

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

9, 29, 35, 19, 36

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 9, 2, 8

Evening picks: 1, 0, 9

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 12, Lucky Charms

2nd Place: 8, Gorgeous George

3rd Place: 5, California Classic

Race Time: 1:45.91



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

In January, the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council turned down the complaint of a radio listener in Calgary, Alberta, ruling that a song by the a cappella group Da Vinci's Notebook was not necessarily obscene, in that it could also be about self-esteem. The song "Enormous Penis" included the lyrics "I've got the cure for all my blues / I take a look at my enormous penis / And my troubles start a-meltin' away" and "I gotta sing and I gotta dance / When I glance in my pants."



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I can't believe I forgot to have children."

— Unknown



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Woman jailed for posing as lawyer ... again

Passing the bars of another kind, already charged with same crime

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM COURTHOUSE — A Santa Monica woman was sent back to jail this week for allegedly continuing to practice law without a license even while being prosecuted for dozens of counts of the misdemeanor crime.

"It's just a no-brainer for me," said Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Bernard Kamins, immediately before Sheriff's deputies handcuffed Anita Clark. Kamins added he would have doubled Clark's \$150,000 bail if prosecutors had requested it, because he considers her a danger to the community who should be tried as a felon.

See JAILED, page 4

The fog of shore



Nicky Five Aces/Special to the Daily Press

Thursday's warm and sunny weather inland seemed a world away in Santa Monica, as beachgoers were few and far between due to a lingering fog throughout much of the day.

Getty's \$500K settlement made public

Lawyers fail to keep wrongful death suit payout under wraps

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM COURTHOUSE — A judge here has made public the settlement terms between J. Paul Getty Trust and a family that levied a wrongful death lawsuit against it, denying Getty lawyers who fought for four months to keep the agreement sealed.

"This settlement was painstakingly negotiated with confidentiality a key feature."

— GUY GRUPPIE

Getty lawyer

Carlota Navarette and her four daughters will receive a total of \$315,000 for an accident that claimed the life of Javier Navarette, who fell to his death at 4 a.m. in November of 2000 while cleaning the windows of the rotunda at the Getty Center.

Frances Campbell, the family's attorney, will receive another \$185,000, court documents show. Getty is responsible for the full \$500,000 settlement.

Javier Navarette's scaffolding-like equipment tipped over and he plunged some 40 feet to the

ground below, apparently because the proper safety legs wouldn't fit in the area he was cleaning.

Lawyers for Getty worked diligently to keep sealed the terms of the settlement. But because two of Navarette's four daughters are minors, the amounts of their settlements must be approved by a judge, and therefore they became part of the public record.

Guy Gruppie, a Getty lawyer, argued last week before Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Lorna Parnell that it's of no benefit to the public to release the terms of the settlement. When he was denied, he asked Judge Parnell to send the matter to Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Linda Lefkowitz, the courthouse's presiding judge.

"This settlement was painstakingly negotiated with confidentiality a key feature," Gruppie argued in court documents.

Parnell declined his request.

According to the terms of the settlement, Carlota Navarette will receive \$300,000 and each of her daughters will receive \$50,000. Of that, a total of \$185,000 will be handed over to Campbell. Money for the two minors — Marisela

See GETTY, page 4

Leaders of Los Angeles: If we don't build it, they still will come

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — If Los Angeles is ever going to get out of its economic tailspin, billions of dollars must be spent on infrastructure in schools and transportation. But the public has to trust that the money is used honestly and wisely, officials said this week.

That's what a panel of LA politicians told a group of about 500 people at the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce's California State Forum held at the Milken Institute in Santa Monica on Wednesday.

With the equivalent of two entire populations of Chicago expected to move to the region over the next few decades, increasing pressures on traffic,

growth, housing and education have officials thinking about future infrastructure for the first time in years.

Panelist and Los Angeles City Councilman Eric Garcetti noted that LA has five of the worst freeway interchanges in the United States, is the murder capital of the country and stands as the "park

See LOS ANGELES, page 5

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Go out with co-workers, Cancer



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)

★★★★★ Pull yourself out of the dredges of day-to-day life and do something refreshing that stimulates your mind. Whatever jolts you awake can keep you running for a while. Avoid nervous energy, and focus. Partners, friends and loved ones all want you. Tonight: Skip out the door.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Work with others closely, especially if involved with real estate and personal issues. In the morning you might be overloaded and feel the need to put socializing and networking on the back burner. Don't suppress your creativity. You will need it. Tonight: Romance and fun mix.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Others seek you out, to the consternation of a boss or an authority figure. Be reasonable with the phone and socializing, especially if your personal life interrupts your professional life. Return calls in the late afternoon. Tonight: Out with friends.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Emphasize what needs to be done, especially as you come across some surprising information. Not everything is like you think it is. Realize limits carefully when dealing with others. Make inquiries. Seek out answers. Tonight: Out with co-workers.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Spring out the door, knowing that the weekend awaits you once you complete your must-dos of the day. As a result, you could be unusually inventive and creative. Others enjoy having you around, as you put a smile on many faces. Tonight: Romp away.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ You might opt to assume a lower profile than usual. You mobilize others in an attempt to gain more of what you want. Review a matter that is close to your heart. You visualize changes and new opportunities. Tonight: Unleash your wildness at home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Speak your mind. If you hold back, you could be sorry later. You might be uncomfortable believing that you could be vulnerable. Actually, by stating what is true for you, boundaries will be set. Clear your desk. Return all calls. Tonight: You don't have to go far.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Examine the possibilities involving a money venture, and recognize that you might have to carry the ball. Be sure you want to be in this position before committing. Others urge you on, but consider the fact that it isn't their money. Tonight: Find your friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ What doesn't fall into place like you would like it to will if you simply flow with the moment and use your ingenuity. Don't get uptight, as the planets cheer you on. Your popularity soars in direct relation to your charisma. Tonight: Just ask.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★ Take your time with a child or family member. If you push too hard, you're likely to have a backfire. Privately discuss what has been on your mind with a friend. Understand who supports you. Tonight: Carefully check out anyone you meet in the next 24 hours.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Others seem to have what it takes to make a difference. Listen to suggestions. If someone wants to pioneer more of what he or she needs, encourage him or her to do so. Meetings, friends and a collective impatience to begin the weekend mark the moment. Tonight: Christen the weekend.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ You might want to anchor in and follow through on what you know is important to a boss or higher-up. Ask more questions about a financial arrangement. Learn to be more fiscally savvy, and become commander and disciplinarian of your checkbook. Tonight: Paint the town red!

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Wishful thinking: Foundation has kids in mind

By Daily Press staff

A night of wine, food and celebrities this weekend in Santa Monica will make the wishes come true for hundreds of children in Los Angeles.

Bringing together a host of restaurants in Los Angeles and wineries from all over the world, the event is the largest fundraiser for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Greater Los Angeles, raising more than \$600,000 — funds that will be used to fulfill the wishes of more than 400 children in Los Angeles County. In addition to celebrity bartenders at the Carving Ice/Kristall Vodka martini bar, more than 500 live and silent auction items will be featured, including exotic vacations, artwork, fine and rare wines, jewelry, celebrity memorabilia, and one-of-a-kind treasures.

The event, which will begin at 6:30 p.m., will be held at the Barker Hangar at the Santa Monica Airport Santa Monica, 3021 Airport Ave. this Saturday.

The celebrity bartenders begin pouring at 7 p.m. and the live auction begins at 9:15 p.m., hosted by Bob Goen and a special appearance by Brad Garrett.

The team of celebrity bartenders pouring at the Carving Ice Martini Bar, currently includes Diedrich Bader from "The Drew Carey Show;" Leslie Bibb and Leslie Hope, "Line of Fire;" Mark Derwin and Marianne Muellerleile, "Life with Bonnie;" Matt Gallant, "Planet's Funniest Animals;" Chris Harrison, "The Bachelor and The Bachelorette;" Cris Judd, choreographer and actor; Bianca Kajlich, "Rock Me Baby;" Phoebe Price, "The Horse Trader;" Missi Pyle, "Big Fish and Along Came Polly;" Luc Robitaille, "Los Angeles Kings;" Adam Rodriguez, "CSI: Miami;" Sara Rue, "Less Than Perfect;" Melana Scantlin, "Average Joe/GSN's World Series of Blackjack;" Kent Shocknek, "KCBS2;" Ty Treadway, "SoapTalk;" Constance Zimmer, "Good Morning, Miami;" Arianne Zucker, "Days of our Lives;" and volleyball champions Sinjin Smith and Randy Stoklos.

More than 100 world-renowned wineries pouring, including Beaulieu Vineyards, Castello Di Selvole, Echeverria, J. Lohr, Lancaster Estate, Laurent Perrier, Marquis Philips, Renteria, Rombauer Vineyards, Spadina Nero Davole, Taurino, Summerland Winery, Valminar and Zardello.

More than 30 of LA's best restaurants serving, including Balboa Steakhouse, Chez Jay, Citrine, Dandy Don's, Il Grano, Noe, Locanda Del Lago, Loft Hawaiian Restaurant, Mirabelle Restaurant, Michael's, P.F. Chang's China Bistro, San Gennaro, Sushi Roku, The Farm and Water Grille.

For additional information, visit <http://www.wishla.org/wine2004.html>.

Boys & Girls Clubs honor their own

By Daily Press staff

Danny Moore and Jason Hurd have been selected as the 2004 co-youths of the year for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica for their superior leadership skills, academic achievement and outstanding service to the community, officials say.

Moore, a 10-year member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica, and Hurd, a six-year member, are positive role models for young people, officials say. Moore, 17, despite a difficult childhood, always makes the best of any situation has volunteered within the community and at the club, and plans to be the first in his family to graduate from college, officials say. He plans to attend art school.

Hurd who attends University High School, is captain of the varsity football team, a member of the black student union, on the class of 2004 council and an active member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica. He looks forward to earning a degree in graphic design while continuing his football career.

Hurd and Moore were honored at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica Youth of the Year banquet sponsored by Jackson Federal Bank last weekend at the Four Points Sheraton in Santa Monica. One of them will compete against other Boys & Girls Club youth for the California state Youth of the Year title. Five regional winners selected from among the state winners will compete for the national honor in Washington, D.C., where the National Youth of the Year will be officially installed by the president in a White House ceremony in September. In addition, the national winner will receive a \$10,000 scholarship from Reader's Digest Foundation, sponsor of the program since its inception in 1947.

The Boys & Girls Club has been involved in the community for 60 years, providing daily programs and services to more than 4,000 young people. The club is currently open Monday through Friday 2:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

surf report

Look for the WNW wind and ground swell mix to be on the way down through today. Many spots see knee- to waist-high surf.

OUTLOOK: Those waves will fade further on Saturday, but a new NW swell will fill in through the afternoon. The NW'er looks best on Sunday when parts of the South Bay see waist- to chest-high waves. Those waves fade on Monday and through the first part of next week.

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

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SUNDAY	12:11 PM	11:06 PM	4:04 AM	7:42 PM
MONDAY	12:49 PM	N/A	5:12 AM	7:48 PM
TUESDAY	12:04 AM	1:22 PM	6:02 AM	8:05 PM
WEDNESDAY	12:43 AM	1:46 PM	6:39 AM	8:18 PM
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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 you 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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THINKING
ABOUT EATING
RIGHT?

LOCAL

Woman said she's the victim of overzealous prosecutors

JAILED, from page 1

Clark, 44, worked for years out of an office in Ocean Park. She faces a total of 44 criminal counts, ranging from grand theft by fraud to illegally acting as an immigration consultant to practicing law without a license. Prosecutors allege she's taken more than \$60,000 from clients, performing little or no work in many of the cases.

A somber Clark was led out of the courtroom by deputies. Though she was freed on \$150,000 bond last year, Clark's bail was raised by the judge to \$175,000. She posted the extra \$25,000 and was freed early Thursday morning, according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Clark, a disabled mother of three, claimed in an interview before the Wednesday hearing that she's being pursued by overzealous prosecutors. She said she's a credentialed paralegal who never pretended to be a lawyer, adding she didn't know she was supposed to stop work-

ing with her clients after being indicted last year.

"I screwed up some stuff," she said. "I mean, I'm not an angel. Okay, I screwed some up."

Clark said she moved from her Bicknell Street location to a new office on Wilshire Boulevard after divorcing her husband in 2002. After about a year there, the rent was raised considerably, forcing her to move again. She contends she missed about a month's worth of messages due to a phone line mix-up.

That's around the time the City Attorney's Office started tracking her. Prosecutors seized her records in August, later sending letters to thousands of current and past clients, according to Clark. Dozens signed onto the action against her, she feels, because her files were taken and she was unable to get in touch with many of them.

Richard DeBro, Clark's lawyer and a former office neighbor, argued City Hall is trying to limit what a paralegal can do. He said Clark — a UCLA graduate who

completed one year of law school before earning her paralegal certification — filled out routine paperwork for clients, such as for divorces, bankruptcies and other proceedings.

"Non-lawyers can perform a lot of tasks," DeBro said. "They can't go to court, they can't perform complex litigation — but there's plenty of things they can do."

Deputy City Attorney Adam Radinsky, who is prosecuting the case, declined to comment on the evidence. He has said in the past that the case is the worst example of consumer fraud seen by the city in years, adding it should remind residents to double check the backgrounds of their attorneys and paralegals.

Under state law, it's a crime for a person to practice law without being a licensed attorney. "Practicing law" includes giving legal advice, making legal decisions in a case, claiming to be an

expert in an area of law, contacting the opposing party and writing legal documents. Non-attorneys are limited to two roles — providing clerical help or doing paralegal work directly under a supervising attorney, Radinsky has said.

Clark is not being charged with any crimes related to document preparers.

Stefan Broadley, 34, a native of New Zealand who hired Clark to help him prepare his immigration papers, was at the courthouse Wednesday to confront Clark. He said he wouldn't continue to pursue Clark if she returns the \$1,200 he paid her, something Clark told him on Wednesday she was eager to do.

"At this point in time, if I got my money back," said Broadley, a struggling music producer who lives with his wife in Venice, "I would (settle), just because I know so many other people are filing against her."

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Getty settlement pays girls for 'loss of love and support'

GETTY, from page 1

and Alma Navarette — will be put away in a fund that will mature when they turn 18 years old. Alma, now 5, was just 13 months old when her father died.

The Navarettes and Campbell declined to comment, saying it would jeopardize their settlement, which is still protected by a confidentiality agreement. Getty lawyers also declined to discuss the settlement, adding they worked hard to keep it from the public.

At issue in the lawsuit was whether Getty officials should have known the equipment Navarette used to clean the rotunda windows was dangerous. The only way the vertical lift machine could

reach the tight space Javier Navarette was working in was without its proper safety supports, Campbell argued.

Campbell said it was impossible to set up the stabilizing legs, which have a footprint of roughly 8 x 8 feet, due to the small area in which the machine was based. They targeted Getty because it supplied the equipment and should have known it was unsafe, according to court documents.

The Navarettes were seeking damages to compensate them for lost wages, funeral and burial costs, lawyer fees, and pain and suffering in the lawsuit. The settlements for Marisela and Alma indicated their \$50,000 awards were for



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LOCAL



LA politicians plan to build and clean up government

LOS ANGELES, from page 1

poorest" city.

"It's an unprecedented time for infrastructure in selected areas of Los Angeles," he said.

And up until now, city and state leaders didn't think much about building an infrastructure that is necessary for LA's economic success.

"There has been no political will, but now there is," Garcetti said. "When local leadership steps up on infrastructure, state and federal leaders pay attention. They aren't looking for us to come hat in hand ... we have to be willing to fund this stuff ourselves."

But Los Angeles City Controller Laura Chick pointed out that the public doesn't trust government and is hesitant in approving bond measures to pay for the infrastructure.

"There is a crisis on the part of the public and their confidence in government," she said, adding voters proved that notion by recalling former Gov. Gray Davis because he was perceived to be overly tied to contributors and special interest, and current Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger was voted in because he is perceived as a populist.

LA politics is viewed as full of insider games and uneven playing fields, Chick added.

"We need to regain the public's trust and confidence and be transparent about how we spend (their money)," she said. "We are the second-largest city in the country and the largest state, and we should be cutting edge, state-of-the-art and using the best practices, but we are far from it."

"We need to regain the public's trust and confidence and be transparent about how we spend (their money)."

— LAURA CHICK
Los Angeles City Controller

Chick pointed to a drop in business in LA because contractors and companies don't feel they can get in without "greasing the palms" of politicians.

"It can seriously damage a city," she said.

Asked by Milken Institute economist Ross DeVol how the perception can be changed, Chick said candidates should disclose full public financing and more audits should be conducted within governmental agencies.

Los Angeles Unified School District Superintendent Roy Romer said since he took over the district three years ago, he has tried to make education spending transparent.

"I'm clean. I'm running this organization and there is absolutely no pay to play ...," he said, adding \$13.2 billion will be spent on new schools, translating into 163,000 new seats in the LA school district. "The future of the economy in this town is based on education and job skills."

Howard Fine, a panelist and writer for the Los Angeles Business Journal, then asked Roy, the former governor of Colorado, to specify where the money will come from to staff those new schools.

"We have to use what we've got better," Roy said, noting that he plans to cut \$520 million this year from the district's

budget.

Garcetti said LA also needs to build its human infrastructure — the city has one of the highest illiteracy rates and sends fewer students to college than any other community.

"We are far behind our peer cities," he said.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich said beyond the city's failing schools, congested freeways and skyrocketing home prices, there also is a mass exodus of jobs leaving the area.

That's because there are excessive government regulations and taxes which create barriers from businesses coming and staying here, he said.

Antonovich also said the state's budget crisis isn't helping matters.

"Taxing the rich won't help, we don't have to tax people, it's the spending in California," he said. "Like an alcoholic, Sacramento turned an \$8 billion surplus into a \$35 billion deficit."

Garcetti said the challenges facing LA — like its lack of parks and its already highly-dense neighborhoods — are daunting, but not insurmountable.

"I think we pretend LA isn't a city," he said, adding sprawl has hit a wall and more mixed use projects, which include residential and retail in one building, will create more vibrant neighborhoods. "It's something cities figured out a long time ago."

"If we are a city, let's act like one."

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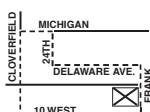
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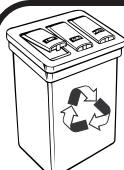
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DID YOU KNOW?: There are only 12 letters in the Hawaiian alphabet.

LETTERS

Police played their part

Editor:

Regarding "Man's murder marks first homicide of year" (SMDP, March 8, page 1). You failed to acknowledge the homicide of a young man on Feb. 24 at the hands of the Los Angeles Police Department. That incident was, in fact, the city's first homicide.

The LAPD is not immune from these types of actions and they should, therefore, be held accountable.

Jaime S. Cruz
Santa Monica

(Editor's note: The Feb. 24 incident is classified as a justifiable homicide and is a separate distinction from murder).

Wanted: Breathing room

Editor:

I want to second Mark Sanderson's suggestion (SMDP, March 3, page 4) that Paul Grymkowski express his "good heart" in Topanga, where he lives, instead of ruining Santa Monica's parks. Why are our public parks being subverted for this purpose anyway?

With all the money being spent on homeless shelters and services, there must be some place where they could be fed indoors, allowing Palisades Park to be restored as our beautiful and much-needed breathing space, rather than a soup kitchen.

Marjorie Campbell
Santa Monica

System puts rules before safety

Editor:

(This letter was originally addressed to Santa Monica Animal Control)

I adopted Tucker, a 7-month old brittany pointer dog, last year. I got the recommended vaccinations on Aug. 12, 2003 and had him licensed in Santa Monica. I sent payment for his new tags at the end of the year, as required by law, and was informed that he must get another rabies vaccine, even though he is not due for one.

My dog had his rabies vaccine seven months ago. I do not feel it is in his best interest to get another vaccine now, just to make your record-keeping easier. I appreciate that you have a difficult job and I'm sure that you care for the animals in your jurisdiction, but I must follow my conscience in this matter. There are too many documented dangers from vaccines, especially over-vaccination. Last year, my previous dog, Sophie Tucker, was administered vaccines when she was in Center Sinai Animal Hospital for suspected cancer. I was not aware of the dangers of vaccine at that time. Although the vaccine label clearly states not to administer vaccine to a sick dog, the vet gave it to my dog — a dog she suspected of having cancer. My beloved dog was dead within a few months. I believe, as do many animal health specialists, that those

vaccines exacerbated her cancer and dramatically shortened her life.

I wish someone would have warned me then about the dangers of vaccines. I wish my former vet would have cared more about reading the labels of those vaccines. My sweet Sophie suffered and died in my arms. It was a hard lesson, one I hope never to repeat. I refuse to fall victim to a system that puts rules before animal health and safety. That clinic had a rule about vaccinating dogs who were boarded for surgery. Santa Monica has a rule about vaccinating dogs at the first of the year regardless of whether they need it or not. These rules do not serve the best interest of our loving companion animals. My new dog, Tucker, was a rescue and suffers from allergies and other trauma-induced health problems. He is a good candidate for vaccination related health risks and problems. I will have him vaccinated again in August as required by law. I will provide that documentation to you then. I believe you owe us a current dog tag as I have paid my fees and provided my dog with the required vaccinations.

Pamela Lane
Santa Monica

God, Planning Commission smile on development



**MY
WRITE**
By Bill Bauer

Maybe it's time for a new section in City Hall's building and zoning code — one that rewards an applicant's "social activism" when determining a variance or project's merits.

Last week, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to allow a local church to expand facilities and remove precious parking in the process. Why when shortage of parking is a such major issue in the neighborhood would an applicant be allowed to provide no on-site parking?

The Unitarian Universalist Community Church, at the corner of 18th Street and Arizona Avenue, had requested a Conditional Use Permit to remodel their main sanctuary, a satellite building at 1256-1260 18th St. and add a two-story, 1,818-square-foot addition to another existing church building at 1253 17th St. But a shortage of on-site church parking was the fly in the ointment.

The church currently has no on-site parking because of its long time legal

non-conforming use. It requested a variance to eliminate three unused parking spots at 1253 17th St. and set aside 13 parking spaces required by code for the remodel. Never mind that by today's standards, the on-site parking requirement would be 97 spaces after remodeling.

Parking is a major quality of life issue for neighbors and a critical component of good city planning. An applicant request which increases traffic and street parking needs is clearly not in the best interest of the community, no matter how noble the applicant.

The commission's discussion centered on membership growth and increased use of church facilities. Barbara Kerncohan, chair of the church building committee, said, "The church does not want to grow nor anticipates adding weekday programs." However, the church will probably not turn worshippers away or cap church activities. The anticipation of something "not happening" inevitably leads to just the opposite, without any recourse.

Today's unanticipated situations have a habit of becoming tomorrow's frightening reality. For example, the Santa Monica Community Church at 1320 Arizona Ave. recently started feeding transients, which has created a noticeable impact on the neighborhood. The church shrugs off neighbors' complaints with "We're doing

God's work," while the city is "Looking into it."

The Unitarian Universalist Community Church has an informal agreement to share 50 spaces at UCLA-Santa Monica Hospital's parking lot at 16th Street and Arizona Avenue on Sunday mornings. Although the project's architect, Ralph Mechur, says the arrangement is "not likely to change," with the hospital in the middle of a major rebuilding program, that informal agreement could be terminated on short notice.

Chances are increasing sanctuary seating from 200 to 240 as a result of remodeling will attract more Sunday worshippers, thus outstripping even the current off-site parking availability. Expanded classroom, nursery and meeting room activity weekdays also will generate more traffic and exacerbate demand for parking.

The crux of the issue for the Planning Commission was not good urban planning or neighborhood livability, it was the church's roll as a community "social activist" supporting the homeless, labor movements, affordable housing and other favorite City Hall social causes.

Vivian Rothstein, a local labor activist, union organizer and former executive director of Ocean Park Community Center — the city's largest homeless services

agency — told the commission the church nurtures social justice and was just one of a dwindling number of organizations in the city that welcomes social activism.

Planning commissioner Julie Lopez Dad summed up the commission's feel good mood by stating that the commission had declined variances like this in the past. "This one is different from others we've seen," she said. It looks like an applicant's support for totally unrelated to development "social issues" has become a major factor in commission urban growth and planning decisions.

On top of commission support for what appears to be strictly political reasons, we have the specter of chair Darrel Clark and commissioner Jay Johnson, who were married at the church voting for the CUP and variance when they should have recused themselves. C'mon guys. How could you vote against the church that married you?

Want your project your way, need a variance or want to skirt a planning problem? New rule: Support City Hall's favorite social issues. With this Planning Commission, chances are you won't have to wait for heaven to be rewarded.

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

OPINION



Governor's plan takes community out of college

At first glance, Gov. Schwarzenegger's plan to divert 7,000 qualified University of California and Cal State applicants to community colleges appears to come down hard on the universities, the state and the diverted applicants alike.

The universities will lose state funding as a result of squeezed freshman classes. Those concerned for the state's future fear the long-term consequences, since UC officials expect that 80 percent of the diverted applicants will opt to attend college out of state. And students with near-perfect high school transcripts and test scores are left to wonder what else they could have done.

But this budget-cutting tactic will have its harshest effect on the community college system and its students. To this point, Schwarzenegger has largely pleased community college officials. His proposed 2004-05 budget calls for a \$5.3 billion (4.4 percent) increase in community college program funding, even as most other aspects of the state budget suffer cuts. Current program Chancellor Mark Drummond glowed at the time of the budget's release: "Thank you, Gov. Schwarzenegger, for giving us a budget that will help our colleges begin to restore needed classes and services so that more Californians have a choice about how they are going to determine their future."

As Schwarzenegger's higher education plan has moved more squarely into light, however, officials have been less complimentary, concerned that an influx of new students will put heavy strain on an already overpopulated system. But an increase in students is the least of the problems this plan presents for community colleges. The issue is less about a negative effect on resources and more about a negative effect on morale, and not just the morale of the diverted applicants.

College admission in America has become a high stakes game. David Denby observes in his recent book "American Sucker" that having an overachieving child has become another luxury item for many middle- and upper middle-class Americans. Like houses and cars, adults compare their offspring's high school resumes, sparking envy and putting more pressure on their children to succeed. For the students, even those without pressuring parents, the high school academic landscape becomes extremely competitive, with college admission serving as the ultimate, end-all image assessment, a powerful benchmark for how students view other students, and more importantly, how they view themselves.

Community college has become the sanctuary for students who don't necessarily excel in an ultra-competitive environment. Most graduated from high school, but neither failed to gain admission to a four-year college nor failed to gain the necessary scholarships. At community college, these students obtain a reasonably priced education in a less frenzied environment than in the advanced classes at their high schools; and after two years, they can transfer to a university. Santa Monica College boasts the largest number of UC transfers of any community college in the state.

Schwarzenegger's plan insults community colleges by its handling of the diverted applicants. Applicants aren't merely rejected, they're sent letters guaranteeing them later admission to four-year schools if they go to community colleges free of charge. In effect, they are told they are better than the school they are about to attend, as well as the other students who attend that school. Would-be community college successes will have inserted above them in their classroom curves easily identifiable (the gossip of who is and isn't paying fees will spread fast) disillusioned overachievers, disgruntled with the system for

the first time in their lives. They will rack up As, but not without rolling their eyes at the school in the process.

On the other end of the classroom curves will be the usual array of students unhappy with school in general and ready to drop out at a moment's notice. Traditionally successful community college students will face negativity on both sides.

Community college students are typically a capricious bunch. The difference between a transfer and a drop-out is often subtle. This is why even the smallest fee increase — Schwarzenegger's plan calls for an increase of \$18 to \$26 a unit — makes a significant difference. An extra \$100 per semester can mean a lot to someone toeing the line.

Poisoning the academic environment even slightly by increasing competition and resentment will have a profoundly negative effect on community colleges, and by extension, the future of the state.

Schwarzenegger's plan will save some quick cash, but supporters of community colleges must be vocal about their opposition to extending this plan into future years — 2004 must be the exception, not the rule.

(Danny Grace is a UCLA graduate and former columnist for the Santa Monica College Corsair student newspaper. He can be reached at dgrace@ucla.edu)

Guest Commentary

By Danny Grace

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

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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 ROSS FURUKAWA TO ESTABLISH THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS OUTLOOK 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

Entertainment

Mamet right on target in 'Spartan'

Review

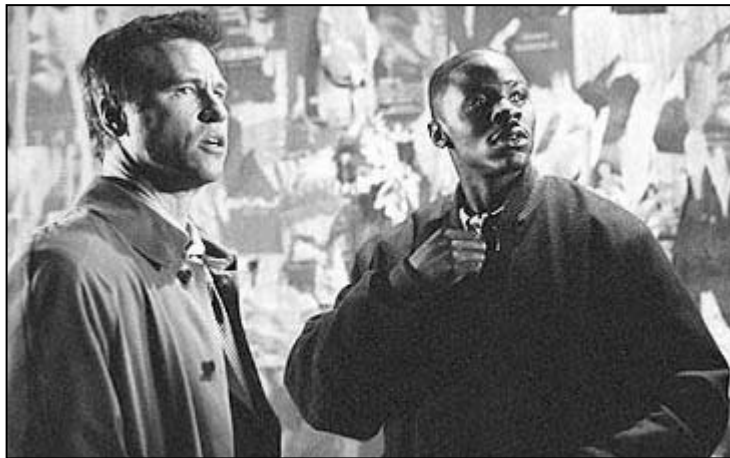
BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

"Spartan" is a hard-charging, artful thriller in which writer-director David Mamet ("The Spanish Prisoner," "State and Main") takes aim at the amoral political establishment and the media that serves them. Mamet nails his targets with typical recalcitrance while wisely dispensing with the usual Clancy-esque bombast so prevalent and played out in the espionage genre. The result is a film that is as taut as it is tart. If you like your cynicism served with some high-powered action, "Spartan" is right up your tenebrous alley.

Val Kilmer is very effective here as an impenetrable spook named Robert Scott, a military-trained assassin who dispassionately follows orders without hesitation. Scott kills because his government tells him to and his strict sense of duty has always precluded him from questioning his actions. When the president's daughter, Laura Newton (Kristen Bell), is kidnapped from her Harvard dorm, Scott is recruited to track her down before the press gets wind of her disappearance. He's teamed with agent-in-training Curtis (Derek Luke of "Antwone Fisher"), who quickly learns that Scott will stop at nothing to accomplish his mission. Just when it seems she's about to be recovered, however, the media reports Laura was killed in a sailing accident.

With Curtis's help, Scott discovers that his conscience-bereft superiors, Burch (Ed



Val Kilmer and Derek Luke star in 'Spartan.'

O'Neill) and his right-hand man Stoddard (William H. Macy) are involved in a dangerous conspiracy and that the president's daughter may still be alive. It's a turning point for Scott, who must finally follow the conscience he'd long ago put on ice. As you'd expect, there are more twists and turns in "Spartan" than on a Rocky Mountain road and with Mamet leading the way, the cast smoothly negotiates the ambages. Kilmer, in particular, brings conviction and complexity to a role

lesser talents may have mishandled. There's a lot more to Scott than initially meets the eye, and the veteran actor skillfully executes the reveal. Engendering empathy for a killer that inhabits a mysterious world most people cannot comprehend is no small accomplishment, and it's to Kilmer's credit that by film's end we really get this guy.

(Rated R for violence and language.
Running time: 106 minutes)

Kilmer on governments, the lies they tell

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

Val Kilmer stars as a career military officer working for a highly secretive special operations force in writer-director David Mamet's espionage thriller, "Spartan," which opens today. He spoke with a group of reporters recently about the film.

QUESTION: What initially drew you to "Spartan?"

VAL KILMER: I'd probably do anything with David Mamet because he's so great. I just love his writing. I hope he does more comedies, though — he's so funny. Have you interviewed him? He's just fantastic.

Q: This certainly isn't one of Mamet's funnier films. How do you think it compares to his other work?

VK: He's known for the unique style of his dialogue, but this is probably the least Mamet-like *sounding* movie. But I think it's his best screenplay. That's because it's a good story for film, and he's really grown as a writer in relation to film, which is a tricky business.

Q: Let's talk about the parallels "Spartan" draws to the current political climate in America.

VK: OK, well, I think this film is very relevant for the times. We take what's shown on television as the truth, and it isn't. The news on television isn't the truth. You look up the definition of what news is, it certainly isn't what we're watching on television.

Q: And you believe the government is complicit in this deception along with the media?

VK: Well, sure. We have a very grave responsibility, and a really awesome oppor-



Val Kilmer

tunity at this time to lead in the world, and our government has spoken for the people unfairly, and characterized and represented us as something that our nation isn't. We're not like what our government has told the world we are, and that's just an absolute fact. One of (author) John LeCarre's character's observed that a government is defined by its spies. What they're willing to have a spy do covertly or overtly defines the character of a nation. And when you look at it that way, it's a wonderful story because it brings up how powerful the government is, and how their relationship with the media is — more times than not — questionable.

Q: Some might say this movie an indictment of the current administration in Washington. Is that an accurate assessment?

VK: There are people around the president in this film that have decided for him — it's not really clear whether it's with his knowledge or not — that's it's best to lie to the country. And in our lives, we've experienced that happening on a large scale, and it will happen again.

Q: Former Delta Force operative Eric Haney was the technical advisor on "Spartan." What did you learn from him about the world of military espionage, and how were you able to utilize it in this role?

VK: These guys have taken lives in defense of our nation. When you talk to them about killing, they train themselves like brain surgeons to be able to control their emotions. They're really amazing characters. Eric had an experience where he had a CIA directive — they were told where the enemy was, they went and killed him, and it was a U.S. guy. Eric had trained him. It couldn't get any more poetic or awful than that. Turns out it wasn't an accident, it was a manipulation of their talent and our money and our investment in our security.

Q: Sounds like making this movie was a profound experience for you.

VK: Yes, and a weird one, too. The woman who plays the madam, she's a friend of mine (Kilmer's character threatens to kill her in the movie). And we both said the same thing after, that acting is just a weird thing. I mean, I'm going to kill her if she doesn't tell me what I want to know. It's just so strange to go strangle my friend all night long. I'm proud of it, because I think I represented the character and that life well. But it's a tough world they live in. They all die.

What's playing

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

STARSKY & HUTCH

While not quite as consistently hilarious as "Old School," the most notable gut-buster in director Todd Phillips' oeuvre, this is easily the funniest film of the year so far.

HIDALGO

Looks great and the race sequences are quite a rush, but there are far too many pace-halting interludes that aren't very original and make this already lengthy picture (141 minutes) seem a bit tedious.

THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

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

TWISTED

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

EUROTRIP

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

WELCOME TO MOOSEPORT

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

AGAINST THE ROPES

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

CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN

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

50 FIRST DATES

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

THE DREAMERS

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

THE FOG OF WAR

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

MIRACLE

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

THE PERFECT SCORE

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

WIN A DATE WITH TAD HAMILTON!

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

THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

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

MONSTER

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

BIG FISH

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

HOUSE OF SAND AND FOG

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

ENTERTAINMENT



Johnny Depp and John Turturro star in 'Secret Window.'

The write stuff: Tortured Depp is saving grace of 'Window'

Review

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

It's nice having Johnny Depp around, isn't it? Whether he's playing a kooky B-movie director ("Ed Wood"), a waggish swashbuckler ("Pirates of the Caribbean") or gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson ("Fear & Loathing in Las Vegas") the guy is eminently watchable. The producers of "Secret Window" are no doubt thankful to have Depp starring in their movie — he's the best thing going in an otherwise run-of-the-mill suspense thriller.

The film is based on a short story by Stephen King about a successful author, Mort Rainey (Depp), who is in the midst of a messy divorce. After he catches his wife Amy (Maria Bello) in bed with his lover Ted (Timothy Hutton), a despondent Rainey stows himself away at his remote lakeside cabin in upstate New York and spends most of his time asleep on the sofa. His waking hours are devoted to wallowing in self-pity and, boy, does he ever have a bad case of writer's block. To make matters worse, a mysterious stranger named Shooter (John Turturro) shows up on his doorstep claiming the author plagiarized one of his stories. Shooter wants justice, and he quickly — and in no uncertain terms — lets it be known he means business.

Frightened, depressed, manic and brimming with idiosyncrasies, Rainey is the sort of character Depp has thrived on throughout his career. As the stakes are raised in the game of cat and mouse with his nemesis, Depp rises to the occasion — affording us an all-access pass to see a life spiraling out of control. Unfortunately, the rest of the cast — and the story, for that matter — can't keep up. Turturro gives it his all, but he's badly miscast in a role that calls for someone far more sinister. Bello, who was so fantastic in "The Cooler," doesn't have a whole lot to work with here and it shows. Charles S. Dutton, playing a cop hired by Rainey for protection, isn't around long enough to register.

The narrative is engaging for the first two-thirds of the movie but unravels at the denouement, which seems to have been plucked from another film based on King's work, "The Shining." Problem is, "Secret Window" isn't nearly as chilling as Stanley Kubrick's classic. Apparently writer-director David Koepp, who has penned a long list of hits that includes "Jurassic Park," "Mission: Impossible" and "Spiderman," couldn't decide whether to scare us or humor us. He does both at times, but his film would have been better served had he stuck with the scary stuff.

(Rated PG-13 for violence/terror; sexual content and language.)

DID YOU KNOW?: The band Duran Duran took its name from an astronaut in the 1968 Jane Fonda movie 'Barbarella.'



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

BY MAUREEN TOBIN & THOMAS YOUNG

Special to the Daily Press



"I can resist everything except temptation."

— From "Lady Windemere's Fan" 1892.

— Oscar Wilde

Review

Lead us not into temptation ... Oh, forget it! That's exactly what we're trying to do, entice you, lure you, tempt you to come along with us and visit the sights, smells, sounds of a mega Westside nightlife to some wonderful restaurants, terrific music, and a chance to try something new.

If you're craving an evening with ocean views and ocean breezes amid world-class ambiance, then **Loew's Santa Monica Beach Hotel** is calling to you. Walk into the spectacular atrium/lobby with its 45-foot glass ceiling and you have arrived. This is one of our favorite Friday night haunts when we desire great jazz, desserts, coffees and a special mood-glow evening, along with an extraordinary room for warm, inviting seating and impressive acoustics.

Kudos go to entertainment/lobby manager John Loo, who smoothly and proficiently keeps the exciting buzz that entices the locals and guests alike, and ensures your every need is catered to so all you have to do is relax and savor the moment. Gladden your spirits with luscious and seductive sweet confections, perhaps the hot-fudge-brownie and rich vanilla ice cream, or the mango sorbet. Diets be gone. Whatever your pleasure, whether you order from the lounge menu, or from Lavande, the highly touted romantic French Provincial restaurant, you are in for a treat. This place seeks only to see you smile in contentment. Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:30, the lobby/lounge vibrates with the sounds of expert jazz musicians, the Dan May Trio, who perform, then accompany a featured singer who is always a pleasure to listen to, singing jazz and great renditions of the old standards. Call Loews for their music schedule or just pop in for some fun. Jazz Friday and Saturday, 8:30 p.m. until midnight. Visit their web site at www.loewshotels.com.

1700 Ocean Ave. (310) 458-6700.

At the entrance to **Casablanca, Tequila Bar and Restaurant** in Venice, this sign greets you: "You are leaving Venice, California, and entering Casablanca, Morocco." Thus, your evening begins. Some places have an abundance of atmosphere and élan, and Casablanca is one of these with its soft lighting, subtle music, and fabulous food and bar. Come here with your sweetheart for the most romantic place, or come with friends. Your mood will glow.

In the family for 23 years, owner Carlos Haro Jr. impeccably runs this famous focal point of the Venice/Santa Monica area. Experience the most amazing Mexican seafood, particularly their Calamar steaks, prepared in several tantalizing ways. Otherwise Casablanca is worlds apart from just any Mexican restaurant. Think more international food. Why Mexican seafood?

A little history is in order. Carlos' father owned a music studio in Mexico and loved showing old films, especially "Casablanca." So when he opened Casablanca in Venice, he told the chefs he sought an international flavor like Rick's Place with French Moroccan and European foods. But his chefs claimed they only knew Mexican food. The rest is history.

Casablanca is also celebrated for their astounding selection of tequilas, a specialty of the house with 250 varieties. Tequila is not just for margaritas or shooters. There is a whole world of tequila connoisseurs, who drink it from cognac snifters. The best tequilas are well aged and pricier than some cognacs. We learned this from Robert Lopez, the manager for three years. Begin your food fest, but try not to gorge on their deceptively light, fresh tortillas. Dinner began with enticing tortilla soup. The traditional Mexican beef enchiladas were superb. Any night you can order from the Tequila Festival. One of the Tequila Festival dishes, the Calamar Tequila, cooked with tequila, butter and mangos was exquisite. Though the alcohol cooks out, the flavor/scent of the tequila is prevalent, yet subtle for a unique dining experience. Dessert was Bunuelos, a light sweet concoction of fruit, almond tequila and marshmallows. We were on cloud nine. The staff is proficient and the prices are really low. At 7 p.m., different guitarists each perform a couple times a week. We saw Erik Armando, skilled in classic, uplifting guitar. Come for dinner or just sit at the convivial bar to enjoy the music, drinks, coffees and desserts. Open everyday for lunch and dinner, and an incredible Sunday brunch. "Here's looking at you, kid!"

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Ready to bust a gut with laughter? Visit **Comedy Underground** in Santa Monica. Talent is the name of the game at this club on the alley, in the basement, where zany, madcap and screwball are the norm. Comedy, improv, standup. Choose your medicine, choose your time. Wednesday through Saturday, Comedy Underground houses a bevy of funny people wanting only to hear you chortle, crack up, and perhaps grunt and groan a bit. We saw "Off the Wall," one of the improv acts on a Friday evening and it is hilarious. This place always has an eager crowd waiting to get in the doors for a night of rip-roaring laughs and guffaws. Talent agents looking for another Tim Allen or Jerry Seinfeld, look no further. Call Comedy Underground to get their schedule. Usually Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday are standup and variety comedy, Friday are improv shows, but check with them as programs and casts change. Low cover charges. Prepare for an evening of unadulterated fun.

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STATE

December earthquake's legacy is a new hot spring

BY MARTHA MENDOZA

AP National Writer

PASO ROBLES — Affectionately known as "The Hole From Hell," a stinking, steaming, simmering cauldron wafts a rotten-egg fog through City Hall, across the town park, and past the downtown cafes, antique stores and farm suppliers.

For many citizens in this Central Coast agricultural community, the prolific hot spring that bubbled up in City Hall's parking lot after a devastating earthquake holds great promise, despite its stomach churning sulfurous odor.

"To me it's a natural resource and Paso Robles is blessed to have it," said local geophysicist Floyd Butterfield, smiling proudly on the asphalt lip of the gaping pool.

Butterfield was called to City Hall on Dec. 22, about an hour after a magnitude-6.5 quake rolled through downtown, killing two women, damaging hundreds of buildings in the area and causing up to \$200 million in damage.

Amidst the wreckage, emergency crews had spotted what they assumed as a busted sewer line — what else could it be with that horrible reek?

But Butterfield's nose knew better, and the steam ris-

ing from the little gusher confirmed it — this was a geothermal spring.

It wasn't a complete surprise.

Similar springs dot the Western states, concentrated in areas known as "hot spots" like the area around Paso Robles. The springs are formed when rain or melted snow percolates through layers of porous rock and slips into the fissures of the earth's crust.

Hundreds of feet below Paso Robles' City Hall parking lot, cold, sinking water meets a layer of rocks heated by magma. Once superheated, the water rises back up through this natural plumbing system, eventually spouting through the surface as a hot spring.

Paso Robles was founded as resort town in the late 1800s, and for decades downtown was dotted with hot mineral and mud baths. But as the popularity faded, the baths were closed, the springs covered, sealed, and all but forgotten.

That is, forgotten until December's quake cracked open a deep fissure, allowing 110 degree water to spout from the parking lot at about 350 gallons a minute — enough to fill six Olympic-sized swimming pools a day.

Engineers at first figured a cap on a sealed pipe from a former spa must have busted.

"We started digging," said City Manager Jim App.

Crews broke through the asphalt and dug through a layer of thick mud. No pipe. They dug through the floor of a former bath house and then its brick foundation. No pipe. Backhoes hauled away load after load of liquified mud, as the pit consumed an 80-foot wide, 25-foot deep chunk of the parking lot with no end in sight.

"I finally asked them to please stop digging because they were having entirely too much fun," said App.

So crews erected a large, chain link fence, installed large, noisy pumps and dug a half-mile trench to pipe the water to the nearby Salinas River.

This is not a permanent solution.

For one thing, state regulators and environmentalists warn that the deluge of warm water that leaves a crusty yellow dust of sulphur on the riverbanks could eventually damage the ecosystem. Also, the mayor and all the other people working at City Hall need somewhere to park their cars.

And then there's the odor.

On a recent evening, about 100 residents crowded into a public meeting room to discuss how to rebuild downtown, where 82 buildings cracked or crumbled, and more specifically what to do about the hot spring.

Ideas abounded, some conflicting: develop a spa, heat City Hall, clean and then drink the water, build a warm swimming pool, send it across the street to the Paso Robles Inn. Everyone agreed on one thing (and a moderator illustrated the point drawing a massive nose clamped shut with a clothes pin): Do something about the smell!

City officials are trying.

Their short term plan, which they hope will be complete this month, is to install enough pumps to dry up the excavation and then refill it with dirt, pave it, and start parking cars there again. Once complete, App said the smell should dissipate so they can begin trying to figure out beneficial uses for the water, public or commercial.

To date, the spring has cost about \$200,000. Eventually that price tag, covered in part with state or federal emergency funds, could reach \$2 million.

Butterfield said he hopes the community can eventually figure out some way for the hot water to pay for itself. In the meantime, he hates to see it go to waste.

On a recent, brisk morning, Butterfield stripped to his swim trunks and scrambled down the steep bank of the pit to the edge of the hot water. He slipped into the clear, blue-green water. Soon he was wading, and then paddling. There was, he insists, a scientific reason for his exploration.

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Gunmen kill Iraqi translators

By The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Gunmen killed two Iraqi women working as translators for the British army, a day after the slaying of two American coalition officials and their translator by attackers disguised as police in southern Iraq, officials said Thursday.

The two women, sisters, were driving home in a taxi in Basra late Wednesday when gunmen stopped the vehicle and opened fire on them, a coalition official in the southern city said.

The motive for the attack was not immediately known. Guerrillas have targeted Iraqis working with the U.S.-led occupation. Also, Basra, which is patrolled by the British military, has seen a number of killings blamed on Shiite militias enforcing Islamic law.

Meanwhile, L. Paul Bremer, the top administrator in Iraq, has requested that the FBI investigate the slayings of two Americans late Tuesday on a road outside the town of Hillah, 35 miles south of Baghdad, said Dan Senor, spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition.

Haitian leader tries to calm storm

By The Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Haiti's new prime minister sought to unite a divided, desperate population as he began cobbling together a government. U.S. Marines, meanwhile, stepped up their mission to stop violence in the Caribbean nation.

Gerard Latortue, who returned to his homeland from Florida on Wednesday, was chosen by a committee earlier this week to fill a void left after former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide fled the country on Feb. 29 amid international pressure and a bloody rebellion.

The nation of 8 million remains torn between those who want a new government and those demanding Aristide's return.

Latortue, a 69-year-old former U.N. official and foreign minister, said his top priorities were security, justice, decentralization of power and organizing elections.

Latortue was scheduled to meet with interim President Boniface Alexandre later Thursday.

In Washington, the U.S. military announced an escalation in its mission, promising Marines will move quickly to stop violence among Haitians.

Bush keeps Sept. 11 images

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush isn't backing down. His response to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, is a centerpiece of his campaign for re-election and he underscores the point Thursday with a visit to a new victims' memorial before headlining a campaign fund-raiser.

Bush used images from the World Trade Center's smoldering wreckage in his first re-election TV commercials last week, and refused to retreat when critics called them crass exploitation of those killed in the attacks.

Bush was to be among the first digging shovels of dirt at the groundbreaking for a new Sept. 11 memorial in East Meadow, N.Y., a Manhattan suburb on Long Island.

The economy is another pillar of Bush's re-election bid and he was carrying his message of tax cuts and trade to Long Island as well.

He takes a 10-minute tour of USA Industries, which makes automobile parts in Bay Shore, N.Y., and hosts a "conversation on the economy," where managers and workers typically extol the benefits of his economic agenda.

Kerry meeting with rivals

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry was looking to shore up his support among congressional Democrats and bring another former rival into the fold. Republicans were looking for something from Kerry, too: an apology for comments they criticized

as "unbecoming of a candidate for the presidency."

Kerry, a Massachusetts senator, was headed to separate meetings Thursday on Capitol Hill with House and Senate Democrats.

He also was meeting with North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, a colleague and former presidential rival.

Kerry created a bit of a stir Wednesday in Chicago after he spoke via satellite to labor leaders meeting in Florida. When a supporter urged him to take on Bush, Kerry said, into a still-open microphone: "Let me tell you, we've just begun to fight. We're going to keep pounding. These guys are the most crooked, you know, lying group I've ever seen. It's scary."

President Bush's re-election campaign demanded an apology for "this negative attack."

In response, Kerry spokeswoman Stephanie Cutter said Republicans have a record of smearing their opponents and that Kerry intended the comment to show that he will fight back.

Fat people have themselves to blame

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republicans seeking to curb another potential source of money for trial lawyers decided that eaters hankering for "biggie" portions shouldn't be allowed to blame their weight on fast-food chains and restaurants.

The House voted 276-139 on Wednesday to ban class action lawsuits that contend food companies and their offerings are responsible for Americans' putting on the pounds and lurching toward obesity.

Those who overeat should blame themselves, not the fast food industry that employs almost 12 million people and is the nation's second largest employer behind the government, Republicans said.

"We as Americans need to realize that suing your way to better health is not the answer," said House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill. "Trial lawyers need to stop encouraging consumers to blame others for the consequences of their actions just so they can profit from frivolous lawsuits against restaurants."

But Democrats say the GOP is just playing partisan politics in an election, slapping at trial lawyers who normally support Democrats. The bill is unlikely to pass the closely divided Senate, and most obesity claims have been dismissed in court anyway, they said.

Cable back on

By The Associated Press

DENVER — After a two-day blackout that brought the wrath of satellite television viewers by the thousands, EchoStar Communications Corp. and Viacom Inc. reached a deal that restored several popular channels such as MTV and Nickelodeon to the DISH Network.

The two sides reached a deal early Thursday. Within 20 minutes, Viacom's channels, including VH1, Comedy Central and BET, were back on DISH, EchoStar spokesman Marc Lumpkin said.

EchoStar had dropped Viacom channels early Tuesday in a dispute over fees. Up to 9 million DISH satellite television viewers were affected.

The dispute also left as many as 2 million DISH viewers without CBS shows when EchoStar pulled the network's programming in cities including New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Miami, Boston, Denver, Minneapolis and Dallas.

DISH subscribers in those cities were threatened with the loss of the upcoming NCAA men's basketball tournament, which begins March 18 on CBS. Viacom is CBS' parent corporation.

Unions looking to oust Bush

By The Associated Press

BAL HARBOUR, Fla. — Organized labor is betting that undecided and swing union household voters in battleground states will help oust President Bush in November.

The AFL-CIO is putting unprecedented emphasis on those voters in hopes that constant contact and communication from their unions will bring them firmly into the Democratic fold for presumptive nominee John Kerry.

"Our program is more sophisticated," AFL-CIO President John Sweeney said after labor leaders approved mobilization plans Wednesday at this seaside resort. "We can more accurately identify the undecided voters among our ranks, and plan to make a special new effort to make sure they get educated about where the candidates stand on issues like overtime, jobs and education."

Previous election efforts focused on registering and turning out new union voters. But AFL-CIO polling shows that Bush holds a contingent of support among union members and labor leaders want to pry that loose.

Their research shows that continuous communication with those union swing voters can move them 10 to 15 percentage points in polls on attitudes about candidates and issues, said Karen Ackerman, the AFL-CIO's political director.

Kristine Johnson Fountain of Joy

The Kristine Johnson Fountain of Joy is seeking donations. Situated in a courtyard garden visible to the community, the fountain will be a respite for those seeking faith, peace and hope amongst the challenges of the world.



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SANTA MONICA Ocean View 2bd 2ba+ office, hardwood floors, Ocean Park. 2553 3rd St. Pets negotiable \$3300/mo 310-480-5623

Roommates

ROOMMATE WANTED Beach Front \$1500/mo share bath. All utilities included No pets, n/s Darren 310-451-8256

ROOMMATE WANTED To share a large 3 BR/2BA house in West LA, Rancho Park area. Large Yard, sunroom, washer/dryer, dishwasher. We are professional twentysomethings, M/F, a couple of well-behaved dogs. \$750 per month. Call 310-55-1151. Available 4/1

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Commercial Lease

2901 OCEAN Park, commercial space available. 2200sq/ft Turn Key Salon, \$2.25sq/ft. All sq available, office space 1000sq/ft ample parking, \$2.10sq/ft. Call 310-450-5056

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COMMERCIAL SPACE to share. Approx. 600sq/ft open to artists, manicurists, small business, Talk to me! 310-395-8025

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SANTA MONICA 1334 Lincoln Blvd 1140sq/ft \$2200/mo. & 600 sqft 1300/mo. Can combine. E. Keasbey (310)477-3192.

SM/OCEAN PARK: room available in well located Chiropractic & Acupuncture office 3 days per/wk \$500/mo. Jasmine (310)392-9596.

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WAREHOUSE SPACE 1300sq/ft Includes 1 office and bathroom; Lease for 6-30/mo @\$2300/mo Includes roll-up door+4 parking spaces. Located in S.M. Colorado & Yale. Quiet, safe & accessible. Tom 310-612-0840

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I WILL BUY YOUR MORTGAGE NOTE CALL TODAY TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN CONVERT YOUR MONTHLY PAYMENTS INTO A LARGE LUMP SUM OF CASH. 818-878-3006

Real Estate

MAR VISTA Hill w/large lot. Possible view w/remodel 3bd 1 3/4 ba, den 1700sq/ft, 3336 Grandview Blvd. By owner, \$789K Shown 3/13/04 10am-2pm or by appointment. 661-252-3480

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2250 30th St. \$975

Upper 1 bed, new carpet, fresh paint, bright, view

1230 Berkeley \$995

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Lower 1 bed, new carpet & floors, fresh paint, near Wilshire

828 11th St. \$1200

Upper 1 bed, balcony, 1/2 block to Montana Ave.

1224 12th St. \$1550

Upper 2 bed, 1 1/2 baths, bright, front unit, balcony

1047 2nd St. \$2195

Lower 3 bed, 2 bath, near Promenade & beach

BRENTWOOD

12258 Montana, Brentwood \$1850

2 bed, 2 bath + new berber carpet, new linoleum, new vertical blinds

FOR MORE LISTINGS GO TO WWW.ROQUE-MARK.COM

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Announcements

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP meeting. Last Wednesday of the month; at Sunrise Assisted Living, Pacific Palisades call (310)573-9545/Linda.

Yard Sales

GARAGE SALE Antique Furniture & other great goodies! 9am-Noon 633 26th Street Santa Monica

HUGE GARAGE Sale Saturday 3/13 9am-2pm 834 22nd Street Electronics, household items, clothing, furniture

SIDEWALK GARAGE Sale Corner of Montana Ave, & 12th Sat. 3/13, 10am-2pm, jewelry, home decor, much, much more!

VENICE HIGH School flea market. 13000 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. Antiques, toys, crafts, collectibles, jewelry, clothes. March 13, second Saturday each month. 9am-4pm. Free admission & free parking. Vendor information call (310)390-5851.

Health/Beauty

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California law requires that contractors taking jobs that total \$500 or more (labor or materials) be licensed by the Contractors State License Board. State law also requires that contractors include their license number on all advertising. You can check the status of your licensed contractor at www.cslb.ca.gov or 800-321-CSLB. Unlicensed contractors taking jobs that total less than \$500 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board.

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Daily Press Classifieds

It Really



Works!

"My organizing services have certainly branched out along the Westside due to the exposure in the Santa Monica Daily Press. Busy families need organization and the response I have received from the directory has proved to be very beneficial. Whether you are a computer tutor or mover remind yourself to place an ad in the directory and hire a professional organizer to ensure more progress within your home."

— Christine Cohen

"I've gotten great response from my ad and a lot of jobs. You provide wonderful customer service and your rates are well within my budget. Dealing with nice people is always a pleasure."

— Frank, Realistic Roofing

"It's great to have a Santa Monica daily back for our community that gives excellent service."

— Howard Greenburg, Howard Management group

"I get lots of calls on my ads. Your service is impeccable. You take care of my needs & remind me of renewals. Your cover everything of what is important in Santa Monica. Your a great daily."

— Diego Guida

"Recently I placed an advertisement for employment for my restaurant located on the Promenade. The response I received was tremendous. This was my first experience with Santa Monica Daily Press. Mitch Troy made my experience easy and pleasurable and I will not hesitate to call Mitch for any future advertisement needs. Thank you Daily Press for all your help."

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It is imperative you contact us before you purchase that next Ford.

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selected vehicles in lue
of rebates.



2004 Ford Explorer

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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