

# Santa Monica Daily Press

*A newspaper with issues*

## LOTTO

### FANTASY 5

17, 18, 20, 25, 29

### DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 4, 3, 5

Evening picks: 7, 5, 6

### DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 08, Gorgeous George

2nd Place: 11, Money Bags

3rd Place: 07, Eureka

Race Time: 1:42.74



## NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

In Tarpon Springs, Fla., William Ray Hunter, 41, was arrested and charged with defrauding a series of at least 19 Northerners who had paid him a total of \$33,000 in advance to rent his mobile home for the winter starting Jan. 1. Hunter apparently had made no effort to move out by the time the tenants started arriving. Said Sheriff's Sgt. Bob Hart, "I don't think he thought too much about what would happen when everybody showed up. Most people have a plan. (Hunter) had the first part, but he didn't have the second part."

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Which is it, is man one of God's blunders or is God one of man's?"

— Friedrich Nietzsche

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## SMC students, faculty rally at Capitol



(Left) Santa Monica College students on Monday protest program cuts and fee increases while marching across Tower Bridge in Sacramento. They joined 10,000 other students and faculty from around the state, (right).

Martin Goldstein/Special to the Daily Press and Associated Press

*They are fighting tuition hikes and weak learning environment*

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Five busloads of students and teachers from Santa Monica College joined protesters from across the state Monday in a march on the Capitol in Sacramento.

**"We're voters. We're out there. If we don't get our money, we'll make our voices heard."**

— MARTIN GOLDSTEIN  
Communications teacher at SMC

The peaceful rally attracted thousands of community college students and workers, police said. It was intended to show legislators the force and solidarity of California's junior colleges,

which in recent years have faced deep cuts and rising tuition costs.

At SMC, the dearth of funding last year led to the elimination of a handful of academic programs, and the loss of hundreds of jobs

for teachers, workers and administrators. As a result, classes were cut by 26 percent and enrollment shrank by several thousand students.

"I was in automotive and it's gone," said SMC student Dina Cervantes. "I don't want that to happen again."

Protesters in Sacramento on Monday said they were optimistic that the situation will improve.

See PROTEST, page 6

## Denver considers options for helping homeless

*Like SM and LA, Denver plans to end homelessness in 10 years*

By staff and wire reports

When John Hickenlooper opened his brew pub in downtown Denver in 1988, the city's homeless often took shelter in abandoned warehouses and panhandlers saw few donors after dark.

Since then, many of Denver's historic buildings have been converted to pricey lofts, trendy retail stores and popular restaurants. A baseball stadium and a new sports arena now sandwich downtown, and a once-moribund pedestrian mall is clogged nearly around the clock.

It's a scene all too familiar for Santa Monica as well, which also finds itself in a quandry of how to deal with an increasing homeless population. Most residents — and certainly elected officials — want to lend compassion to the city's estimated 1,400 homeless people, but there are many who worry that their presence is

pushing tourists, business and residents away.

Denver's homeless population has grown, too, from an estimated 1,985 in 1990 to nearly 10,000. Hickenlooper is now mayor and he is searching for a solution to the problem, looking at everything from a ban on verbal panhandling to temporary shelters in public buildings, tents or even baseball's Coors Field.

Hickenlooper said he has never felt threatened by panhandlers, but has heard from colleagues who fear panhandlers are tarnishing Denver's image and scaring away potential national retail chains and tourists.

"There is a sense of urgency and this isn't something you can just address with Band-

See HOMELESS, page 10

## Drivers stopped at DUI checkpoint

By Daily Press staff

A DUI checkpoint over the weekend netted six citations, but no drunk driving arrests.

The Santa Monica Police Department stopped 130 vehicles in the 2900 block of Olympic Boulevard on Friday, March 12.

The checkpoint was fund-

ed by a state office of traffic safety law enforcement grant.

The SMPD issued six citations for a variety of vehicle code offenses, police said. A total of 580 vehicles drove through the checkpoint and more than 100 vehicles were stopped in a five-hour period.

The grant, called "CRE-ATE — Community

Resource, Education and Traffic Enforcement" is designed to improve traffic safety in the community. The goals of the program are educating and bringing awareness to the community, while at the same time detecting and removing drunk and irresponsible drivers from the roadways.

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## Pamper yourself, Capricorn

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)

★★★★★ Where associates and friends meet is where you want to be found. You might not always agree with those around you, but you'll get great ideas from brainstorming together. Remember, you cannot and will not have the last say. Still, meetings prove to be interesting. Tonight: Hook up with favorite people.

### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Your energy is well-placed. Focus on work, your public image and greater community commitment. Others respond to your innate charisma. Prepare to take on a greater role in the above mentioned areas. Your leadership skills come into play. Tonight: Catch up on a loved one's news.

### GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You might see what others don't and sometimes could be frustrated by associates' lack of vision. Glide past an emotional response and continue with your intellectual research. Gather facts, not feelings. Tonight: Happily listen to music at home.

### CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Deal with key associates individually if you want to succeed and make an impact. Express your sensitivity. Others respond well and want to get to the bottom of an issue. You could feel emotionally stirred or overly involved about a subject. Tonight: Have a long-overdue chat.

### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Others seek you out. All you need to do is be available. On the other hand, you might need to close your door and screen calls if you need to concentrate. Juggle your demanding popularity with what has to be done. Schedule lunch with someone you look up to. Tonight: Enjoy yourself to the max.

### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Dig into a project, and you'll complete it fairly easily. Your sense of fulfillment carries through in your phone calls and dealings with those at a distance. Drop a note to a friend during a break. Listen to a co-worker's sharing, knowing that this person has good intentions. Tonight: Mellow out in a favorite way.

### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Understand the role your creativity plays in your daily life. Someone might serve as a muse or inspiration. Schedule time with this person in the near future, even after work today. Express yourself on a personal level. Tonight: Be with someone key in your life.

### SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Energize at work or when seeking advice, knowing how important your security and domestic life are. An investment involving real estate could be most appealing. Why not check out the potential here? Get feedback from experts as well. Tonight: Get together with a friend.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Speak your mind, but also listen to others. Many people around you become more willing to communicate. A boss or associate expresses pleasure at how well you do your work. Perhaps now is the time to ask for a pay raise. Tonight: Catch up on a neighbor's news.

### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Balance your checkbook and make sure that everything is as you think it is before you make any monetary commitments or pay bills. Recognize that someone might be encouraging you to spend without thinking about the ramifications. Tonight: Spend a little on yourself.

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You hit a period where your magnetism, energy and intelligence peak. On some level, you might feel invincible and full of dynamic ideas. Others respond to your suggestions, especially as you express heartfelt feelings. Tonight: What would you like to do?

### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★ Lie back if possible, but if necessary, respond to those around you. Someone genuinely cares about your well-being and lets you know it through words or actions. Be willing to talk options right now. You have more than you realize. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

## Santa Monica Daily Press

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1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • [www.smdp.com](http://www.smdp.com)

### PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa .....ross@smdp.com

### EDITOR

Carolyn Sackariason .....sack@smdp.com

### STAFF WRITER

John Wood .....wood@smdp.com

### CHILD DEVELOPMENT COLUMNIST

Margie Altman .....margiealtman@yahoo.com

### ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

Rob Piubeni .....rob@smdp.com

### ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Steve Averill .....steve@smdp.com

### ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Rob Schwenker .....schwenker@smdp.com

### PRODUCTION MANAGER

Del Pastrana .....del@smdp.com

### PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Alejandro Cantarero .....alex@smdp.com

### ADMINISTRATIVE TRAFFIC MANAGER

Heather Rich .....heather@smdp.com

### CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Mitch Troy .....mitch@smdp.com

### CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Kitty Seeger .....kitty@smdp.com

### CIRCULATION MANAGER

Robert DeAmicis .....robert@smdp.com

### CIRCULATION

Keith Wyatt .....keith@smdp.com

### CIRCULATION

Glenn Bolan .....glenn@smdp.com

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

Dave Danforth .....dave@smdp.com

### MASCOT

Maya Furukawa .....maya@smdp.com

## LOCAL



# Blue Thunderbirds kick it down in tourney

By Daily Press staff

The AYSO's Santa Monica chapter of the girls soccer team has scored their way to the top of the heap.

The Santa Monica AYSO girls under 10 soccer team, The Blue Thunderbolts, won the Section 1 Championships in Hemet this past weekend. The team won their pool play on Saturday in Beaumont by defeating North Redondo 2-0 and Alta Loma/Rancho Cucamonga 1-0, while losing to Hemet 0-1. They then advanced to the medalist round in Hemet on Sunday. There, they defeated the teams from Phillips Ranch 5-0 and Alta Loma/Rancho Cucamonga 3-0 to place first in a division that has more than 1,200 girls' teams.

Maryanne LaGuardia, the Santa Monica AYSO regional commissioner could not contain her enthusiasm.

"This is quite an accomplishment considering the amount of league teams that participated in the Section 1 tournament and this Santa Monica team has proven to be the best," she said. "It is a tribute to the strength of our program."

The team must also attribute their success to the skill, tenacity and tireless



Photo Courtesy of Nancy Lucas

**Front row – Left to right: Alex Rodriguez, Sophie Innocenti, Dalia Kaufman, Hunter Conrad, Dana Ritchie. Back row: Sasha Meyer, Kendall Gustafson, Jessie Kendall-Bar, Kristen Vasquez. Coaches are Peter Meyer (left) and Angel Vasquez (right).**

efforts of their head coaches Peter Meyer and Angel Vasquez.

Next for The Blue Thunderbolts will be the Tri-Sectional tournament that will be held on March 27 in San Pedro, where they will meet the champions from Sections 10 and 11.

## Wilderness Fly Fishers cast out their annual auction

By Daily Press staff

An array of trips, gear and non-fishing items will be auctioned off at the Wilderness Fly Fishers annual Conservation Super Auction today, March 16.

Founded in 1965, the non-profit group enjoys a long history of supporting conservation causes, including local stream clean-ups, protection of fisheries and the current restoration of Southern steelhead runs. The club also operates the wildly popular "Trout In The Classroom," a program that teaches area elementary students ecology and biology by having them raise trout from eggs to release in the wild.

Among the offerings are numerous fishing trips to the most renowned fly waters in California and the West, as well as once-in-a-lifetime trips to some of the most sought-

after trout and salmon streams in the world, including Alaska, Argentina, Newfoundland and New Zealand.

Also to be auctioned are an assortment of state-of-the-art fly-fishing equipment, gear and clothing donated by top manufacturers. And non-fishers can support the club's conservation efforts by bidding on dinners at fine local restaurants, spectacular wines and tickets to a number of exciting venues.

The super auction will be held at the Olympic Collection, located at the corner of Sawtelle and Olympic. A silent auction will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and a live auction at 7:30 p.m. The auction and parking are free and open to the public. Dinner is optional. For information and reservations call (310) 280-3459 or visit [www.wildernessflyfishers.org](http://www.wildernessflyfishers.org).

## surf report

The NW ground swell will fade today as the SW'er fills in a touch more and is joined by some NW wind swell. That swell mix will start to slowly lose steam on Wednesday and Thursday.

Today expect 2-3' waves, knee- to chest-high with an occasional 4' and fair conditions.

Outlook: Look for the SW/NW wind swell combo to start to slowly lose steam on Wednesday. The good combo breaks still have 2-3' surf while stand-out SW/combo breaks hit shoulder high. Look for smaller surf on Thursday as the swell combo fades further.

Write us at [wood@smdp.com](mailto:wood@smdp.com) and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

Today the water is:

59°

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

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## The QLine

This week marks the anniversary of the U.S. invasion in Iraq. For a year, we've been at war and have still found no weapons of mass destruction — the main justification for the bombing. Meanwhile, thousands of civilians have been killed and hundreds of soldiers have sacrificed their lives. At least we got Saddam, most say. The main threat to the U.S., some argue, is still Osama bin Laden, who has disappeared.

Billions of dollars are being spent to turn Iraq into a democracy and yet one of our biggest enemies is still lurking in the

Middle East — probably planning the next attack on the U.S.

Many wonder when the war will end and how far we'll go. So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "When should we pull out of Iraq and start a full-blown effort to find bin Laden and his Al Qaida operatives?"

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

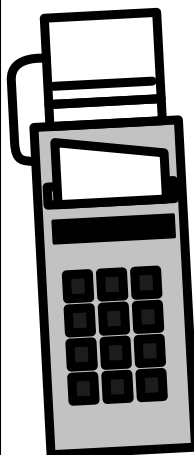
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## OPINION

## LETTERS

## Ignorance is bliss

Editor:

The City Council may have been slightly uninformed when choosing a Chumash name for the road near PCH (SMDP, March 11, page 1). The Chumash lived on coastal areas in what we now know as Santa Barbara County, their furthest southern influence being the natural boundary of Malibu Creek. The Los Angeles basin up through Topanga and into Malibu was occupied by Gabrielino Indians (different language and culture from Chumash). A record of the Portola Expedition of 1769 gives great descriptions of these people. The Gabrielino-Tongva may be reached online and will be most bemused by the city of Santa Monica's ignorance.

Somewhat bemused myself.

Mike Johnson  
Santa Monica

## Get your facts straight

Editor:

Santa Monica resident Marilyn Brennan "chuckled" in her letter to the editor ("Bush can't be reelected, SMDP March 11, page 4). Ms. Brennan stated that she "can't resist pointing out a misnomer ... (President) Bush cannot be reelected — let's not forget (President) Bush was not elected in 2000, after losing the popular majority vote, he was appointed."

Well Ms. Brennan, perhaps once you finished chuckling you should have picked up a U.S. history book from the local elementary school. You seem to forget that this great land is a republic, not a democracy. There is a difference. A "popular majority" does not elect presidents in this country. Our presidents are elected by the Electoral College.

It appears that what Ms. Brennan really "pointed out" was that you don't have to know what you are talking about to have an opinion.

Dr. Doug Cast  
Temecula

## Feed us inside and pay for it

Editor:

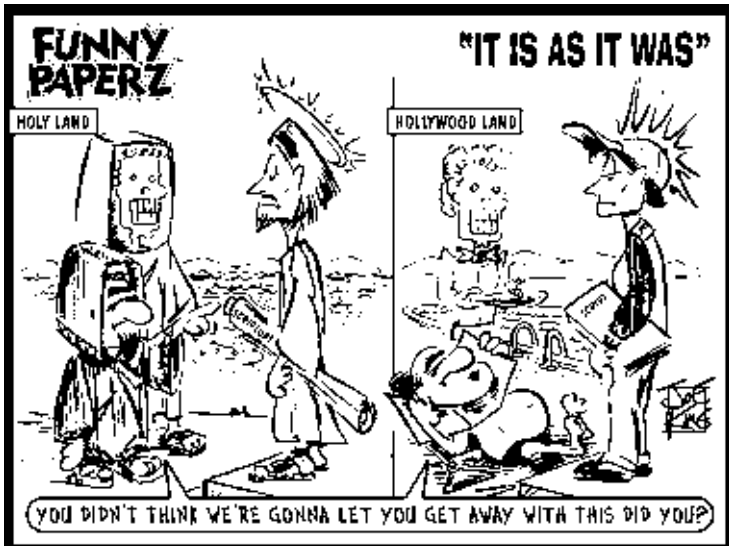
I want to see that people understand the truth about the homeless. In the SMDP, March 12, page 6 there was a comment that was partially right. Marjorie Campbell is right about the parks, but is incorrect about the homeless shelters. There is a shelter

for the mentally ill, domestic violence, but there is only one main shelter that maybe holds 150 people at a time. That is where all the money is going but there is a dire need of more shelter beds.

As Garth Brooks says in one of his songs: "Until every child has something to eat, every person has a shelter over their heads, and we walk hand in hand nothing is going to change."

Keeping the parks clean is wonderful, but someone has to give to get a little. We would not mind having an indoor feeding location, but the city of Santa Monica does not want it. You want the homeless to be fed indoors and not in the parks, then convince the city of Santa Monica to do something with the \$10 million that they received as a donation for the homeless.

Viper Meade  
Homeless in Santa Monica



## Like a fish out of water, SM aquarium needs visitors



## THE FLORA FILES

By Todd Flora

I'm proud to be a volunteer with Heal the Bay, the region's leading environmental organization dedicated to making our coastal waters and beaches healthy and safe for people and marine life. I was therefore pleased when my friends in the organization asked me to join a new advisory committee being formed for the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium.

But stop right there. Did you KNOW that there even exists a Santa Monica Pier Aquarium? And now that you do, would you like to know more?

In March of last year, Heal the Bay became the new manager of the aquarium, formerly known as the Ocean Discovery Center and run by UCLA. The facility is located on the Ocean Avenue side of the pier, below the carousel on the ground

level. Whether you're yet aware of the site or not, weekday field trips have brought roughly 20,000 students each school year to the aquarium, with an additional 20,000 yearly visitors coming through the aquarium during public visiting hours.

While it hasn't yet developed into the Monterey Aquarium or Long Beach's Aquarium of the Pacific, the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium is an important educational and entertaining resource tailor made for the pier, and for Santa Monica. Heal the Bay has established some ambitious goals in their efforts to use the aquarium as an extension of their efforts to promote responsible environmental stewardship and raise awareness of the ocean environment. Parents with young children should take note that the aquarium has launched a new preschool program for aspiring young marine biologists.

The family feel of the aquarium is what I like the most. The site is tailor made for children to play and learn side-by-side with siblings and parents during public visiting hours. The facility is equipped with "touch tanks" filled with marine life found in tide pools, exhibits, and interac-

tive display stations. Families can also enjoy the new kid's corner, a comfortable, inviting, interactive space full of books, games and puzzles centered on a marine theme. For those with an active imagination, the aquarium's kids' corner also features puppets for those who would like to choreograph their own aquatic story. Those who venture into the Santa Monica Bay room will find short educational features that are run throughout the day for visiting families. A computer lab provides just one more outlet for children of all ages to come alive and develop and appreciation for the marine environment.

But it's also "party time" at the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium. The facility offers itself as a unique, exciting and educational way to celebrate a birthday. At a competitive cost (compared to most public birthday party sites these days), families will enjoy exclusive use of the entire aquarium to celebrate birthdays and other special events. Call for details. The aquarium's public hours and general admission policies are as follows:

A \$5 suggested donation, with a \$1 minimum to enter. Children 12 and under are

free, but must be accompanied by an adult.

Monday — closed to the public (open for school programs)

Tuesday-Friday — 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. (school programs run from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

Saturday-Sunday — 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Phone: (310) 393-6149

I'm excited to be a part of the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium's new history under Heal the Bay's management. But more importantly — I hope YOU, the Santa Monica public, will take note of the incredible resource in your own backyard. Come on out and make a family Saturday or Sunday out of it. After all, the pier and its resources are for residents, too.

(Todd Flora is a seven-year resident of Santa Monica, and has been active with Heal the Bay nearly all of that time. Todd encourages readers to visit [www.healthebay.org](http://www.healthebay.org) to learn more about the organization and the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium. To comment or reach Todd, e-mail him at:

[reformadvocate@yahoo.com](mailto:reformadvocate@yahoo.com).)

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to [sack@smdp.com](mailto: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.

## YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press Attn. Editor:

1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202 Santa Monica • 90401 • [sack@smdp.com](mailto:sack@smdp.com)

## OPINION

# Hypocrisy of the right, deafening silence of the left



## LEGAL VIEWS AND NEWS

By David Pizarra

The current struggle regarding gay marriage is a wonderful chapter in our country's history. It's only through the heat of argument and the clashing of ideas that the true mettle of what we stand for as a country will become known.

I love the current conflict because it's forcing everyone to show their true colors.

The right, which calls itself conservative, is being shown for the issue based, shallow thinkers that they really are. The term "conservative" in politics means smaller government, less interference in business and personal issues. The current leader of the Republican party has demonstrated himself to be a meddling, discriminatory, bigot. The party is being manipulated by a few people "of the cloth" who espouse Christian ideals while besmirching all that Christ actually stood for. They are standing on the Bible to shout their hatred and bigotry, yet declaring their love for God.

The party of Lincoln and Eisenhower, has strayed far from its roots. When Eisenhower enforced Brown vs. Board of Education, he was taking an unpopular stand, but it was the right stand. President Bush is taking a popular stand and history will show it to be the wrong stand. The history of the Republican Party used to be one of social justice, President Bush has sullied a respectable past, with intolerance

and bigotry.

The left, which is supposed to stand for social justice and freedom, is stunningly silent of late. I am shocked and appalled at the excruciatingly painful absence of the black leadership on the issue of gay marriage. Worse still, is the position taken by a supposed community "leader" such as Jesse Jackson.

Jackson who heads up the "Rainbow/PUSH Coalition," in his 2004 Martin Luther King Day screed against President Bush, wrote "But the true insult to Dr. King's memory is not Bush's symbolic politics; it is the substance of his policies. Here the contrast is stark. Dr. King called on America to measure itself from the bottom up, not the top down. As the Bible taught, we should be judged on how we treat the 'least of these,' not how we cater to the wealthiest and the most powerful."

On the topic of Gay Marriage, Rev. Jackson said, "The comparison with slavery is a stretch in that some slave masters were gay, in that gays were never called three-fifths human in the Constitution and in that they did not require the Voting Rights Act to have the right to vote," Jackson remarked in an address at Harvard Law School. I guess the gay community doesn't even rate for Rev. Jackson. Pathetic that he has no problem throwing his lot in with the president on gay marriage, when it is politically expedient.

So it appears that Rev. Jackson is saying that once we have a Constitutional amendment against us, then we can equate with the black community. Thanks for the support. He evidently is comfortable with giving gays a "separate but equal" type of civil union, but his black school children should be integrated into all public

schools, because separate is inherently unequal when it comes to schooling. Hypocrisy, thy name is Jesse.

This issue has come close to home for me. I asked my boyfriend to marry me and he said "yes." However, the fact of the matter is, that it has no legal value right now. I don't get to be on his health insurance automatically. He doesn't get to make medical decisions for me automatically. We will have to have Powers of Attorney drawn up and carry them with us at all times for them to be effective. Our property has to be held differently, and I will still not qualify for spousal awards with Social Security, along with 1,048 other federal rights, even though the government continues to take our money.

I am very angry with the deafening silence from the left. Where are the black leaders when we need them? If the president came out and said, "The races should not be allowed to intermarry, because the Bible said so, they can have civil unions, but not marriage," would Jackson be so supportive of Bush? If Bush wanted to bring back slavery, "because the Bible talks about slaves so therefore God wants us to have slaves" how would that go over? You can bet your bottom dollar that every Black, Jewish, Hispanic and Asian activist would be burning up the phone

lines and fax machines with press releases. They'd call on the gay community for our support, and our money, and they would get it. But where are they now, when we need them?

Rev. Jackson said that the gays didn't require a Voting Rights Act to get their rights. True. But the women of this country did. Where are they? Where are the women demanding that we make equality a reality?

Where is the hue and cry for equality from the left? The Green Party, and the Democrats love "da gays," especially when it comes to throwing those fabulous fundraising parties for their candidates. But what are we getting for our money?

Conflict is good. It's only through the fire that iron is forged. I believe in every fiber of my being that one day I will be allowed to marry my fiancé. I've seen minds open, people change, society gets better. In America we have marched a continuous, if not contiguous, path to a better society. I know it will continue, I just want to know where the fellow marchers are.

(David Pizarra is a partner in the Santa Monica law firm of Pizarra & Grist. He can be reached at (310) 664-9969 or by e-mail at dpizarra@pizarra.com).

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**DID YOU KNOW?:** The most common name in the world is Mohammed.

## LOCAL

# Community colleges statewide face uphill budget battle

PROTEST, from page 1

"We're voters. We're out there. If we don't get our money, we'll make our voices heard," said Martin Goldstein, a communications teacher who's worked at SMC for four years, in a telephone interview from Sacramento. "It's democracy in action and it's a joy to see ... It's really contagious."

To be heard over the sounds of the rally, Goldstein had to seek out an out-of-the-way area. Protesters beat drums and chanted, while speakers used megaphones to excite the marchers — who started at Raley Field, crossed the Sacramento River and ended on the steps of the Capitol.

**"Community colleges are so important and contribute so much to our state."**

— ED ASNER  
Actor

The state budget proposal put forward by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, an alumnus of SMC, would funnel more money into the state's community colleges, but jack up tuition costs for the second year in a row. Schwarzenegger didn't appear at the Monday protest. He was in a Los Angeles meeting with Italy's ambassador to the United States, aides said.

An estimated 200 students and a dozen faculty members from SMC attended the rally, later meeting with Assemblywoman Fran Pavley in her office. They left Santa Monica in five buses Sunday night and were



Martin Goldstein/Special to the Daily Press  
Santa Monica College faculty on Tuesday discuss the elimination of eight vocational programs at Santa Monica College with Assemblywoman Fran Pavley in Sacramento.

expected to return early this morning.

The Sacramento trip followed a "Teach-In" at SMC Friday night, which attracted more than 70 people. During the event, teachers and students watched the documentary "Berkeley in the Sixties," signed petitions, passed out fliers and reiterated their commitment to restoring the cut programs.

"One day there will be a film about SMC in the nineties," said Ken Mason, SMC Faculty Association representative, referring to the Academy-Award nominated documentary.

Actor Ed Asner was on hand Friday to rally the troops.

"Community colleges are so important and contribute so much to our state," he said.

Kelly Hayes-Raitt, a spokeswoman for a group formed in response to the program cuts called "86 the Trustees — Put the Community Back in Our College," said Schwarzenegger's proposed \$8-per-semester-unit fee increase threatens to further gentrify the student population at SMC. She added supporters face an uphill battle to have the cut programs restored.

"The families who rely most on affordable higher education are the ones who will be cut," she said.

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## STATE



# Former leader accused of money laundering, looting

BY DAVID KRAVETS  
AP Legal Affairs Writer

**SAN FRANCISCO** — Extortion, fraud, bribery, graft, assassination attempts and illicit overseas bank accounts holding hundreds of millions of dollars.

Sound like a plot from the latest Hollywood legal thriller?

This real life drama unfolds here Monday when Pavlo Lazarenko, the former prime minister of Ukraine, stands trial in federal court on suspicion of laundering at least \$114 million of an illegally obtained fortune through banks in the United States.

Lazarenko, the first former head of government to be tried in the United States since Manuel Noriega of Panama, contends he neither siphoned funds from his government nor accepted bribes from big business in exchange for government contracts and favors.

Lazarenko claims he earned the fortune legitimately, in a burgeoning and nearly lawless free-market economy left to fend for itself after the Soviet Union's collapse. He also says that he planned to use the money in a campaign to unseat Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, the man who anointed him as prime minister in 1996 and then fired him a year later.

According to the 53-count indictment filed by U.S. prosecutors here, Lazarenko used his political clout to set up an international underground network of bank accounts to launder profits made through clandestine schemes involving natural gas, agribusiness, housing and other businesses in Ukraine.

Authorities and experts aren't sure where all his money went. A former economic adviser to Ukraine, Anders Aslund, estimated Lazarenko siphoned off as much as \$1 billion.

"He was the leader of a culture of pervasive corruption," said Aslund, now a scholar at the Carnegie Endowment in Washington, D.C. "I never encountered anyone who was as crudely corrupt as Lazarenko."

The U.S. government is trying Lazarenko to make the point that criminals should not consider the United States to be a safe repository for dirty money. "We bring cases where there is sufficient evidence when a crime is committed," Justice Department spokesman Matt Jacobs said.

Ukrainian experts, however, suggest there is a political side to the prosecution.

"Lazarenko represents the type of prime minister that the United States would not want to see in Ukraine," said John Hewko, a former Kiev-based legal adviser to the Ukrainian government and now an international law attorney based in Washington, D.C.

"The U.S. wants to see a pro-western Democratic government in place and Lazarenko doesn't represent that and Kuchma, at the time, was painted as the western darling," Hewko added.

After Lazarenko was appointed by Kuchma to be Ukraine's top energy official in 1995, he awarded natural gas contracts to the United Energy System of Ukraine, and in turn the company funneled more than \$120 million into Lazarenko's accounts, according to the indictment.

"Lazarenko, as a government official in Ukraine, would engage in various acts of extortion and fraud, and would receive funds that had been stolen, converted and

taken by fraud, and would transfer the proceeds of this activity into bank accounts in Switzerland, Antigua, Poland, the United States and elsewhere," according to the indictment.

Martha Boersch, the lead prosecutor, told U.S. District Judge Martin Jenkins during a pretrial hearing here days ago that Lazarenko "exercised his official authority in the form of people giving him money."

Boersch and other federal prosecutors involved in the case declined comment, but their case is outlined in a mountain of court documents for a trial that is expected to last several months.

During the trial, Lazarenko, who usually comes to court in dark business suits, will wear earphones during the trial, listening to testimony translated by a pool of Russian-language interpreters. Jurors, on the other hand, will watch tapes on a large projection screen of English translations of the testimony of dozens of Ukrainian officials and business executives who were questioned in Ukraine.

Now 51, Lazarenko fled to the United States in 1999, in the midst of his country's presidential election campaign, and sought asylum, claiming there had been three failed attempts to assassinate him.

At the time, he carried a Panamanian passport and the Kuchma regime was accusing him of embezzlement. The United States, caught in the middle, jailed him.

Lazarenko, however, maintains Kuchma falsely accused him to eliminate a political rival who was running for president.

He was released last year on \$86 million bail and placed under 24-hour surveillance.

The money laundering charges were brought in San Francisco because some of the millions were allegedly transferred to bank accounts here. In addition, the government says he used ill-gotten funds to purchase a \$6.7 million mansion where actor Eddie Murphy once lived in Novato, a suburb just north of here.

If convicted, Lazarenko could face 20 years in prison or more.

The judge in the case has ruled that to prove the crime of money laundering in the United States, prosecutors must demonstrate to jurors that Lazarenko violated Ukrainian laws and obtained the money illegally.

"We frankly don't think he committed any crimes in the Ukraine," said one of Lazarenko's attorneys, Doron Weinberg in an interview. "In the post-Soviet confederation, there was a time in which individuals would have the opportunity to amass a significant amount of wealth."

Experts suggest prosecutors have an uphill battle.

"The legislation in Ukraine was incomplete, unclear and subject to a lot of interpretation," said Hewko.

Adding to the political intrigue, Kuchma himself has come under fire at home and in the United States for allegedly authorizing the \$100 million sale of sophisticated radar to Saddam Hussein. Kuchma has also cracked down on the independent media ahead of October's presidential elections.

A Kuchma bodyguard made a clandestine tape recording in which Kuchma was heard discussing selling the radar to Hussein. Kuchma said the tape, disclosed in 2000, was fabricated. But the United States said the tape was authentic.

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# Santa Monica

A weekly look at events and programs for

## The difference between nurturing and overindulging

### How Much Is Enough?

By David J. Bredehoff

Parents often ask me if they are overindulging their children. They want to know what overindulgence is. They are curious, but aren't quite sure.

#### For example:

■ Did I overindulge my son? I recently bought my son a new pair of skis. The first time he used them he broke one in half jumping moguls. I quickly ran out and bought him a replacement pair because we were flying to Colorado on a ski trip the very next day.

■ My ninth-grade daughter never remembers to bring home the assignment folder which lists each week's assignments. So, I e-mail her teacher two or

three times a week just to find out what her assignments are, and if she is turning them in on time. I really want my child to succeed. I don't think I am overindulging her when I do this, am I?

■ I rarely ask my children to do chores around the house. I believe you only get to be a kid once in your life. After all, it is easier for me to do them, and I do them much faster. Furthermore, I don't have to listen to all of their fussing. Am I overindulging my children? So what is overindulgence, anyway? And why should you as a parent be concerned?

First of all, remember this: Overindulgence comes from a good heart. You can see that down deep, each of these parents want the best for their children. They want them to grow up to be happy, healthy, competent adults. A parent doesn't wake up one morning and say, "Honey, let's start overindulging our children. After all, we want them to be miserable when they grow up." No. Good-hearted

parents are pointed in the right general direction but they just need to make a few small course corrections.

"Defining overindulgence. How Much is Enough?" a book based on three research studies with 1,195 adults describes overindulgence this way — overindulging children is giving them too much of what looks good, too soon and for too long. It is giving them things or experiences that are not appropriate for their age or their interests and talents. It is the process of giving things to children to meet the adult's needs, not the child's.

Did these parents overindulge? Yes. Even though their intentions were good, they gave too much, were over-nurturing, or didn't provide the necessary structure for their children. And, more often than not, it is more about what parents need to do for their children rather than what their children need from them. Dad wants to enjoy his ski trip to Colorado, not put up with a pouting son who has to ski on his old skis. Mom wants her children to have a childhood because she felt she was robbed of hers.

There are three ways of overindulging. The first conclusion of most parents is that overindulgence is about too many toys, too many clothes, or too many activities. Our research found that overindulgence is more complex than simply "too much." We found three types of overindulgence. Overindulgence can occur in one, two or all three of these ways simultaneously.

■ Too much (toys, clothes, privileges, entertainment, sports, camps, etc.)

■ Over-nurture (over-loving, giving too much attention, doing things for children that they should be doing for themselves, etc.)

■ Soft structure (not requiring chores, not having rules, not enforcing rules you do have, or not expecting children to learn skills, etc.)

As you can see, the father who bought the pair of skis to replace the new broken pair, overindulged by giving too much, whereas the mother who e-mailed her

child's teacher was over-nurturing, and the mother who didn't ask her children to do chores was soft on structure and over-nurturing.

Why should parents care if they overindulge or not? Overindulging children can cause them pain in their adult lives. Our research found that those who were overindulged may have difficulties such as:

■ Delaying gratification.  
■ Becoming competent in everyday skills.

■ Taking personal responsibility.  
■ Knowing what is enough.  
■ Giving up being the center of attention.

Tips for avoiding overindulgence:

■ Change only one thing at a time. Identify which of the three types of overindulgence you do most often and start to change it. After a time, address each of the other two types.

■ Insist that your child figures out how he will replace a belonging that was carelessly damaged or ruined.

■ Teach respect for people and things.  
■ Decide which rules are negotiable and which rules are non-negotiable.

■ Be sure to enforce rules using reasonable consequences.

■ Teach children that every member of the family benefits by doing household chores.

There is more help about avoiding overindulgence in "How Much is Enough? Everything You Need to Know to Steer Clear of Overindulgence and Raise Likable, Responsible, and Respectful Children."

(David J. Bredehoff Ph.D., Jean Illsley Clarke Ph.D., and Connie Dawson Ph.D., are co-authors of "How Much is Enough? Everything You Need to Know to Steer Clear of Overindulgence and Raise Likable, Responsible and Respectful Children — From Toddlers to Teens." David can be reached at [bredehoff@csp.edu](mailto:bredehoff@csp.edu). To read more about overindulgence, go to [www.overindulgence.info](http://www.overindulgence.info)).

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# hnic Mom

or Santa Monica mothers and mothers to be

## CALENDAR OF MOMMY EVENTS:

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**LEPRECHAUN LAUGHS** – Tuesday, March 16. A special St. Patrick's Day puppet show with Mr. Jesse and Lester at the Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St., 392-3804. Ages 3-7, free tickets available day of show after 12:00 p.m. Showtimes at 3:30 and 4:30 p.m.

**WORLD CITY: FREE FAMILY PROGRAM** – 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. Saturday, March 20. At the LA Music Center's outdoor performance theatre. A monthly series that highlights the rich cultural diversity of LA. This month's program features South Pacific and Central Yup'ik Eskimo cultures with the Kahurangi Maori Dance Theatre of New Zealand and Chuna McIntyre from Alaska. Free. Keck Children's Amphitheatre, Walt Disney Concert Hall, 151 Grand Ave., LA 213-250-ARTS, www.musiccenter.org

**TOYOTA SYMPHONIES for YOUTH** – 11:00 a.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall Capturing the Air: Radio is this month's theme featuring jazz artist Dianne Reeves and the LA Philharmonic. Before every concert, the Walt Disney Concert Hall becomes a musical playground with hands-on art-making, musical activities, dance, theatre and storytelling. For all ages. \$15. 151 Grand Ave., LA, 323-850-2000

**SATURDAY MORNINGS at the OPERA** – 10:00 a.m., Dorothy Chandler Pavilion Introduces children to an opera experience including interactive art-making workshop. Bring pillows and sit close to the performers from the LA Opera. Today's program is an original production depicting the California Gold Rush inspired by Puccini's Girl of the Golden West. Ages 4 – 10, \$12, 135 N. Grand Ave., LA, 213-972-8001

**KID'S and YOUTH PROGRAMS** – City of Santa Monica. Registration began March 11, most classes/programs begin the week of April 5. Check out RecScape in the Spring issue of SeaScape or visit [www.santa-monica.org](http://www.santa-monica.org) for details on a variety of classes and programs including Parent & Me classes, sports, dancing, drama, art and more. 310-458-2239

**YMCA SPRING PROGRAM REGISTRATION** – Register now for the Santa Monica YMCA's spring programs including Parent & Me Gym & Swim, Toddler Time, Sports Jam, Drawing, Creative Movement and more. Spring session dates are March 27 – June 4th. Call 310-393-2721 for more info.

### TUESDAY

#### Movies for Moms

Featuring: "TBD" showing March 16 11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. [www.reelmoms.urbanbaby.com](http://www.reelmoms.urbanbaby.com)

**Leprechaun Laughs** – a special St. Patrick's Day puppet show with Mr. Jesse and Lester at the Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St., 392-3804. Ages 3-7, free tickets available day of show after 12:00 p.m. Showtimes at 3:30 and 4:30 p.m.

#### Storytelling

**Main Library** – Toddler Storytime at Reed Park; 10:00 & 10:30 a.m. Stories for two year olds with adult.

**Fairview Branch Library** – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443. Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m.,

thru April 6. Six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds with adult.

Lap Time – 11:00 a.m., thru April 6. Six-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant and Family Support Programs.

**Twilight Story Time** – 7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.

**Montana Avenue Branch Library** – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081. Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.

**Terrific Tuesdays** – March 23, 3:30 p.m. Stories and crafts for K-4th graders.

**Ocean Park Branch Library** – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804. Toddler Storytime, 10:00 and 10:30, thru March 30th. Music, rhymes and stories for 24-36 month olds with adult. Registration begins March 31 for the next session (April 13 – May 18).

**Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis** – Themes change weekly; for ages infant to 3. 11:00 a.m. 116 North Robertson, Plaza A, LA. 310-358-2500, [www.storyopolis.com](http://www.storyopolis.com)

**Barnes and Noble at the Grove** – Storytime for ages 2 – 6. 10:00 a.m. 189 Grove Drive, LA, 323-525-0270

### Coming March 23

Spring has Sprung – 3:30 p.m., Montana Branch Library. Stories and crafts about the changing of the seasons. Ages 5 and up.

### Yoga & Exercise

**Yoga Baby (Venice)** – 310-306-9381 – Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) – 10 – 11 a.m.; Pre-natal yoga – 7- 8:15 p.m.

**Yoga Works** – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

**Mommy Care** – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd., at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711. Pregnancy Exercise – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

### Breastfeeding Group

**The Pump Station** – 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY

**Storytelling**  
**The Walking Stick Coffee Lounge** – 1630 Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052 10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4. This neighborhood coffee shop has a comfortable atmosphere, toys and storytelling every Wednesday.

**Fairview Branch Library** – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443. Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m., March 3 – April 7; six-week series for 3-5 year olds with adult.

**Montana Avenue Branch Library** – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081. Lap Time – 10:00 & 10:30 a.m., thru March 31. 6-week series for children up to 24 months of age with adult. Toddler Story Time – 11:15 a.m., thru Mar. 31. 6-week series for 2 year olds with adult.

475-3444.

### Coming March 24

**YU-GI-OH Party** – 4:00 p.m., Montana Branch Library. Come play with other fans. For all ages.

### Yoga & Exercise

**Yoga Baby (Venice)** – 310-306-9381 – Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) – 10 – 11 a.m.; (infants only) – 1 – 2 p.m. Pre-natal yoga – 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Yoga Works** – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15

**Ocean Oasis Day Spa** – 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow – 10:30 – 11:45 a.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN – 408-1717

### Breastfeeding Group

**The Pump Station** – 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

### Other

**Puppetolio** – 1:00 p.m., 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

### THURSDAY

**Storytelling**  
**Babystyle** – 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9580

10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.

**Main Library** – Reed Park. Toddler Storytime at Reed Park; 10:00 a.m. Stories for two year olds with adult.

**Preschool Story Time** at Reed Park; 10:30 a.m. Stories for 3-5 year olds with adult.

**Fairview Branch Library** – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443. Toddler Story Time – 10:30 a.m., Mar. 5 – April 8; 6-week series for 2 – 3 year olds with adult.

**La Hora Del Cuento** – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.

**Montana Avenue Branch Library** – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081. Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m., thru April 1. Six-week series for 2 year olds. Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m. Stories for 3-5 year olds with adult.

**Ocean Park Branch Library** – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804. Lap Time – 9:20 & 10:20 a.m., thru April 15. 6-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant and Family Support Program.

### Yoga & Exercise

**Yoga Baby (Venice)** – 310-306-9381 – Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) – 10 – 11 a.m.; Pre-natal yoga – 7- 8:15 p.m.

**Yoga Works** – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

**Mommy Care** – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd., at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711. Pregnancy Exercise – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

**Breastfeeding Group**  
**The Pump Station** – 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY

**La Leche League Mar Vista** – 10:00 a.m. Call 390-2529 for info.

### Yoga & Exercise

**Yoga Works** – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.

**Yoga Baby (Venice)** – 310-306-9381 – Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) – 10 – 11 a.m.; (infants only) – 1 – 2 p.m. Pre-natal yoga – 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Ocean Oasis Day Spa** – 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow – 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness – noon – 1 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN – 408-1717

### SATURDAY

**La Leche League of Los Angeles/ West Hollywood** – meets 3rd Saturday of every month at Plummer Park Community Building (Art Room), 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood.

### Storytelling

**Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade** – Kid's Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

**Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion** – 10:30am – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144.

**Children's Book World** – 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd, LA – 10:30 a.m., 310-559-B00K.

March 20th – stories with Jennifer and Jon.

### Coming March 27

**YU-GI-OH Party** – 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Fairview Branch Library. Come duel at the library. Bring your own cards, no trading, all levels welcome.

### Yoga & Exercise

**Santa Monica Yoga** – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. 1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, [www.santamonica-yoga.com](http://www.santamonica-yoga.com)

**Yoga Baby (Venice)** – 310-306-9381; Prenatal yoga – 9:15 – 10:45 a.m., \$13 Mommy Care – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd. at the Dance Factory, West LA,

394-6711; Pregnancy Exercise – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

**Ocean Oasis Day Spa** – 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow – 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness – noon – 1 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN – 408-1717

### Other

**Cinderella at the Santa Monica Playhouse** – Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru March 28, \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, [www.santamonica-playhouse.com](http://www.santamonica-playhouse.com)

**Puppetolio** – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

**Magicoopolis** – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

**Youth Rugby** – Santa Monica Rugby Club (ages 6-15, co-ed, non-contact) Saturday mornings thru May 15; times and location vary; get details at [www.santamonicarugby.com/youth.html](http://www.santamonicarugby.com/youth.html) or contact Kilian Kerwin at [smyouthrugby@earthlink.net](mailto:smyouthrugby@earthlink.net)

**Precious Prints – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime** – Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Contact Kristan Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or visit [www.preciousprintsstudios.com](http://www.preciousprintsstudios.com) for more info.

See Special Events section for details on the programs below.

**World City: free family program** – 1:00 and 2:00 p.m.

**Keck Children's Amphitheatre**, Walt Disney Concert Hall, 151 Grand Ave., LA 213-250-ARTS, [www.musiccenter.org](http://www.musiccenter.org)

**Toyota Symphonies for Youth** – 11:00 a.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall 151 Grand Ave., LA, 323-850-2000

**Saturday Mornings at the Opera** – 10:00 a.m., Dorothy Chandler Pavilion 135 N. Grand Ave., LA, 213-972-8001

### SUNDAY

**Cinderella at the Santa Monica Playhouse** – Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. thru March 28, \$12

adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 2 for reservations, [www.santamonica-playhouse.com](http://www.santamonica-playhouse.com)

**Main Street Farmer's Market** – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing.

**Puppetolio** – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

**Magicoopolis** – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

### MONDAY

#### Storytelling

**Main Library** – Lap Time at Joslyn Park, 9:30 a.m., Jan. 5 – June 4. Ages 0-24 months with adult in conjunction with the Infant and Family Support program of SMMUSD. Followed immediately by "Family Connections" – a series of discussions related to early childhood development and growth. Children welcome, free.

**Ocean Park Branch Library** – 2601 Main Street, 310-392-3804. "Spanish for Little Ones", 11:15 a.m., Mar. 8 – April 12. Rhymes, songs and very simple stories in Spanish for ages 2-5 with adult.

**Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade** – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

### Breastfeeding Group

**The Pump Station** – 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, first class free, \$10 fee thereafter. Moms/babies 0-4 months, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

### Yoga & Exercise

**Yoga Works** – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15

**Yoga Garden** – Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal – 6:30 p.m., 310-450-0133. [www.yogagardenstudios.com](http://www.yogagardenstudios.com)

**Yoga Baby (Venice)** – 310-306-9381 – Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) – 10 – 11 a.m.; (infants only) – 1 – 2 p.m. Prenatal yoga – 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Ocean Oasis Day Spa** – 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow – 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness – noon – 1 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN – 408-1717

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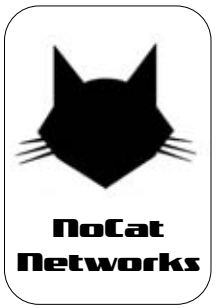


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## NATIONAL

# Denver mayor considers outlawing panhandling

HOMELESS, from page 1

Aids, like opening a temporary shelter," Hickenlooper said in an interview with The Associated Press. "In 10 years, I want to see that we have enough shelters and are moving people into transitional housing."

"I'm absolutely convinced that homelessness as we know it now can be eliminated in 10 years."

Denver, like Los Angeles, has embarked on an ambitious plan to end homelessness within a decade. The plans are supposed to be rolled out this summer and will rely heavily on federal funding.

A panel of about 70 people from the Los Angeles area — from politicians, including Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom, to business leaders to homeless advocates to faith-based organizations — is devising the plan.

Many cities are enacting laws designed to get the homeless off the streets, said Donald Whiteside, executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless.

"While cities nationwide face this issue, there are more efforts to criminalize practices that the homeless rely on," Whiteside said. "For some people, panhandling is the only means of survival. There has to be better use of the city's resources."

Whiteside said Hickenlooper's goal of wiping out homelessness is possible, but Denver will need federal money for affordable housing and job programs. He said a lot of that money now goes to other projects.

Denver's homeless population includes a wide range of people, from the working poor whose wages can't cover high rents to families, runaway teenagers and the chronically mentally ill.

John Parvensky, executive director of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, said the problem appears to be worse in Denver because the city has not kept up with shelter needs.

"Unless we see an ongoing revenue

source, it will continue to be a problem," he said.

On a recent day along the 16th Street Mall in the trendy, lower downtown section of Denver, Billy Martinez carried a white paper cup soiled from the hundreds of coins pedestrians have dropped in.

"I do this to get some extra money, sometimes for rent, but often just to be able to go buy a sandwich or a cup of coffee for myself," said Martinez, who works day labor jobs. "Man, people get tired of going to the soup kitchens. We all got some pride."

Martinez spots a nicely dressed woman. "Spare some change?" he asks politely.

Judy Miller of Lakewood digs into her coat pockets and comes out with a dollar. "I don't feel intimidated by the panhandlers, but I know some of my friends do," she said. "It's a tough call for the city."

Laraine Joy, dubbed the "Burger Lady" for giving free hamburgers each Friday to about 175 homeless, said many of the people she sees have drug or alcohol addictions but a large number also suffer from mental illness.

"These people are functional enough to walk the streets, but they are not functional enough to get a job and keep it," Joy said. "A lot of them would be eligible for housing assistance, but they need someone to help them through the process."

Hickenlooper acknowledged some of his proposed solutions would be a temporary fix. Last fall, he formed a committee to study homelessness shortly before a man sleeping outside froze to death near city hall.

The committee later persuaded a west Denver neighborhood to open a homeless shelter, but it is scheduled to close in April. The same group would like to bar panhandlers from approaching pedestrians and making verbal pleas for moneys.

The committee is expected to make a full set of recommendations to the mayor this spring.

## Mile High City? Not distinctive enough for Denver marketer

BY JON SARCHÉ

Associated Press Writer

**DENVER** — A few Denver residents are no longer uplifted by their city's old nickname of Mile High City.

Angela Baier, the city's first-ever marketing director, is hoping to generate a slogan that more clearly defines the image of Denver and the seven-county metropolitan area.

"We're not scrapping 'Mile High City,'" she said. "We're strengthening it. It would take millions of dollars and a decade or more to get another slogan to the awareness level of the 'Mile High City,' and why would we want to?"

Baier's research showed that people across the nation associate the nickname with the Rocky Mountains, skiing and the outdoors — not specifically for the Denver area.

"What that tells us is that there's a very clear association with Colorado, but when people are asked what comes to mind specifically about Denver, they draw a blank," Baier said.

Baier has been working for months with marketing experts, business leaders

and residents to come up with an umbrella theme that can be used in promotions involving the city. Baier will announce the theme Wednesday to a group of 170 business leaders and marketing experts.

If it seems odd that a 145-year-old city is considering a new image, Denver is not alone. The 30-year-old "I Love New York" theme might be the best known, and Pittsburgh ("Imagine the Possibilities!") and Houston ("Space City: A Space of Infinite Possibilities") are among other American cities that have conducted similar campaigns.

The project's goal is some kind of message — along the lines of "I Love New York" — that restaurants, hotels, government agencies and all kinds of businesses can use as a foundation for their own marketing.

"The overall idea is that by strengthening a regional identity, it will strengthen the economy," Baier said.

Among the slogans Denver has used over the years in promotional efforts, according to Baier: "A Place To Be," "Above the Rest," "Convergence Corridor," "Crown Jewel of Western Cities" and "Mile High Energy."

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# Suspect named months before bomb attacks in Spain

BY ANDREW SELSKY  
Associated Press Writer

**MADRID, Spain** — Months before bombs tore through commuter trains in Spain, authorities had suspicions about Jamal Zougam.

Investigators suspected that Zougam had ties to an al-Qaida cell leader and found a video of mujaheddin fighters during a search of his home, according to an indictment reviewed Sunday.

The 700-page indictment names Zougam as a follower of Imad Yarkas, who was jailed by Spanish Judge Baltasar Garzon for allegedly helping plan the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

Zougam's alleged al-Qaida links strengthen suspicions that the terror group was involved in Thursday's Madrid bombings, which killed 200 people and wounded 1,500.

The train attacks helped drive the ruling conservatives from power in elections Sunday. The Socialists, led by Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, defeated the Popular Party of Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar.

Zougam was not indicted by Garzon, but the indictment, dated Sept. 17, 2003, clearly showed police were keeping an eye on him. His home was searched at least once, turning up a video of mujaheddin fighters in Dagestan, Russia, and tele-

## Zougam's alleged al-Qaida links strengthen suspicions that the terror group was involved in Thursday's Madrid bombings, which killed 200 people and wounded 1,500.

phone numbers of three members of the Madrid al-Qaida cell allegedly led by Yarkas.

In Morocco, a high-ranking official said Zougam, 30, had been under surveillance for months on suspicion of having ties to international terror groups, but faced no formal accusations in Morocco.

The other two arrested Moroccans, Mohamed Bekkali, 31, and Mohamed Chaoui, 34, have no police record in Morocco, said the Moroccan official.

Spanish authorities have not publicly spoken of Zougam's alleged link to al-Qaida since his arrest Saturday.

Yarkas, who has used the alias Abu Dahdah and who was one of 35 people indicted by Garzon, remains in Spanish custody.

Intelligence agencies worked Sunday to verify another possible link between the Madrid attack and al-Qaida.

Early Sunday, Spain's Interior Ministry said police had recovered a videotape near

a Madrid mosque in which a purported al-Qaida operative claimed that the terror group bombed trains in Madrid to punish Spain's backing of the U.S.-led war against Iraq.

The tape was discovered in a trash bin after a man speaking with an Arabic accent called a Madrid TV station to say the tape was there, the ministry said.

In the video, a man, who wore Arab dress and spoke Arabic with a Moroccan accent, said the taped claim of responsibility came from "the military spokesman for al-Qaida in Europe, Abu Dujan al Afghani."

"Our reservations about the credibility remain," Spanish Interior Minister Angel Acebes said Sunday.

In France, an intelligence official said the name al Afghani is likely a pseudonym. The name al Afghani could mean the person is of Afghan origin or has some association with the country.

Moroccan security experts who previ-

ously spent nearly a year cooperating with Spanish officials on last May's bombings in Casablanca arrived in Spain to help in the investigation.

Spanish police have also arrested two Indians. Two Spaniards of Indian origin have also been detained for questioning.

The five were arrested after a cell phone and prepaid phone card were found in an explosives-filled gym bag on one of the bombed trains.

Friends of the Moroccans said the Madrid store where they worked sold cell phones but insisted in interviews with The Associated Press that the men would not have been involved in planning or carrying out the attacks.

"People shouldn't be put in jail for selling cell phones. They are hard workers," said Karim, who works in a phone shop near the now-shuttered store where the arrested Moroccans worked. Karim, an Algerian, did not want to give his last name.

Acebes said three of the five people arrested had previous records, and one was under investigation for suspected participation in murder, but did not elaborate. He earlier had said that one suspect might also have connections with Moroccan extremist groups.

The interior ministry identified the two Indian suspects as Vinay Kohly and Suresh Kumar.



## WORLD BRIEFLY

### Israelis attack weapons workshop

By The Associated Press

**JERUSALEM** — Israeli helicopters attacked a suspected Hamas weapons workshop in Gaza City early Monday and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called off a summit with his Palestinian counterpart — a first response to a double suicide bombing that killed 10 Israelis in a heavily guarded Israeli seaport.

The bombers, a pair of 17-year-old high school students from a Gaza refugee camp, apparently managed to slip through the heavily patrolled Gaza border fence, evaded tight security at Ashdod port and used high-grade plastic explosives — signals of an escalation in the militants' tactics.

Two militant groups, Hamas and the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, claimed joint responsibility.

In a first response to the bombing, Sharon canceled a summit, tentatively set for Tuesday, with his Palestinian counterpart, Ahmed Qureia.

Early Monday, Israeli helicopters fired missiles at three suspected Hamas weapons workshops in Gaza City, causing some damage, but no injuries. Sharon was awaiting the return of Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz from a U.S. trip later Tuesday before deciding on possible larger-scale strikes, a security official said.

### Last of taxi victims pulled from water

By The Associated Press

**BALTIMORE** — Two bodies were pulled from the cold, murky water of Baltimore Harbor more than a week after a water taxi capsized, leaving one last missing victim still to be found.

Divers were to go to work Monday hoping to find the last body — Corinne Schillings, 26, of Alexandria, Va. On Sunday, divers found the bodies of her intended husband, Andrew Roccella, 26, and 6-year-old Daniel Bentrem, of Harrisonburg, Va.

The discovery of the two bodies "will allow the families to have their grieving times, their funerals. Hopefully that's what we've achieved," Fire Chief William Goodwin said.

The Seaport Taxi flipped over March 6 in a sudden thunderstorm with wind gusts up to 55 miles per hour,

sending all 25 people on board into chilly, choppy water. Two victims died and three were declared missing.

Sonar equipment detected the two bodies Sunday. An 8-pound robotic camera that swims through the water took video to confirm the discovery, Goodwin said.

The bodies were found "a couple hundred feet" from where the survivors were rescued, at the bottom of a 60-foot-deep shipping channel that has been closed to traffic during the search, Goodwin said.

### Kerry pressed for more on his campaign

By The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — Democratic presidential contender John Kerry sought to focus on pocketbook issues in key battleground states, but found himself pressed to back up his claim that his campaign has the backing of foreign leaders.

Kerry declined to name any leaders who have voiced support for his candidacy, but said it's clear to even casual observers of foreign policy issues that this country's standing has sagged internationally.

"I'm not going to betray a private conversation with anybody," he said Sunday. "I have heard from people, foreign leaders elsewhere in the world who don't appreciate the Bush administration and would love to see a change in the leadership of the United States."

Pressed on the campaign trail and by reporters to name the leaders, Kerry declined, although he said they were U.S. allies.

Secretary of State Colin Powell started the debate when he spoke on "Fox News Sunday" and was skeptical of Kerry's claim.

"I don't know what foreign leaders Senator Kerry is talking about. It's an easy charge, an easy assertion to make. But if he feels it is that important an assertion to make, he ought to list some names," said Powell. "If he can't list names, then perhaps he should find something else to talk about."

### Bush holds out hope for WMDs

By The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — Bush administration officials continue to hold out hope that weapons of mass destruc-

tion stockpiles will be found in Iraq. But even if they're not, they say, the war to topple Saddam Hussein was still worthwhile.

The Iraqi leader, now in U.S. custody, represented "the most dangerous regime in the world's most dangerous region," national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

With Friday marking the one-year anniversary of the start of the war, the administration is aggressively defending its handling of the war. It blanketed the Sunday network news shows with its top military and diplomatic officials, who stressed the danger posed by Saddam and highlighted progress in rebuilding Iraq.

The CIA's former chief weapons inspector, David Kay, has urged President Bush to admit that the intelligence was wrong. But Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld declined to concede the point Sunday, saying 1,200 inspectors are continuing to look for easily concealed weapons in a country the size of California.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said Saddam never lost his intention to have weapons of mass destruction and he had the capability and infrastructure to build them.

### Bush goes for Pennsylvania votes

By The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — President Bush, hoping to move Pennsylvania to his win column in this year's election, is reaching out to voters in the state by touting record home ownership in America — a bright spot in the economy.

More than 68 percent of Americans own their own homes, and that record high flows seamlessly into Bush's "compassionate conservative" agenda. It's part of his concept of an "ownership society," which promotes the idea of Americans owning their own homes, and owning and managing their own health care and retirement plans, small businesses and the like.

In a trip to Pennsylvania on Monday, his 25th as president, Bush planned to visit with a new homeowner, tour a housing development and participate in a discussion of home ownership at a YMCA in Ardmore, about 10 miles west of Philadelphia.

Bush, who lost Pennsylvania to Al Gore in 2000 — 50.6 percent to 46.4 percent — badly wants to win the state this year. If he loses Pennsylvania again, though, it won't hurt his campaign as hard as it did in 2000. Pennsylvania has 21 electoral votes this year, down from 23 four years ago because the state lost two House seats in a reapportionment.

## COMICS

**The Dinette Set** by Julie Larson

edge

BY KEVIN &amp; PATSY LEBLANC

**Reality Check®**

By Dave Whammond

**Natural Selection®**

By Russ Wallace

**Speed Bump®**

By Dave Coverly

**CROSSWORD**

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Computer key

1 Boutique fixtures

6 Map

11 Parts of hearts

12 Not now

13 Long distance

15 Finish

16 Free

17 Porpoise's place

18 Oozing

20 Convened

21 Good times

22 Bomb part

23 Milk buys

26 Cornered

27 God of war

28 Draw

29 Cut off

30 Business gamble

34 Crumb bearer

35 Bran choice

36 — de plume

37 Golfer's hangout

40 Comic Kovacs

41 Modeling need

42 Appears

43 Computer key

DOWN

1 Track events

2 Be

3 Unrefined

4 Family

5 Minor

6 Bonnie's

7 Deli choice

8 Under discus-

9 Let go

10 Ministered

14 Equips photo

19 Places

22 Worry

23 Kingly homes

24 Siderite, e.g.

25 Eighth planet

26 Old photo

28 Rip

30 Casts a ballot

31 Dark

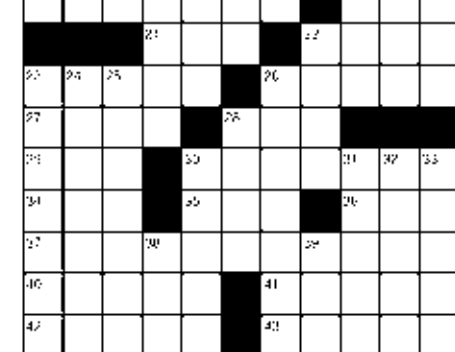
32 Waken

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3-16

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\$3 - 5K per week income potential work from home, NOT MLM. (800)570-3782 Ext. 4020.

A PRE-SCHOOL is looking for F/T Teachers. 12 ECE Units & one yr. experience. Will pay \$8-\$10/hr, medical, vacation & retirement benefits available. Call Dr. Anna 310-828-8454

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Attn: Michelle or e-mail Michele.McLaughlin@MossAdams.com

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EXPANDING SALON private rooms to rent, hair stylist as well as skincare related services. (310)577-3079.

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Seeking motivated Keyholder/Sales Associate for women's boutique on Montana Ave. in Santa Monica. Experience in retail, customer sales and opening/closing operations. Highly responsible, self starter as well as team player attitude. Part-time position with flexible hours and the ability to work weekends. Fax resume to E.M. @ (323) 584-5955

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HOT TUB 2004 Model. Neck jets. Therapy Seat. Warranty, never used. Can deliver worth \$5700, sell for \$1750 818-785-9043

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5-Speed, A/C, P/W, P/Locks, SHARP CAR! (ID#F116156)

### '01 Ford F150

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### '97 Ford Explorer Eddie Bauer Edition

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### '96 Ford Taurus

Auto, V6, P/W, P/L, Low Miles (ID#160363)

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Auto, A/C, CD + More (ZR116904) \$10,488

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VIN 392250 \$4000

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Sun roof, Alloy wheels, 79K miles  
VIN 102120 \$5995

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Montana Avenue Library, 1704  
Montana Ave.  
www.meditation4joy.com  
Suggested donation \$10.00  
\$5 for students

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3 BD/1 BA House, 3 car parking  
Enclosed auto garage, hard-  
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310-466-9256  
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8 UNIT building, spacious lower  
apt., washer/dryer, AC, refrigera-  
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freshly painted. Laundry,  
parking & no pets.  
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building with gated,  
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newer building with courtyard  
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PL DEL Rey, Gorgeous Studio  
Custom Painted, everything new  
750sqft, \$1050 call Jim  
1yr lease 310-821-2412

SANTA MONICA \$1300/mo  
2bd, 11/2ba, upper, carpets,  
blinds, refrigerator, stove,  
laundry, parking. No pets. 9th  
St. north of Wilshire  
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1517 19th Street #5 2bd 2ba,  
upper, bright, parking, laundry,  
painted. 310-450-3314

SANTA MONICA 1bd  
\$1,000/mo 17th Street & S.M.  
Blvd. New decor, appliances,  
laundry, street parking, no pets  
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SANTA MONICA 1bd  
\$1400/mo. New tiles,  
appliances, hardwood floors,  
bright/airy, beautiful garden  
area. Franklin/Arizona  
310-729-5367

SANTA MONICA 2bd  
\$1499/mo 2031 20th Street  
310-273-1185

SANTA MONICA 2bdrm 2ba  
\$1650/mo 15th Street. South of  
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floor. 310-312-8100

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\$1890/mo includes all utilities &  
cable, hardwood floors. No  
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r/s, hrwd flrs, laundry,  
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near beach, \$870

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hrwd flrs, yard, W/D hkups,  
prking, quiet, \$1100  
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ok, r/s, hrwd flrs, W/D hkups,  
new tile, prking, \$1800  
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Ocean View, 3bd 2ba+loft,  
dining, living, balcony, built-ins,  
hardwood floors 2 car garage  
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rm, dishwasher, patio, m to m,  
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## For Rent

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gated prking, \$700  
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SMC, bright, parking, \$1250  
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SANTA MONICA, upper, r/s,  
hrwd flrs, bright, 6 units, prking,  
m to m, \$950  
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Ave. #2. Stove, microwave,  
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parking, no pets 310-578-7512

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WLA \$1290/MO. 2 Bedrooms, 1  
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kitchen (310)391-8880.

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\$1890/mo includes all utilities &  
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in West LA, Rancho Park area.  
Large Yard, sunroom,  
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# CLASSIFIEDS



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## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

# Wesley Clark covers campaign debt with auction

By The Associated Press

■ **LITTLE ROCK, Ark.** — About 300 people packed into the offices that once served as Wesley Clark's campaign headquarters for a chance at history — and used office supplies.

Some who attended Friday's auction were supporters of the former Democratic presidential hopeful, while others were adding to their own offices. Still others hoped to make money reselling the items.

Steve Lopata couldn't pass up a pile of campaign memorabilia — including stickers, posters, mousepads and a miniature Clark Bar candy bar — for \$27.50.

"I think I'll give them to some died-in-the-wool Republicans to make them mad," said Lopata, a retired chemical engineer and aspiring science fiction author who said he was indifferent to Clark as a candidate.

Campaign officials hoped to raise about \$15,000 from memorabilia and office equipment such as phones, desks, TVs and computers, said Andy Kessel, campaign budget director.

He said he'd like to raise about \$500,000 from the auction and other fund-raisers across the nation to cover debt from the campaign. He estimated the campaign would end up owing that much after a Federal Election Commission audit later this year.

■ **RADNOR, Pa.** — Known for gracing the Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue and the Victoria's Secret catalog, Tyra Banks is moving into life beyond the runway.

"America's Next Top Model," the UPN reality television series she created and executive produces, is in its second season and has been picked up by UPN for two more.

And the shapely model also has recently debuted the video for her first single, "Shake Ya Body," a dance track produced by Grammy Award winner Rodney Jerkins.

"The (modeling) industry represents a revolving door: The new ones come and the old ones go. I'm still

in there, but I'm ready to kick myself out soon," Banks tells TV Guide for its March 20 issue.

■ **RADNOR, Pa.** — Timothy Olyphant, who plays marshal-turned-businessman Seth Bullock in HBO's new series "Deadwood," says the show doesn't follow conventional romantic notions of the wild West depicted on television and in movies.

"This is definitely not 'Bonanza,'" Olyphant, who plays the main character, marshal-turned-businessman Seth Bullock, told TV Guide's March 20 issue. "Everything you knew about television Westerns goes out the window with this show."

The show, centered on the South Dakota gold rush settlement that was home to "Wild Bill" Hickok and Calamity Jane, focuses on brutal realities of everyday frontier life.

Such a lawless community "revolved around violence, greed, liquor, whoring and dope," says executive producer David Milch, who was co-creator of "NYPD Blue."

"Getting nostalgic about a glorious West that never existed is pointless," Milch says.

■ **JUPITER, Fla.** — Country music star Alan Jackson held a surprise concert for his neighbors, trying out some new songs and polishing up some old ones before his spring tour begins.

Jackson called a radio station Friday afternoon and announced the impromptu and free show at Castaways Marina in Jupiter, near where he owns a home.

About 1,100 people packed the restaurant and bar. Jackson and his 10-piece band, the Strayhorns, performed for nearly four hours.

The multi-platinum singer and his band were resting up before their spring tour that start in two weeks. But they were itching to play, so Jackson called for show. He also told the crowd the fishing had been lousy.

■ **PARIS** — A French children's book author, who claims Disney's blockbuster "Finding Nemo" copied a fish of his creation, lost a court battle to ban the sale of Nemo products in France.

Franck Le Calvez argued that the lovable title character in "Finding Nemo" was based on his smiling orange-and-white clown fish named Pierrot.

Judge Louis-Marie Raingeard de la Bletiere ruled Friday that although the two fish resemble each other — both have big smiles and sport three stripes down the side — their similarities weren't enough to confuse people.

Among their distinctions, the judge noted the two fish have different smiles. Nemo's smile displays teeth and is "closer to a human's smile," while Pierrot has a "toothless" smile that the judge said was more dolphinlike.

Both fish are orange, but Pierrot is more orange while Nemo is closer to red, the judge said.

As for fans, it is "difficult to imagine that they would confuse Nemo with Pierrot," Raingeard de la Bletiere said.

Le Calvez had asked the court to order Nemo products pulled from French shelves while a lawsuit he has filed against Pixar Animation Studios and Disney is pending.

He argues that Nemo's creators copied his character and story, "Pierrot the Clown Fish," about a young fish separated from his family — a plot similar to "Finding Nemo."

The author says he registered his story with French trademark officials in 1995. After pitching his idea to film animation studios with no success, Le Calvez turned Pierrot into an idea for a book that he published in 2002.

Disney lawyer Magali Thorne had argued that her client's clown fish was already drawn up by 2000, before Le Calvez published his book.

As for the resemblance, she said, a clown fish is a clown fish.

"A clown fish is orange," she said. "It has three white stripes ... Everything is already there in nature."

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