxpayers could get a partial exclusion when a move was required by a change of employment, health reasons or "unforeseen circumstances." Last fall, the IRS clearly

defined "unforeseen circumstances" as:

■ Divorce or legal separation. Couples who split also can share the \$500,000 tax benefit, provided at least one lived in the house for two of the last five years before the home's sale.

■ Death of a spouse. The Internal Revenue Code states that a surviving spouse can claim the \$500,000 benefit if they sell the home in the tax year of the spouse's death. However, if the home is sold after the year of the death, the exemption reverts to \$250,000.

"This rule doesn't force surviving spouses to sell their homes promptly to claim the \$500,000 tax exemption because they usually receive a new 'stepped-up basis' for the home as of the date of the spouse's death," said national real estate columnist Bob Bruss.

In a community property state like California, the surviving spouse's new basis is usually 100 percent of market value on the date of death. Thus, little or no tax is due if the home is sold a few years after the first spouse's death.

■ A change in employment that makes it impossible to pay the mortgage or basic living expenses. This includes becoming eligible for unemployment compensation.

■ A move can be justified for health reasons if a physician recommended it for the physical betterment of the homeowner, the owner's spouse or for certain close relatives.

■ Multiple births resulting from the same pregnancy.

■ Damage to the home from a natural disaster, an act of war or terrorism.

■ Condemnation, seizure or involuntary conversion of the property, such as through foreclosure.

The size of the deduction depends on the length of time the seller lived in the house during the five years prior to the sale. Partial exemptions are available based on the percentage of the 24-month occupancy time.

For more information, consult a tax advisor.

(For your real estate needs, e-mail Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call (310) 309-4219).

SANTA MONICA RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

SOLD 2101 6TH ST SANTA MONICA				SOLD 101 CALIFORNIA AVE #506 SANTA MONICA 90403				SOLD 1320 PRINCETON ST #101 SANTA MONICA 90404			
Date Sold	SqFt: 0	List Price: \$1,550,000	Bed: 4	Date Sold	SqFt: 1,100	List Price: \$699,000	Bed: 2	Date Sold	SqFt: 1,123	List Price: \$450,000	Bed: 2
03/03/2004	Lot Size: 4,024	Sold Price: \$1,550,000	Bath: 2	03/05/2004	HOD: \$615	Sold Price: \$727,000 Pool Bath: 1.75		03/03/2004	HOD: \$280	Sold Price: \$450,000	Bath: 2
SOLD 1801 PIER AVE SANTA MONICA 90405				SOLD 1234 FRANKLIN ST #D SANTA MONICA 90404				SOLD 1010 CALIFORNIA AVE #3 SANTA MONICA 90403			
Date Sold	SqFt: 1,155	List Price: \$785,000	Bed: 3	Date Sold	SqFt: 458	List Price: \$229,000	Bed: 0	Date Sold	SqFt: 1,426	List Price: \$699,000	Bed: 2
03/04/2004	Lot Size: 7,140	Sold Price: \$833,000	Bath: 1.5	03/02/2004	HOD: \$140	Sold Price: \$225,000	Bath: 1	03/01/2004	HOD: \$300	Sold Price: \$680,000	Bath: 2
SOLD 1616 SAN VICENTE BL SANTA MONICA 90402				SOLD 810 CALIFORNIA AVE #4 SANTA MONICA 90403				SOLD 1212 OCEAN PARK BL #1 SANTA MONICA 90405			
Date Sold	SqFt: 1,949	List Price: \$1,495,000	Bed: 3	Date Sold	SqFt: 1,270	List Price: \$649,000	Bed: 2	Date Sold	SqFt: 1,852	List Price: \$579,000	Bed: 3
03/04/2004	Lot Size: 10,197	Sold Price: \$1,711,000	Bath: 2	03/05/2004	HOD: \$200	Sold Price: \$649,000	Bath: 3	03/02/2004	HOD: \$293	Sold Price: \$601,000	Bath: 2.5
SOLD 217 ASHLAND AVE SANTA MONICA 90405				SOLD 521 MONTANA AVE #104 SANTA MONICA 90403				SOLD 507 RAYMOND AVE SANTA MONICA 90405			
Date Sold	SqFt: 3,481	List Price: \$1,849,000	Bed: 5	Date Sold	SqFt: 930	List Price: \$469,000	Bed: 1	Date Sold	SqFt: 5,562	List Price: \$1,250,000	#Units: 6
03/03/2004	Lot Size: 4,996	Sold Price: \$1,500,000	Bath: 5	03/01/2004	HOD: \$198	Sold Price: \$485,000 Pool Bath: 1		03/03/2004	Lot Size: 7,427	Sold Price: \$1,200,000	GRM: 14.63
SOLD 2628 KANSAS AVE #10 SANTA MONICA 90404				SOLD 942 14TH ST #3 SANTA MONICA 90403				SOLD 1130 18TH ST SANTA MONICA 90403			
Date Sold	SqFt: 950	List Price: \$325,000	Bed: 2	Date Sold	SqFt: 1,710	List Price: \$799,000	Bed: 3	Date Sold	SqFt: N/A	List Price: \$1,250,000	#Units: 3
03/03/2004	HOD: \$200	Sold Price: \$340,000	Bath: 1.5	03/05/2004	HOD: \$265	Sold Price: \$818,000	Bath: 2.5	03/03/2004	Lot Size: 7,998	Sold Price: \$1,255,000	GRM: 0.00
SOLD 2311 4TH ST #220 SANTA MONICA 90405				SOLD 1224 EUCLID ST #105 SANTA MONICA 90404				SOLD 1315 S CARMELINA AVE LOS ANGELES 90025			
Date Sold	SqFt: 679	List Price: \$357,000	Bed: 1	Date Sold	SqFt: 1,075	List Price: \$459,000	Bed: 2	Date Sold	SqFt: 0	List Price: \$2,395,000	#Units: 8
03/03/2004	HOD: \$189	Sold Price: \$370,000 Pool Bath: 1		03/04/2004	HOD: \$222	Sold Price: \$482,500	Bath: 2	03/05/2004	Lot Size: 7,361	Sold Price: \$2,395,000	GRM: 12.94

Information received as per the MLS. Not all transactions may have been represented by Boardwalk Realty / Jodi Summers.
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PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

VENICE DUPLEX: CHARMING COTTAGE WITH ARTIST'S LOFT

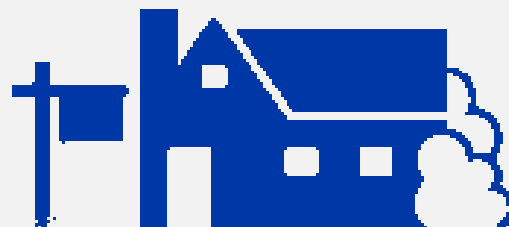


Just what everyone wants — a duplex in renaissance Venice. This storybook-quiet 1,499 sq.ft. duplex features a 2-bedroom, 1 bathroom cottage and a separate artist's loft-style studio. The 1939 cottage boasts comfortable rooms, a charming kitchen, hardwood floors and a grassy yard. Currently rented for \$2,150 per month, lease runs through April. The studio has high ceilings and ample light, and an outdoor work area; currently rents month-to-month at \$1,000. Lot size is 3,311 sq.ft.

\$750,000

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STATE

FBI arrests student in SUV arson, vandalism spree

BY GREG RISLING

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — A California Institute of Technology graduate student was arrested Tuesday in connection with last summer's vandalism of 125 sport utility vehicles and fires set at a San Gabriel Valley auto dealership in apparent support of the Earth Liberation Front, the FBI said.

William Cottrell, 23, of Pasadena was arrested for investigation of arson and vandalism. He was ordered held without bail during a court appearance. If convicted, he faces a maximum of 20 years in federal prison for each act.

Defense attorney Stephen Alexander said "the charges are unfounded" and that his client believes he will be vindicated.

Cottrell, a graduate student in the physics department at Caltech, allegedly used an alias when he contacted the Los Angeles Times by e-mail and informed the newspaper he was involved in the SUV firebombings, the FBI said in an affidavit.

In messages sent to the newspaper, Cottrell also confirmed that he was affiliated with the Earth Liberation Front, a radical group of environmentalists that has claimed responsibility for other acts of arson and vandal-

ism, the affidavit said.

In one e-mail, Cottrell using the name Tony Marsden, allegedly wrote "I was amongst those responsible for the SUV attacks ... The FBI hasn't seemed to pick up on any of them (clues), which makes this whole ordeal rather boring for us, the true culprits," according to the affidavit.

Cottrell offered specific details of the attacks to the

"Those who set fires, like those at the Hummer dealership in West Covina, are misguided zealots."

— RICHARD GARCIA
FBI Assistant Director

newspaper to prove his involvement, the FBI said.

Cottrell was interviewed by authorities in January and denied being an ELF member or contacting the Times, the affidavit said.

Authorities searched Caltech classrooms and were able to track the e-mails to Cottrell, according to an affidavit. They also seized six computers from the campus.

The August spree hit car dealerships in West Covina, Duarte and Arcadia, as well as at least four privately owned vehicles in Monrovia. The communities are all just east of Pasadena, where Caltech is located and Cottrell was arrested at a residence. The fire set at the West Covina dealership destroyed or damaged 72 vehicles, mostly SUVs, and a parts warehouse.

"Those who set fires, like those at the Hummer dealership in West Covina, are misguided zealots," FBI Assistant Director Richard Garcia said in a statement. "The FBI respects, encourages and protects people who peacefully exercise their right to free speech."

"However, when extremists resort to arson attacks, which inevitably lead to a loss of life, they have gone too far and the FBI will investigate aggressively and relentlessly to bring those who set such fires to justice."

Authorities initially arrested Josh Connole, 25, of Pomona but he was later released because of lack of evidence. He has denied any involvement in the attacks and denounced the ELF actions since his release.

The FBI affidavit stated that Cottrell's 23-year-old girlfriend also was interviewed and told authorities that Cottrell admitted he was responsible for the vandalism but she believed he was joking about it. When pressed further, she said one of the men seen in a surveillance videotape at one of the dealerships looked like Cottrell.

Senate panel rejects governor's plan to cap health care, AIDS programs

BY TOM CHORNEAU

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — A Democrat-controlled Senate subcommittee on Monday rejected Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's plan to limit new enrollments in several health care programs, saying the attempt to save \$60 million a year was penny-wise and pound-foolish.

The hearing before the Senate subcommittee on health and human services was the opening salvo in what will likely prove a difficult budget season as Democrats — who control both houses of the Legislature — begin negotiations with the new Republican governor over how best to close an estimated \$17 billion shortfall next year.

Although Schwarzenegger has billions in borrowing and fund shifts next year as a way of avoiding service cuts, he also wants at least \$9 billion in savings and program cuts in his 2004-2005 budget plan.

Sen. Wes Chesbro, D-Arcata, the subcommittee chairman, said the governor's plan to cap enrollment in any program that provides critical medical services does not make sense.

"Any cap is foolish," he said, noting that some services pose "life and health security issues." Moreover, he said, cutting enrollments in such program "inevitably leads to a life of disability" at taxpayer expense.

After voting down the governor's plan, Chesbro said some of the lost savings could be made up with tens of millions of dollars in rebates he said are owed the state by drug companies that provide prescriptions to public health clients.

But officials from the state's Department of Health Services immediately put the rebates in question, saying the money was not guaranteed and remains under negotiation with the companies.

Regardless of how the rebate issue is resolved, H.D. Palmer, spokesman for the governor's finance office, insisted that if lawmakers do not support Schwarzenegger's plans, the cost savings will have to be found elsewhere in the budget because he will not sup-

port higher taxes.

One program targeted by Schwarzenegger provides subsidies to help low and moderate income AIDS patients buy prescription drugs. The program costs about \$212 million a year and helps close to 25,000 people.

The governor's plan would maintain coverage for anyone already in the program but would deny services to any new applicants until vacancies opened up for them, for a savings of about \$4.8 million a year.

Although Schwarzenegger has billions in borrowing and fund shifts next year as a way of avoiding service cuts, he also wants at least \$9 billion in savings and program cuts in his 2004-2005 budget plan.

Palmer said the governor's plan saves the taxpayers money while also protecting core services.

The governor has also proposed capping enrollments in a medical services program for low-income children and the disabled as well as a program to serve undocumented residents with cancer.

In a separate hearing before a Senate subcommittee on education, Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell urged lawmakers to support the compromise reached between education groups and Schwarzenegger.

That compromise would cost schools \$2 billion next year, O'Connell said, but represents "the best possible agreement that could be negotiated" with the state's current fiscal outlook.

The money lost in the deal won't be recovered, O'Connell said.

California is ranked 44th among the 50 states in per-student spending, he said.

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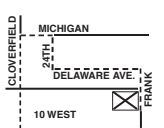
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WORLD BRIEFLY

S. Koreans call for impeachment

By The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's two main opposition parties submitted the country's first ever presidential impeachment motion Tuesday, targeting embattled leader Roh Moo-hyun after he was found to have violated election laws with comments aimed at influencing parliamentary polls.

The proposal was presented to the National Assembly with the support of both the Millennium Democratic Party and the main opposition Grand National Party, an MDP spokesman, Kim Young-chang, said.

The motion needs a simple majority of the 273-member assembly to make it to debate and a two-thirds majority to pass. It was submitted with the support of 159 lawmakers, more than half, Kim said.

GNP floor leader Hong Sa-duk cautioned, however, that the motion's fate was far from certain because there was opposition to impeachment within the parties, especially among young lawmakers.

Roh's office had no immediate comment.

Last week, the country's election watchdog ruled that Roh violated election rules with comments that could unfairly influence next month's parliamentary poll, although it found Roh's infraction not serious enough for criminal charges and simply urged him to refrain from repeating such remarks.

Pakistan peacefully tests nuclear arms

By The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan on Tuesday tested its longest-range missile yet, capable of carrying a nuclear warhead and hitting targets deep inside neighboring India, the military said.

"Pakistan today successfully carried out the maiden test fire of the Shaheen 2 surface-to-surface ballistic missile," a military statement said.

The missile "can carry all types of warheads up to" 1,250 miles, it said. A Defense Ministry official, who did not want to be named, said that meant both "con-

ventional and unconventional warheads."

Pakistan's previous longest-range missile was the Ghouri tested in 1997, which has a range of 810 miles.

Neighboring countries — including archrival India — had been informed in advance "as a confidence-building measure," the statement said. Both countries routinely conduct such missile tests, but also have used them in the past to send political messages or ratchet up tension.

Such a message was not likely to be hidden in Tuesday's test, which came amid peace moves in recent months between the nuclear-armed South Asian rivals.

Bush criticizes Kerry's record

By The Associated Press

HOUSTON — President Bush, in painting his Democratic presidential rival as someone who waffles on national security issues, says John Kerry "is trying to have it both ways" on matters of intelligence.

At a re-election fund-raiser Monday, Bush contrasted the Massachusetts senator's oft-stated support for intelligence gathering as a crucial component of the war on terror with his support — two years after a deadly 1993 bombing at the World Trade Center — for cutting intelligence funding by \$1.5 billion.

"Once again, Senator Kerry is trying to have it both ways. He's for good intelligence, yet he was willing to gut the intelligence services," Bush told 1,100 donors at a Houston event that raised \$1.5 million for his campaign. "And that is no way to lead our nation in a time of war."

The salvo was the result of a methodical mining by the Bush campaign of the long trail of votes and speeches from Kerry's 19 years in the Senate. Bush didn't limit himself to national security issues, and also criticized Kerry's shifts in position on the Patriot Act, trade legislation and an education reform bill.

"My opponent clearly has strong beliefs, they just don't last very long," Bush said.

Kerry's campaign said Bush's accusations have no merit and are misleading.

Kerry calls Arafat a roadblock

By The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — John Kerry says he no longer considers Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to be a statesman, but rather "an outlaw to the peace process" in the Middle East who has been rightly shuffled aside.

In a 1997 book, Kerry described "Arafat's transformation from outlaw to statesman." But in an interview with The Associated Press on Monday he said he no longer views Arafat favorably.

"Obviously, Yasser Arafat has been an impediment to the peace process," said Kerry, the Democratic presidential nominee-in-waiting. "He missed a historic opportunity and he's proved himself to be irrelevant."

Kerry, who was on the final day of a swing through the four Southern states that vote Tuesday, said the South has "changed dramatically" since the last election.

Al Gore, the nominee in 2000 and a native Tennessean, fared poorly in the region, which Kerry said was largely due to Gore's staunch support for gun control. A hunter and gun owner, Kerry said he expected to fare better.

Fed approves banking mega-merger

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve has cleared the way for Bank of America and FleetBoston Financial Corp. to combine and form a banking titan with nearly \$1 trillion in assets, stretching from California through the South and up to New England. It will be the nation's third-largest bank.

The Fed's board of governors, including Chairman Alan Greenspan, voted 6-0 Monday to approve the merger, finding that Bank of America's acquisition of New England's largest bank would not threaten competition or unduly concentrate banking resources.

The new institution, with about 5,700 branches, would have assets estimated at \$966 billion, trailing only Citigroup and another planned bank mega-merger between Chicago-based Bank One and Wall Street powerhouse J.P. Morgan Chase.

The central bank's approval removed the last major regulatory hurdle for the deal, which already had been blessed by the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission. The merger must be approved by shareholders of both banks, allowing it to be completed early next month.

U.S. Marines say they killed driver of speeding vehicle

BY PETER PRENGAMAN

Associated Press Writer

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — U.S. Marines shot and killed the driver of a vehicle speeding toward a military checkpoint, a spokesman told The Associated Press on Tuesday, the second reported fatality at the hands of the peacekeepers.

A passenger in the car also was wounded in the Monday night shooting, said the spokesman, Sgt. Timothy Edwards, in a telephone interview.

"When you see a vehicle approaching at high speed it is seen as a threat, so the Marines opened fire," Edwards said. "The driver was killed. ... A second man was injured and turned over to the Haitian police."

Marines said they shot and killed a gunman who fired at them during a demonstration Sunday in which seven people died, including a foreign journalist, and more than 30 were wounded.

Also Tuesday, militants demanding the return of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide threw rocks and set barricades of tires ablaze, blocking a main road in the capital and threatening renewed turmoil as officials gathered to pick a new prime minister.

Edwards said the body of the driver

killed Monday night was turned over to the Red Cross.

A body remained near the checkpoint area on Port-au-Prince's main road Tuesday morning, and a man who said his cousin had been shot and killed by Marines identified it as that of Mutial Telusma.

The cousin, Jean-Claude Batiste, said Telusma had picked up his brother, Sedelin Telusma, from his work at the international airport around 8 p.m. and was driving home at high speed, which is normal in Haiti.

"The road was blocked and he didn't know, just kept going and he was shot," Batiste told the AP, recounting the story from Sedelin Telusma, who was treated for two gunshot wounds.

Marine spokesman Col. Charles Gurganus said Monday they could not identify the man who was shot in self-defense Sunday, did not know where his body was, and did not have his weapon, which he said had been taken by someone.

"He had a gun and he was shooting at Marines," Gurganus said at a news conference.

The toll from a monthlong rebellion and reprisal killings rose to more than 300, with the Pan-American Health

Organization reporting an estimated 200 corpses at the state morgue as being victims of the violence.

At his first public appearance since his departure, Aristide on Monday renewed allegations that he was abducted and forced from power by the United States. He also urged "peaceful resistance" by his supporters.

They answered him by gathering outside the National Palace's gates during Monday's ceremony to install an interim president, shouting "Aristide or death!"

Military helicopters circled overhead and U.S. Marines in armored cars patrolled outside the palace.

Boniface Alexandre was installed as interim president Monday, although he had been serving in that post since shortly after Aristide fled amid pressure from home and abroad.

"We are all brothers and sisters," Alexandre said. "We are all in the same boat, and if it sinks, it sinks with all of us."

In Washington, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher insisted that Aristide had voluntarily resigned.

"If Mr. Aristide really wants to serve his country, he really has to, we think, let his nation get on with the future and not

try to stir up the past again," Boucher said.

The "Council of Sages" was interviewing three top candidates for prime minister, to replace Aristide appointee Yvon Neptune.

The new premier would form a transitional government from Aristide's Lavalas party and a disparate opposition coalition. Under a U.S.-backed plan, that government would call new elections.

The candidates were:

■ Businessman Smarck Michel, Aristide's prime minister in 1994-95 who resigned over differences in economic policy.

■ Retired Lt. Gen. Herard Abraham, who is probably the only Haitian army officer to voluntarily surrender power to a civilian, in 1990. He allowed the transition that led to Haiti's first free elections, which Aristide won.

■ Gerard Latortue, a former U.N. official and an international business consultant who was foreign minister in 1988 to former President Leslie Manigat.

The U.S. Marines and French Legionnaires are the vanguard of a U.N. force to restore peace. On Monday, there were 1,600 Marines, 800 French soldiers and police and 130 Chilean troops in Haiti.

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EXTRA!! EXTRA!!

Santa Monica Daily Press now at
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Readers and customers can now find the Daily Press in
permanent newsstands at these locations:

- 17th Street and Montana Avenue
- 14th Street and Montana Avenue
- Montana Avenue, between 14th-15th Streets
- 7th Street and Montana Avenue
- 3rd Street and Wilshire Boulevard
- Ocean Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard
- Wilshire Boulevard, between 22nd-23rd Streets
- 14th and Santa Monica Boulevard
- Wilshire Boulevard and Lincoln Boulevard
- Colorado Boulevard and 3rd Street
- Santa Monica Courthouse
- Arizona Avenue and Second Street
- Arizona Avenue and Fifth Street
- Three newsstands at the intersection
of Arizona Avenue and Fourth Street
- Broadway and Lincoln Boulevard
- Broadway and 10th Street
- Colorado Avenue and Second Street
- Santa Monica Boulevard and Lincoln Boulevard
- Lincoln Boulevard and Broadway Avenue
- Lincoln Boulevard and Pico Boulevard
- Lincoln Boulevard and Strand
- Two newsstands at the intersection of
Lincoln Boulevard and Raymond
- Main Street and Kinney
- Main Street and Strand
- Main Street and Ocean Park
- Main Street and Ashland
- Montana Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard
- Montana Avenue and Euclid Street
- Montana Avenue and 16th Street

Watch for future newsstands at
a location near you!



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ID#IF42ZA62749
STK#432306
MSRP\$27,140
Dealer Discount ...\$2,650
Cust. Rebate#1 ...\$3,000
Cust. Rebate#2 ...\$500*

*Must finance with Ford motor credit to get this addition rebate.

Net Cost
\$20,990



NEW!

2003 Ford Windstar

ID#30B60847
STK#31151
MSRP\$30,630
Dealer Discount ...\$4,631
Cust. Rebate\$6,000

Net Cost
\$19,999



2003 Mustang Conv.

ID#IF3F374999
STK#31424
MSRP\$30,495
Dealer Discount ...\$3,100
Cust. Rebate\$4,000

Net Cost
\$23,395



2004 Ford Taurus

ID#IF4A153530
STK#432302
MSRP\$21,185
Dealer Discount ...\$2,590
Cust. Rebate#1 ...\$3,000
Cust. Rebate#2 ...\$1000*

*Must finance with Ford motor credit to get this addition rebate.

Net Cost
\$14,595



2004 Mustang Coupe

ID#IF4F116930
STK#432207
MSRP\$20,065
Dealer Discount ...\$1,566
Cust. Rebate#1 ...\$3,000
Cust. Rebate#2 ...\$500*

*Must finance with Ford motor credit to get this addition rebate.

Net Cost
\$14,999

All vehicles plus tax and license plus documentation fee.

All vehicles subject to prior sale. Ad expires 48 hours after publication.

HAVE WE GOT SERVICE DEALS FOR YOU!

Tire Rotation & Brake Inspection \$19.95

Inspect brake friction material, caliper operation, rotors, drums, hoses and connections. Inspect parking brake for damage and proper operation. Rotate and inspect four tires. Dual-rear-wheel vehicle extra. See Service Advisor for details.

Must mention this ad at time of write up. Taxes extra.
Expires 6/30/04

4-wheel alignment & Tire Inspection \$69.95

Check and adjust camber and toe. Check tread depth and condition all four tires. Additional parts and labor may be required on some vehicles. See Service Advisor for details.

Must mention this ad at time of write up. Taxes extra.
Expires 6/30/04

10% OFF SERVICE BILL

Bring this coupon to your Service Advisor and receive the above savings applied to your entire service bill, when it does not include services listed on this ad.

Must mention this ad at time of write up. Taxes extra.
Expires 6/30/04

Santa Monica Ford will meet or beat any OEM tire price

10% OFF any body repair over \$2500
10% OFF of parts purchased
from the parts dept.

2-wheel alignment & Tire Inspection \$39.95

Check and adjust camber and toe. Check tread depth and condition all four tires. Additional parts and labor may be required on some vehicles. See Service Advisor for details.

Must mention this ad at time of write up. Taxes extra.
Expires 6/30/04

Minor Service for only \$39.95

Oil Change & Oil Filter Replacement, Lube Hinges, Latches & Applicable Chassis Parts, Silicone Protection of Window Weather Strips, Check Fluid Levels & Top Off to Factory Specifications, Inspect Cooling System, Hoses & Belts, Check Running Lights for Proper Operation, Check Suspension System, Inspect Exhaust System for Corrosion, Inspect & Rotate Tires, Adjust Pressures, Multi-Point Inspection Report Card

Must mention this ad at time of write up.
Excludes diesels & HD "E" & "F" series vehicles/OP code PMinor.
Expires 6/30/04

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