FREE

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2005

Volume 4, Issue 107

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ The Las Vegas Sun reported in January that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services agency has begun phasing in an underpublicized policy of ending all walk-in traffic. Eventually, all immigration offices, to improve efficiency, will do business only by appointments made over the Internet (even though many immigration clients, most notably migrant workers, obviously do not have convenient Internet access).

■ Alan Johnson was arrested in Taunton, Mass., in November and charged with burning his girlfriend's 19-month-old boy with a cigarette lighter while baby-sitting. Johnson's explanation: The boy went into a seizure, and Johnson, recalling his lifeguard training, thought the solution was to raise the boy's body temperature to alleviate the seizure.

■ Ms. Sandu Florenta, 18, a Romanian, was arrested for shoplifting at a Tesco store in Wrexham, Wales, in December with "four packs of frozen lamb, three fresh chickens, three packs of stock cubes, finger chillies, a packet of burgers, garlic, peppers, socks and underwear, plus almost five pounds of oranges and apples" in a special sack under her robes. She told police that not many stores in Romania have carts, and thus, this is how people shop.

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1950, scientists at the University of California at Berkeley announced they had created a new radioactive element, "californium."

In 1958, the U.S. Navy launched the Vanguard 1 satellite.

In 1966, a U.S. midget submarine located a missing hydrogen bomb that had fallen from an American bomber into the Mediterranean off Spain.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"History is not life.
But since only life makes history,
the union of the two is obvious."

LOUIS D. BRANDEIS
U.S. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE (1856-1941)

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SMC students are feeling the parking pinch

City Hall to eliminate free parking zone near campus

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Some of the last free parking spaces available in Santa Monica are about to disappear, unless City Hall and Santa Monica College can agree to a compromise.

Members of Santa Monica College's Associated Students, an elected body that addresses student concerns at SMC's main campus at 1900 Pico Blvd., voiced concern last week in front of the City Council over 150 parking meters that were installed earlier this year on Pearl Street between 16th and 17th streets.

"If the city of Santa Monica prides itself on being progressive, you would think it would help address student parking needs," said Jeronimo Saldana, SMC's Associated Students president. "But the council seemed indifferent to our request."

City transportation planner and

See **PARKING**, page 6



Kim Calvert/Special to the Daily Press
City Hall recently put up parking meters outside of Santa Monica College, but students don't have to feed them yet.

Go fly one



Kim Calvert/Special to the Daily Press
Warm weather and plenty of sunshine made it perfect kite-flying weather at the Santa Monica Pier on Wednesday.

City Hall wins battle over $218K legal bill

By Daily Press staff

SM COURTHOUSE — A Superior Court judge has ruled against Santa Monica developers in a battle over nearly $220,000 in lawyer bills.

Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Linda Lefkowitz decided last month City Hall should not have to pay the Santa Monica Housing Council, which had accused city officials of illegally rejecting and downscaling some development projects.

The Santa Monica Housing Council and the California Housing Council filed suit against City Hall in November 2002, saying it was failing to observe a state law that requires government bodies to provide detailed reasons as to why development projects are reduced or denied when they otherwise conform to code.

See **LEGAL BILL**, page 7

The modern American family: always moving, never slowing

(Editor's note: The intimate moments that once were the glue of American family life are disappearing amid job demands and nonstop activities. Researchers examining the fragile family structure allowed The Associated Press an exclusive look at video and data from four years of observing 32 families. The AP also observed one family firsthand.)

BY JOSEPH B. VERRENGIA
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES — Jake Zeiss bolts from his west LA bungalow before 8 a.m., red hair damp and shirttail flapping.

After seven hours of back-to-back meetings, he volleys for an hour with his tennis pro. Still perspiring, he slides back into his Mercedes, gobbles a nutrition bar and does paperwork on a lap desk while his chauffeur burrows through the nation's worst rush hour traffic.

Jake Zeiss is 9 years old. His paperwork is multiplication tables.

He gropes for a pencil that has dropped down the dark, sticky crevasse of the back seat. And he's tempted by a new yo-yo. It's the kind that beeps and lights up.

"Jakey, is that a good use of your time?" hollers his mother, Kim, as she swerves past a loafing Honda. "How many problems have you done?"

The Zeiss family is late for hockey practice. After that, it's fencing lessons for Madison, Jake's 10-year-old sister. Their father, Gary, will meet them at the gym — hopefully by 8 p.m.

Kim Zeiss has transformed her SUV into a rolling Wal-Mart, with cases of snacks and drinks buried beneath backpacks and sports

See **FAMILY**, page 8



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Hang with friends, Aquarius

Santa Monica Daily Press



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)
★★★ Pressure builds because of a change of plans or news that heads in your direction. Rethink and adjust. Make calls and try to connect with those who might be affected. Tonight: Even if others are painting the town green, head home early.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★ Evaluate what it would mean to lose someone's support. You might feel the difference financially and/or emotionally. Schedule a talk to clear the air rather than have a problem with this person. Tonight: Hang out with a favorite friend or two.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Another person's challenge might stun you. The only way to win a power play is not to play. Question yourself as to why you attract this type of conflict. What is unresolved in you? Claim your power. Tonight: You will go overboard.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★ Take your time today. In fact, you might want to be unusually low-key. Reorganize your day, realizing your limits, both physically and timewise. Close your door if you want to get anything done. Tonight: Wherever you are, you beam in others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You can deal with a child's or loved one's difficult attitude. Find a way to creatively bypass this person's behavior and help him or her see the bigger picture. Success occurs when dealing with groups of people. Tonight: Call it an early night despite the fact that it's St. Patrick's Day.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★ Too much tumbles in your lap right now. Pressure to deal with some personal matters might make you feel like the taffy at a taffy pull. Relax and don't make a situation worse. You will get support from others. Tonight: Pretend you are Irish.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Despite a very upbeat conversation or two, you will need to revamp plans. Don't make this a big deal. Use care with machinery and touchy people. Problems could arise out of the blue. Tonight: Out late.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Teamwork could fall apart, despite your efforts to stay on top of a situation. Someone you count on could be touchy. Your ingenuity will help you move through his or her bad mood. Once you detach, a problem no longer seems so big. Tonight: Do the unusual.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ You might be the source of a hassle and causing more problems than you realize. Try going within instead of dealing with others and problems externally. A discussion could be unusually enlightening. Tonight: Be with your favorite person.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★ You might be going over worst-case scenarios in your mind. Ideas pop up that impact your work and home life. You might be overworking and overthinking things. Take a break from all this self-criticism. Make this a normal day. Tonight: Nap, and then decide.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You're full of ideas and fun. Just the same, you could be easily disappointed. Use your ingenuity. Solutions appear quite naturally. Pay extra attention to a child or loved one. Tonight: Hang with friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Concern over a domestic matter might keep you preoccupied. You might have a problem with work because you are distracted. Review a financial decision more carefully. Tonight: Yes, my Fish, today you're Irish.

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Students get state honors in music

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is renowned for having an exemplary, award-winning music program. That is accomplished with support from every aspect of the school district community including staff, administrators, teachers, parents, the cities of Santa Monica and Malibu and their businesses and residents — but most of all the students. The following accomplishments were achieved by the music students and faculty in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District during the 2004-05 school year.

Congratulations to three student musicians from John Adams Middle School who auditioned and were accepted to the 2005 All-Southern California Junior Honor Band and Orchestra:

Molly Bernstein, 8th grade, violin
Richard Dobeck, 8th grade, clarinet
Jessica Marot, 8th grade, clarinet

The students were among hundreds of Southland musicians who auditioned for the honor. The students performed on Sunday, Jan. 23, at Plummer Auditorium in Fullerton.

The California Band Directors Association has announced that four students from John Adams Middle School have been selected through audition to participate in the 2005 All-State Junior High Honor Band:

Richard Dobeck, 8th grade, clarinet
Jessica Marot, 8th grade, clarinet
Brittany Neff, 8th grade, clarinet
Alison Wolf, 7th grade, clarinet

There were approximately 1,500 students from schools throughout California that auditioned for the event. The All-State Honor Band was held in conjunction with the California Band Directors Association conference in Fresno on Feb. 17-20.

Four of our John Adams Middle School vocalists auditioned and were selected to be members of the Southern California Vocal Association 2005 Junior High Honor Choir:

Lucy Cano, 7th grade, alto
Nina Clark, 7th grade, soprano
Natasha Lipson, 7th grade, soprano
Madelyn Ross, 7th grade, soprano

The students were chosen out of several hundred singers who auditioned from all over Southern California. They will diligently rehearse and perform a concert with the other selected singers on Sunday, May 16, at 2 p.m. in Hacienda Heights, under the direction of Dr. Charlene Archibeque, director of choral activities at San Jose State University.

Samohi Choir:
Two students in the classical All-State Mixed Honor Choir:
Ilana Summers
Frank Varela

See **BRIEFS**, page 7



Cooper Shaw is this week's mystery photo winner. Shaw accurately described that this photo was taken at the corner of Maple and Euclid streets. Shaw has won a gift certificate to Izzy's Deli. Check the Monday edition for the next mystery photo contest.

Donation location for one homicide victim changed

By Daily Press staff

The mother of one of the two young men killed at a March 5 birthday party in Sunset Park asked Wednesday that donations for her son's burial be sent to a new location.

People wishing to contribute in memory of Jonathan Hernandez were asked to make checks out to "The Jonathan Hernandez Trust Memorial Fund" and send them to "Wells Fargo; Attention: Service Manager; 2940 Ocean Park Blvd.; Santa Monica, Calif., 90405."

Donations previously were sent to the Pico Neighborhood Association, a nonprofit neighborhood group. People wishing to contribute in memory of Hector Bonilla, who also was killed on March 5, still were asked to make their checks out to "The Pico Neighborhood Association" with "Victims Violence Support Fund" written in the memo. PNA leaders asked that donations be sent to "PNA; 1705 Pico Blvd., No. 125; Santa Monica, Calif., 90404."

Natalie Preciado, Hernandez' mother, said she requested the change for donations in her son's name because it would make it easier to manage the contributions.

"It's hard to keep track of the money and how much is really coming in," said Preciado, adding she had received more than $1,300 from the PNA as of Wednesday and another $1,000 from a car wash last weekend at Santa Monica High School.

Relatives of Bonilla said Wednesday they likely would set up a bank account later this week to manage further contributions. Maria Loya of the PNA said the neighborhood group likely would stop accepting donations for the two mens' families by the end of this week.

SURF REPORT

The SW and NW ground swell combo continued along the California coast Wednesday, but both swells were on the way out. The combo backs down further Thursday and Friday, with waves dropping below waist high for most breaks in the bay.
OUTLOOK: Good news. The weekend is in for a wallop from the NW. But this next swell is looking stormy.

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

Today the water is:

62°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	4:21	0.8	4:23	0.4	10:25	4.7	10:39	5.4
SUNDAY	5:09	0.2	4:49	1.1	11:13	4.0	11:11	5.2
MONDAY	6:03	0.4	5:10	1.7	12:20	3.2	11:44	5.0
TUESDAY	7:11	0.6	5:19	2.3	N/A	N/A	1:41	2.7
WEDNESDAY	8:47	0.8	N/A	N/A	12:24	4.6	N/A	N/A
THURSDAY	**10:36**	**0.7**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**1:26**	**4.3**	**N/A**	**N/A**
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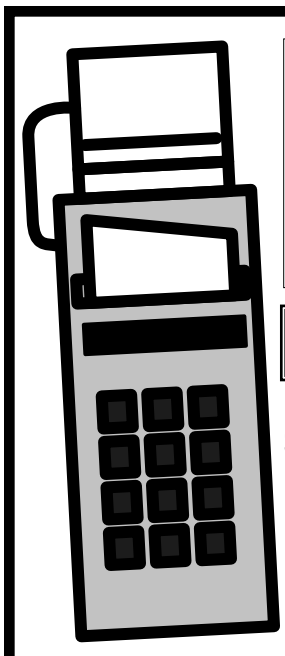
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The Q Line

The City Council recently passed a $11.50 minimum wage for city employees and employees of contractors doing at least $50,000 worth of business with the city. Officials say the wage will make it possible for employees to live as well as work in Santa Monica. Others say the measure will cost taxpayers a bundle and provide no noticeable benefits to them.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, **"Do you support an increased minimum wage for these employees? Why or why not?"**

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your responses in the weekend edition. Please try to 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 TO THE EDITOR

Ready for new blood

Editor:

As to the resignation of the city planner, (SMDP, March 15, page 1), I can only say "good riddance." I must admit, however, that I am sorry for the city of Long Beach. They are in for a long haul.

Robin Steely
Santa Monica

Ignorance is our real enemy

Editor:

Ron Smith in his column on the 10 Commandments (SMDP, March 10, page 4) was wrong in his claim that Muslims believe in a different God than Jews and Christians. Jews, Christians and Muslims all worship the God that spoke to Moses, Jacob and Abraham in the Old Testament. Muslims believe in the same God as Christians and Jews, and not the opposite as Mr. Smith states in his column. Arabic speaking Jews, Christians and Maltese Catholics all use the word "Allah" when talking about God since they speak Arabic and not English. In French it is "Dieu," Spanish is "Dios," German is "Gott," Italian is "Dio," Arabic is "Allah," and in the ancient Aramaic language of Jesus the word was "Elah." They are all talking about the God in the Old Testament.

As Christians, we share with Muslims many of the same beliefs about Jesus. The virgin birth, the second coming, and judgment day. Jews, Christians and Muslims all share the Old Testament as a holy book, but each have other sacred texts they follow as well. Muslims do not worship Mohammed since he is considered a Prophet. Jews, Christians and Muslims do not worship Abraham either as he is also considered a Prophet.

The real war in the Middle East is the fight against ignorance on all sides and has little to do with religion.

Victoria Ciudadreal
Santa Monica

Clamp down on gun control

Editor:

Gun control is practically non-existent and should be more strictly regulated to ensure the safety of citizens. A study by the Violence Policy Center concluded that the firearms industry is the least regulated of all consumer products despite the fact that guns kill far more Americans every year than all household and recreational products combined. According to the Brady Campaign, this lack of regulation has become a major contributing factor in the following telling statistic. Assaults with handguns are 12 times more likely to result in death than are non-firearm attacks. Solutions for this problem are as numerous as the heartbreaking stories which fill our media daily.

Penalties for possession of the unlicensed "junk gun," which has been outlawed by Congress should be made more severe. The Violence Policy Center has found that these far too easily attainable guns are the weapon of choice for juveniles involved in violent crime. Stricter laws and more stringent enforcement would reduce the amount of individuals who would risk owning such armaments.

Firearm purchases over the Internet, through gun shows and informal agreements between acquaintances, require neither background checks nor waiting periods and fall through the crack of state-imposed restriction. Regulating these "secondary market" sales would prevent dangerous and unstable people and those lashing out in the heat of passion or drug-altered aggression from obtaining these life-altering machines.

Gun control must be stricter and more efficient so that the law-abiding citizens of this country can feel safe in knowing only responsible and qualified people will be able to possess a firearm. In order to reduce unintentional deaths due to guns, a firmer jurisdiction must be enforced on the laws requiring gun ownership.

Savannah Gonzales
Santa Monica

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.

Bereft of opinion, SMDP columnist goes on strike

NEWS ON THE EDGE
BY RON SCOTT SMITH



I'm on strike. I have declared an opinion stoppage for no particular reason other than I don't have one today.

I will comment on no Al of any size, shape or form. Not Al Zarqawi, who now wants to terrorize America. Not Al Qaeda, who already did. Not Allawi, who got kicked out of the new government in Iraq before it even started. Not Ali Sistani, who took over the new government in Iraq before it even started. Not Sharpton either. Out of sight, out of mind, any Al anywhere.

I have no opinion about Bush, nor one about Rumsfeld, Cheney, Rice or any permutations of any of the above. Nothing to say about Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, Lebanon, North Korea or the untidy mess that's been made of them and all their evil ways.

The latest Anthrax scare in post offices back east? Zilch. Or the terror-color-code-alert thing that we haven't heard from since oh, right around the first Tuesday of last November? Nada. And I've got nothing to say about cuts of any kind, not tax cuts for the rich nor social-safety-net cuts for the poor. Read elsewhere about how minimum wage stays glued to $5.15 per hour for fear of the collapse of capitalism that would ensue as every company in America would be hanging an "out of business" sign on the door if they have to raise that wage. So goes the discourse, but not here.

I'm zipping it, too, about the attempted dismantlement of Social Security in Washington and how the neocons running the show seem to be attempting to dismantle anything with "social" attached to it. Tacking an "ism" onto that word is how their hordes of compassionate-conservative radio talk-show hosts keep red-state types lined up in a row against social programs with any true compassion attached to them, but you'll find no mention of them here. I'm attached to a work stoppage.

So I leave alone the master conservative Rush Limbaugh, who started it all, along with morning blonde bitch conservative Laura Ingram, or snide new drive-time conservative Doug McIntyre, who she goes up against, or self-proclaimed queer conservative Al Rantel, or self-proclaimed African American conservative Larry Elder, or devout Jewish conservative Dennis Prager, or head-shrinking conservative Dr. Laura Schlesinger, or spinned-out conservative Bill O'Reilly, or comic-impressionist conservative Phil Hendrie, or Republican boot-licking conservative Sean Hannity, or local issues-oriented conservative John Kobylt, or any of the others up and down your dial with names like Medved, Savage, Hewitt, Zeigler, Handel. Who did I forget? Oh, Art Bell, too, the conservative talk-host from outer space or beyond. In the midst of that non-stop maelstrom of Republican talking points, the only thing identified by any local station as a "liberal" voice has been that of a guy with the idiotic moniker of "Mr. KABC," who's on for a couple hours at night when everybody's watching TV, but I have nothing to say about that.

Mel Gibson bought an island in the Pacific with the money he made off Jesus? No comment. Toby Keith's fortune rung up on the backs of 1,500 dead American soldiers, by singing ass-kicking war anthems that probably only served to inflame the enemy? No comment. Maybe Toby in some way has inspired some of the troops artistically, as the LA Times reports that many GIs are shooting raw battle footage and editing it into heavy-metal death and destruction videos, creating one-of-a-kind war souvenirs. One soldier was quoted, "I have a lot of pictures of dead Iraqis — everybody does."

You won't find me talking about how Halliburton just got busted — again — for overcharging the U.S. government — again — as in you and me that is — by more than $100 million on a contract to deliver fuel to Iraq. Somebody is bound to bring up the fact that Dick Cheney still owns hundreds of thousands of shares in that company, but it won't be me. Not today. WorldCom's chief Bernard Ebbers just got sent up the river, but so what, nobody's getting their money back. Enron and one of the president's best friends, Kenny Lay? Out of sight, out of mind, out of opinion.

So, what do I put in here today, I've been asking myself, seeing how I'm on strike and all? Can't just let a big, empty white space show up in here, can we? I know what many out there might be thinking — and you know who you are — that the white space would be more insightful than the usual fare.

(Ron Scott Smith can be reached at Edgeofthewest@aol.com.)



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

Business

SANTA MONICA BUSINESS BRIEFS

Real estate firm brings on veteran

By Daily Press staff

Scott Farb, CPA, has joined Gumbiner Savett Inc., one of the largest full-service accounting firms in Southern California, as the managing principal in charge of the firm's national real estate practice.



SCOTT FARB

"After 50 years of providing diversified accounting services, expanding our real estate practice is a natural progression for us," said Lou Savett, chairman of Gumbiner Savett Inc. "As a well-regarded specialist in the real estate and hospitality industries, Scott's intense hands-on approach, coupled with his extensive real estate knowledge give us the expertise needed to expand this area of our firm."

Prior to joining Gumbiner Savett Inc., Farb served as the principal-in-charge of Rothstein Kass & Company's National Real Estate Practice. He also served as a senior partner at Ernst & Young, LLP. Prior to Ernst & Young merging with Kenneth Leventhal & Company in 1995, Farb was the partner-in-charge of Kenneth Leventhal & Company's Entrepreneurial Services Group.

Over the years, Farb has served a wide variety of public, private and institutional real estate clients including real estate private equity and pension funds; residential, commercial, industrial and hotel resort developers, as well as commercial property owners and managers.

Farb continues to expand his involvement in the industry serving as a keynote speaker on real estate accounting and strategic matters before numerous industry groups. He has also authored a wide variety of articles on real estate related topics that regularly appear in national publications.

A New Yorker by birth, Farb graduated from Hofstra University, magna cum laude, and is a George F. Baker Scholar. His professional organizational affiliations include the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the California Society of Certified Public Accountants, the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants, and the Urban Land Institute (ULI). In addition, he currently serves as a board member of the Southern California chapter of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP).

Gumbiner Savett Inc. is an established CPA firm that specializes in providing a full range of accounting, audit, tax and consulting services, based in Santa Monica.

GUEST COMMENTARY **BY ROB JUPILLE**

Social Security private accounts are a bad idea

You would think that as a Santa Monica-based financial planner and money manager, I would whole-heartedly endorse President Bush's Social Security reform proposal. Despite the obvious benefit to fee-based planners like me, President Bush's current proposal is a bad idea for one simple reason: The average American stinks at managing their equity investments.

President Bush's controversial proposal provides workers with the opportunity to invest a portion of their Social Security taxes into self-directed retirement accounts. The premise is simple and, quite frankly, valid. By allowing individuals to invest a portion of their Social Security tax in the stock market, their returns over the long run should exceed what they would have earned had the money been invested in the Social Security system itself. Over time, this should allow the system to maintain its solvency beyond its current projection.

So, younger clients would be allowed to have some control over their retirement assets, and this should extend the likelihood that they will have some form of Social Security protection available to them at retirement. It also would provide me with an opportunity to assist them in investing in privatized funds — at my regular fee, of course.

You'd think I'd love this plan, but there's one problem, the "shoulds" don't pan out. You see, most individual investors just don't increase their returns when they invest in the stock market.

A recent study by Dalbar, a Boston financial services research firm, found that from January 1984 to December 2000, a time generally regarded as one of the greatest bull markets ever, the S&P 500 averaged 16.29 percent per year. Unfortunately, the average U.S. equity investor earned a paltry 5.32 percent per year. That's less than they would have earned in risk-free Treasury Bills during the same period. How is it that the average investor can perform so poorly during such a strong market? Simply put, their dramatic underperformance can be tied to the misguided confidence they have in their ability to time the markets.

We drive this home with our clients all the time, but it bears repeating: Trying to time the market based on somebody's best guess of its short-term direction is a fool's game. Unfortunately, the typical individual investor does this continually when they hunt for the next hot stock fund. After reading numerous magazines with headlines such at "The 10 Best Funds to Buy Today," and confident they've finally found the next hot thing, they buy. The problem is that by the time they pull the trigger and place the order, their "hot" fund has already peaked. Once it starts to decline, they bail out. The pattern is repeated time and again with the same result: Buying high and selling low. This is hardly a formula that will increase one's Social Security benefits.

These same investors would be much better served by developing an asset allocation based on their individual time frame, retirement goals, and risk tolerance, only adjusting the mix as their personal circumstances change. This approach is neither exciting nor terribly sexy, but the fact is that this buy-and-hold, asset allocation strategy works.

According to Dalbar, "Mutual fund investors who practice a buy-and-hold strategy earn higher real investor returns than those who attempt to time the market."

Traditionally, politicians have avoided the Social Security discussion like the plague, and President Bush's focus on Social Security reform is a bold step in the right direction.

While we are by no means fans of government intrusion into our lives, the average investor has consistently shown an inability to match the performance of the market, let alone beat it. In order for Mr. Bush's Social Security privatization proposal to work, it must come with restrictions that limit the self-destructive and emotional investment behavior that has caused investors' sub-par performance, even during bull markets. By limiting both investor choices as well as imposing severe penalties for market-timing activity, a workable solution can be achieved. Until I see evidence of these restrictions, however, Social Security privatization is a bad idea.

(Santa Monica-based financial planner Rob Jupille is the president of RTJ Financial Management, Inc.)

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LOCAL

SMC students, City Hall want more parking at campus

PARKING, from page 1

director Lucy Dyke said the meters were placed on Pearl Street during the winter break because of complaints her office received that parking congestion blocked traffic.

"The meters were installed in order to try to encourage the immediate parking on Pearl Street for short-term use," Dyke said. "Students who needed parking for long-term use would be encouraged to seek it at one of the college's parking structures."

However, Dyke said City Hall has held off on activating the meters.

"There are meter posts and housing for the meters, but there are no mechanisms in place to collect money," Dyke said. "The city was requested by the college to not make the meters active.

"There are no definite plans to install the money-collecting mechanisms until there is some final resolution."

The city of Santa Monica typically charges 75 cents per hour for metered parking. Saldana said SMC students are asking City Hall to charge 25 cents per hour, with a maximum of four hours per vehicle allowed at each meter. He said such rates would give most students the time they need to park and attend their classes without having to worry about paying the meter or risk getting a ticket.

Saldana said SMC students also would like City Hall to consider changing the status of preferential parking in the area so students can park on residential streets from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., which are peak hours at the campus. Currently, parking is prohibited in residential areas around the campus unless people have permits, which are not available to students. SMC's director of advertising, Don Girard, said the college is working with City Hall to develop a plan to improve parking availability around the main campus.

"We're trying to preserve the middle class, and we're going to need partners in doing that," Girard said. "The college only wants to discuss the issues that will improve the quality of life for students and their access to courses.

"One thing that needs to be kept in mind is that Santa Monica College is part of a regional economy, and it will need regional solutions," he added.

Girard said one-third of SMC students live in Santa Monica, and two-thirds of students who attend the college commute from outside the city.

Girard said parking at SMC's main campus is limited, and the 150 spaces on Pearl Street are an important part of the parking access available to students.

In addition to the 150 spaces on Pearl Street, students who drive to campus may pay $75 for each winter and spring semester to park in one of two sites, a parking garage and a parking lot. Girard said SMC sells the same space several times, with a four- or five-time turnover expected daily.

Students said at the City Council meeting that parking on those sites is difficult during peak school hours, and not guaranteed.

There also is free parking available at the Santa Monica Airport, where a shuttle transports students to the main campus, Girard said. About 1,700 students use the shuttle one way daily, Girard said.

Students said the parking at the airport is often congested. Also, students driving to campus said they sometimes need to wait up to two hours in the mornings to get a space at the airport.

Besides driving alone or carpooling to campus, Girard said students also can drive part-way and park in commercial streets away from the main campus, then bike or take the bus. Some councilmembers suggested student drivers park in neighborhoods in Brentwood if needed, then take the bus. It's estimated that about 2,500 students use the bus on a daily basis, Girard said.

But students said that the buses are often overcrowded, stuck in traffic just like other vehicles, and that transferring from different modes of transportation causes them to spend hours every school day commuting — time they said they would rather spend studying.

Councilman Richard Bloom said the parking problem near SMC's main campus is not just a problem for college students.

"There is also not enough parking at John Adams Middle School," Bloom said. "The college needs to look into providing another parking structure."

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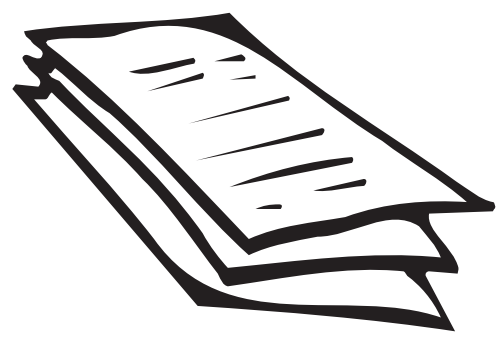
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Santa Monica Daily Press

SM the Westside leader in building new housing

LEGAL BILL, from page 1

At issue was the developers' claim that many projects were tossed out by the City Council or Planning Commission without good cause.

City Hall had begun to follow the state law, which required it to detail a rejected or downscaled project's adverse effects to neighbors or its health and safety dangers. Still, it did so begrudgingly. Assistant City Attorney Joe Lawrence said City Hall included a disclaimer with its findings in each case stating it shouldn't have to enforce the law because it is a charter city and therefore not subject to the state law.

When the case later was settled and the city began following the state law without a disclaimer, City Hall was sued for attorney fees.

In denying the housing council and attorney Chris Harding's request for fees, Judge Lefkowitz found the lawsuit had resulted in no benefit either to the public or to the property developers who warranted recovery of attorney fees.

Judge Lefkowitz also found the evidence presented showed the city "consistently applied the statute" in compliance with the law.

Harding didn't return calls seeking comment Wednesday.

In a press release issued after the ruling, city officials said Santa Monica is the Westside leader in housing production. For the period from 1998 to 2005, the city permitted 2,547 housing units, according to city officials.

Santa Monica also has issued more building permits for multi-family housing than any other Westside city, officials said.

"It is unfortunate that private lawyers' requests for attorney's fees continue to drive lawsuits in this city," Deputy City Attorney Cara Silver said in a prepared statement. "By opposing SMHC's fee demand, the City Council has sent a strong message that it will not waste taxpayers' dollars by paying unwarranted fee demands to lawyers."



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

One student in the All State Jazz Choir:
Jessie Clemens

Samohi Orchestra:
Forty-nine students in California Orchestra Directors Association Honor Symphony and String Orchestra. Peformance in December 2004, Visalia, Calif.
Ben Bartelt
Rebecca Bartelt
Sarah Boyle
Julianne Bruce
Joey Corral
Calvin Dacosta
Patrick Deasy
Sarah Elbaum
Kerri Epps
David Farzam
Jennifer Farzam
Lauren Foust, principal second violin
Jarrett Furst
Lizzy Glennon
Mayura Jain
David Jang
Joanna Kaplan
Anthony Lai
Vincent Lai
Jonathan Lee
Gloria Lim Ryan Lin
Nicole Liner-Jigamian
David Litwak
Michelle Matsunaga
Alan Miller
Anna Nabel
Jesse Nabel
Nicole Negrete
Skylar O,Connor
Marika Page
April Paik, concertmaster
Mai Anh Perches
Andres Pichardo-Rosenthal
Kevin Poindexter
Devon Pratt
Giancarlo Ranaudo
Henry Samuels, principal bass
Carl Schoellhammer
Jules Sulpico
Ilana Summers
Amaro Taylor-Weiner
Zach Van Pelt
Matt Vincent
Wyles Vance
Adrian Weishofer
Ellery Weiss
Pegah Yazdy

National Honor Orchestra, Carnegie Hall, NYC, January 2005
Joey Corral
Devon Pratt

National High School Honor Orchestra, ASTA with NSOA, Reno, NV., Feburary 2005
Joey Corral
David Litwak
Peony Pak
Henry Samuels
Zach Van Pelt
Andres Pichardo-Rosenthal
Joni Yamashiro
Emma Sewhoy

Fifteen students in All State Orchestra
Ben Bartelt
Rebecca Bartelt
Aaron Chiu
Gloria Lim
David Litwak
David Martinez
April Paik
Andres Pichardo-Rosenthal
Eileen Wong
Henry Samuels
Carl Schoellhammer
Jules Sulpico
Ilana Summers
Zach Van Pelt
Eileen Wong

The following students from Lincoln Middle School were chosen for the 2005 SCSBOA All-Southern Honor Orchestra led by Peter Park, orchestra director:

Sonya Allahyar, violin
Elliott Jordan, string bass
Josh Kalmar, string bass
Jeremy Lai, viola
Jonathan Li, cello
Hannah McGinty, violin
Max Zakzook, cello

Band students from Lincoln Middle School placed in the honor groups under Mark Hunt, band director:

Southern California School Band & Orchestra Association:
Iain Gimzewski, french Horn, 8th grade
Jared Hammer, trombone, 7th grade
Peter Bennion, tuba, 8th grade

CBDA All-State Junior High Honor Bands:
Garrett Cheung, clarinet, 7th grade
Jared Hammer, trombone, 7th grade
Peter Bennion, tuba, 8th grade

Lincoln Choral program
(SCVA) — Southern California Vocal Association
Soprano, Hannah McGinty
Soprano/alto, Tycho Horan

Malibu High School representatives included:
Instrumental
Kyle Kaplan Bassoon
All Southern Honor Band
1st Alternate All State Orch

Colburn Youth Orchestra
Eric Chapman
Topanga Symphony
Pepperdine Symphony
Raquel Ravaglioli
Coda Honor Symphony 1st Violin
Los Angeles Junior Philharmonic
Topanga Symphony

Choir
SCVA (Southern California Vocal Association)
Tam Visher
Griffith Frank

ACDA (American Choral Directors Association)
Griffith Frank



STATE

Scientists learn how Americans get it done

FAMILY, from page 1

equipment piled so high she can't use the rearview mirror.

"Fortunately, the kids don't get carsick," Kim quips. "If that happened, we'd be sunk."

The Zeiss family might be insanely busy. But they are not alone.

Scientists at UCLA have spent the past four years observing 32 Los Angeles families in a study of how working America somehow gets it done. Day after day.

The UCLA Center on Everyday Lives of Families is one of six long-term projects sponsored by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation examining the intersection between family life and work.

At UCLA, a team of 21 researchers has completed the $3.6 million data-collection phase. A second phase will be devoted to analysis and, researchers hope, influencing federal policy on family issues.

Already, trends are emerging from their observations, and they appear to be related to the biggest change in family dynamics since Kim and Gary Zeiss were kids themselves:

Mothers working outside the home.

It's a poorly understood seismic shift in both the nation's economy and daily life. For some families in the study, it allows them to own a bigger house, drive better cars and take nicer vacations. For many more families, two paychecks are necessary to put food on the table.

It means parents and children live virtually apart at least five days a week, reuniting for a few hours at night. In this study, at least one parent was likely to be up and gone before the children awoke.

When they are together, today's families tend to stay in motion with lessons, classes and games. Or, they go shopping.

Researchers contend this chase appears to erode families from within, like a rusting minivan dropping parts as it clatters down the highway.

What's falling by the wayside?

Playtime. Conversation. Courtesy. Intimacy.

And guess who is driving the minivan now? Researchers say parents effectively have relinquished the steering wheel to their children. That's because most family decisions and purchases are geared toward the kids' activities.

Whether these highly programmed kids will grow up to become competent and compassionate adults is an open question for many of scientists.

"We've scheduled and outsourced a lot of our relationships," says the study's director, Elinor Ochs, a linguistic anthropologist. "There isn't much room for the flow of life, those little moments when things happen spontaneously.

"And, we're moving from a child-centered society to a child-dominated society. Parents don't have a life after the children go to bed."

The study's requirements were straightforward: Find households with two parents who work outside the home, pay a mortgage and have two or three school-aged children. The families also reflect LA's ethnic stew and diverse neighborhoods.

Each family was observed over a week's time. Researchers would stick with the families from the morning's first pot of coffee to bedtime. They followed a simple rule: Knock first.

Other scientists who have conducted family studies are intensely interested in the results but doubt cameras can eliminate bias entirely.

"I'm sure these families never forgot the camera was there, and would play to it," said San Jose State University anthropologist Charles N. Darrah.

"And," Darrah said, "the researchers can't help but look at the people and think, "What is my family like? It's people studying people."

The UCLA study isn't ranking families from best to worst. Instead, scientists are asking how families are coping.

For Ochs, the most worrisome trend is how indifferently people treat each other, especially when they reunite at day's end. In her view, the chilly exchanges repeated in so many of the study's households suggests something has gone awry.

"Returning home at the end of the day is one of the most delicate and vulnerable moments in life," Ochs said. "Everywhere in the world, in all societies, there is some kind of greeting.

"But here, the kids aren't greeting the parents and the parents are allowing it to go on," Ochs said. "They are tiptoeing around their children."

The Zeiss family, however, is positively tribal with hugs and shouts. Their packed schedule just means they reunite in the car or parking lots.

After a 40-minute drive to the ice rink, Madison races to the snack bar while Jake drags his hockey equipment into a musky locker room.

Elbow-to-elbow, Kim and 20 other mothers strip their sons down to their Spiderman undies and strap on pads the size of sofa cushions.

"When they turn 10, they dress themselves and moms can't come in," she says. squatting on a duffel bag to catch her breath. "None of us want to see that day. What else am I going to do — sleep?"

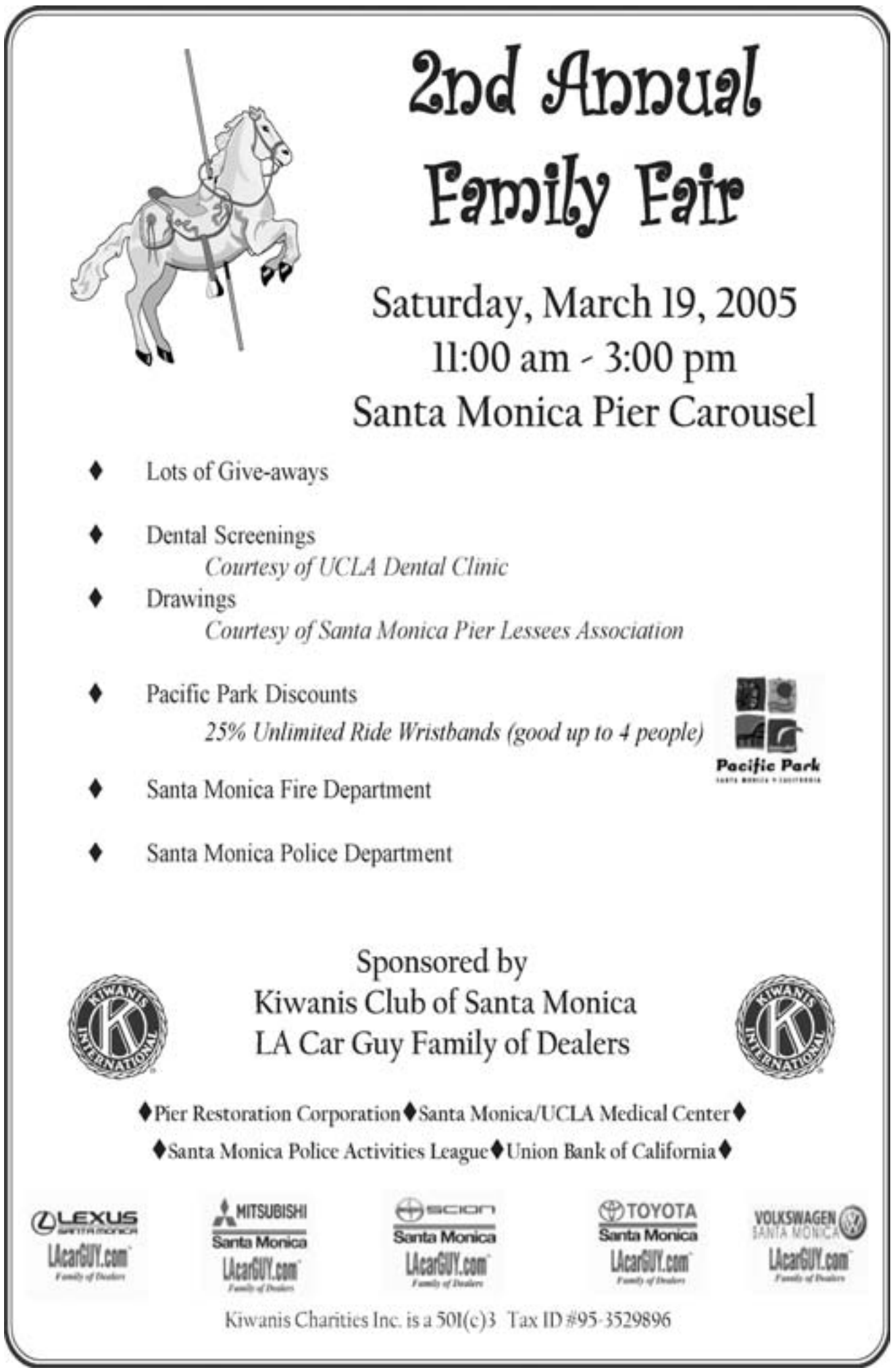
Kim's remark raises a second trend emerging from the UCLA data — how few people have any unstructured time.

In just one of the 32 families did the father — a freelance film animator — make a habit of taking an evening stroll with his son and daughter. Hand-in-hand, they dodged vacant lots and broken glass in Culver City while chasing fireflies and making up stories.

Kim and Gary Zeiss are keeping their children busy by design. They believe it's a key to being a successful adult in a culture that rewards multi-taskers.

"You know the old saying," says Gary, a 47-year-old

See **FAMILY**, page 9



STATE

Family tools: Cell phones and Blackberries

FAMILY, from page 8

attorney. "If you want something done, give it to a busy person. They're learning how to be that."

A typical Monday for the Zeiss family has four or five after-school events. They are in constant touch by cell phone, Blackberry and pager.

It's very different from how they were raised in Miami in the 1970s. Gary wasn't allowed to play football; his parents feared for his safety, but he remembers feeling unchallenged.

Now he is reviving his interest in fencing, which he shares with Madison.

"The kids are doing well," he says. "They are getting good grades. They're not obese. At the end of the day, this is good for them."

Now 43, she worked as a television producer at MTV and ESPN until Jake was 2. Recently she became an administrator at Madison's school. She is fond of saying that she is "producing a family."

With all the scheduling, family life begins to resemble running a small business. That means requisitioning supplies, which invariably leads to a third hallmark of the study: clutter.

Archaeologist Jeanne E. Arnold planned to treat each house in the study like a dig site, cataloging and mapping family belongings as artifacts. But there was too much stuff. Instead, her staff took photographs. Thousands of them.

By her rough estimate, the typical American family owns more than most Egyptian pharaohs.

The world has never seen consumption on this scale, Arnold says. "And every week we see more stuff arriving. People can't stop."

Researchers say schedules and clutter butt heads to create the fourth family trend: flux.

Using computers, scientists mapped the location of each family member throughout the home every 10 minutes. Ochs says families gathered in the same room just 16 percent of the time. In five homes, the entire family was never in the same room while scientists were observing.

"People just don't come together very frequently in our society," Ochs said. "They might say they want community, but they don't seek it."

The Zeiss family congregates for dinner, but not until Gary and Madison return from fencing practice at 10:20 p.m. Kim spoons chili from the crock pot and serves salad and mashed sweet potato. Jake drops his spoon and starts rubbing his eyes. Time for pajamas. It's 10:56 p.m.

Gary and Kim smile across the table. It's their first time alone since the alarm clock buzzed 17 hours ago.

Kim stares at a spoonful of cold sweet potatoes, then eats it with a shrug and stretches back in her chair.

"My feet are up," she announces to the ceiling. "We'll do it all again tomorrow."

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Santa Monica Daily Press

STATE

Ruling poises state for constitutional battle

BY LISA LEFF
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Five years ago this month, California voters passed a law that tried to preserve marriage as the exclusive province of heterosexual couples. But following a trial judge's decision to strike down the statute, a burning question for gay rights advocates and their opponents Tuesday was whether the electorate would vote that way again if a constitutional amendment banning same-sex nuptials makes it to the ballot.

While lawyers on both sides of the debate braced themselves for lengthy appeals that will most likely take the matter to the California Supreme Court, activists on both sides of the debate agreed that in the long-term it will be won or lost in the court of public opinion. If the state follows the 13 others that added gay marriage bans to their constitutions last year, the move would put the issue out of the control of judges and lawmakers.

"The gay community constantly beats the drum of, 'We will get gay marriage through the Legislature or the courts.' They're not going to the people because they know they will never get it at the ballot box," said Benjamin Lopez, a lobbyist for the Traditional Values Coalition, a church-based group that is spearheading efforts to get such an amendment voted on in California. "The public is wholeheartedly against this concept."

The coalition has persuaded two legislators to sponsor anti-gay marriage amendments and pledged to launch a citizens initiative drive if the Legislature fails to put them on the ballot. Under that likely scenario, the question probably wouldn't get put to voters until next year, according to Lopez. For an amendment to pass, it needs only a majority of the voters to favor it.

Yet the organization is so confident of its ultimate success that it is seeking not only to ban gay marriage, but to rescind the myriad spousal benefits the state already grants same-sex couples who register as domestic partners, he said.

"These are the same voters that five years ago passed a definition of marriage in the law. I'm sure they would pass a definition of marriage in the state Constitution," Lopez said.

Supporters of same-sex marriage, however, think the public's understanding and acceptance of gay couples has changed significantly since Proposition 22 passed with 61 percent of the vote in March 2000. The initiative, which stated that California would only recognize a marriage between a man and a woman as valid, came about in the wake of Vermont granting marriagelike status to gays who entered into civil unions.

Since then, though, the state Legislature has extended nearly all the rights and responsibilities of marriage to domestic partners, while gay couples have been allowed to legally wed in Massachusetts and Canada, noted Geoffrey Kors, executive director of Equality California, the state's largest gay rights lobbying group.

"This is a very different time. With Proposition 22, we were voting on something that didn't exist and wasn't real to people," Kors said. "Today, everyone has an opinion on the subject. It's no longer, 'Oh yeah, marriage is between a man and a woman' or 'This is something that may happen in the future.' This is real."

Mark Baldassare, research director of the Public Policy Institute of California, predicted that if an anti-gay marriage amendment were on the ballot now, the results would be substantially closer than they were five years ago. A statewide poll the institute conducted before the March 2004 primary showed that 44 percent of respondents favored allowing gays and lesbians to marry, compared to 38 percent four years earlier.

"People see the different sides of the issue in a way they hadn't before. Both the pros and the cons have been more often discussed," Baldassare said. "Much would depend on how it was presented, other states that had come out in support (of gay marriage) and how the governor and other high-profile electeds weigh in on the issue."

During an appearance on MSNBC's "Hardball" Monday night, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said that while he personally supports domestic partnerships and opposes gay marriage, he would not be in favor of amending the state constitution if the state Supreme Court ultimately agrees that withholding marriage licenses from same-sex couples is unconstitutional.

"Whatever the Supreme Court decides, that's exactly what I will stay with," Schwarzenegger said.

Attorney General Bill Lockyer, whose office defended the state's existing marriage laws before the trial court, wouldn't say on Tuesday whether he planned to appeal Superior Court Judge's Richard Kramer's ruling Monday that the laws unconstitutionally discriminate against same-sex couples. He noted, however, that an appellate court would have to weigh in to make any changes in the law binding.

At the same time, Lockyer said that even though he thinks gays should be allowed to get married, it would be better if the voters, not the courts, make such a sweeping social change.

"The more appropriate way to enact a change in policy that's this basic is to go to the people," Lockyer said, speaking to reporters in Washington, D.C. "This issue probably will wind up before the people in one way or another eventually."

Kramer's ruling has been stayed automatically for 60 days to allow time for appeals. In the meantime, the existing laws will remain in effect. Lawyers for two California groups opposed to same-sex marriage plan to appeal the ruling after March 30, the day Kramer has scheduled a hearing for making his opinion final.

"I do think people see California as being a line in the sand," Kors said. "If we can turn back this right-wing attempt to codify discrimination in California, that will spread across the country. And if we lose in California, it will be very hard for us to recover on a national basis for some time."

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STATE

Angelides launches campaign to oust governor

BY BETH FOUHY
AP Political Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — State Treasurer Phil Angelides launched his campaign to unseat Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger this week, saying he would challenge the popular governor because he could not "stand by and watch the promise of California wither away."

Appearing on stage with his wife, parents and three daughters, Angelides announced his candidacy before a cheering crowd at the San Francisco elementary school his father attended as a child. He later headed to Sacramento and Los Angeles on the first day of a multi-city statewide tour.

As the first Democrat to declare his candidacy formally, Angelides acknowledged the steep odds he faced in taking on the world famous and charismatic Schwarzenegger. While the Republican governor's once-stratospheric ratings have dropped in recent months, he remains popular in the Democrat-leaning state.

"I have no illusions about the difficulty of this race. ... A relatively unknown public servant looking to take on a global action hero, an international celebrity," Angelides said, suggesting Schwarzenegger's fame and wealth had fueled an indifference to the needs of the state's most vulnerable citizens.

"We have a governor who thinks it's fine to cut assistance to children and to the poor — that somehow if he just showers more fortune on the fortunate, the crumbs will reach the rest like the leftovers of a Hollywood dinner party," he said.

The 51-year-old Angelides has made little secret of his intent to run for governor and has already raised about $12.5 million for the effort. But with the Democratic primary still a year away, Angelides' early campaign kick-off signaled his desire to quickly frame the race as a two-man contest between himself and Schwarzenegger.

A Sacramento native and a member of the region's prominent Greek-American community, Angelides worked in state government and made a fortune in real estate development before immersing himself in politics full-time. He chaired the state Democratic Party from 1991 to 1993 and was elected treasurer in 1998 where he has forged a reputation as a consumer advocate and critic of corporate excess.

As treasurer, Angelides has used his oversight of the state's $300 billion public pension funds to push for socially responsible investments and greater financial market reform. That's made him a hero to some stockholder rights groups while earning the animus of Wall Street executives, who complain that his stewardship of the pension funds has been excessively political.

Since Schwarzenegger took office 16 months ago, Angelides has positioned himself as one of the governor's loudest and most persistent Democratic critics. Republicans in turn dismiss Angelides as drab Sacramento insider whose advocacy for tax increases on the wealthy is out of step with most California voters.

"I don't think Gary Coleman entered the race with less fanfare than Phil Angelides is going to bring about during this tour," said GOP strategist Jonathan Wilcox, making reference to the former child actor who ran for governor in the 2003 recall election.

Schwarzenegger has not yet announced whether he is running for re-election, even though his campaign committee has raised $1 million so far and several more fund-raising events are being planned. Republican operatives are savoring a potential matchup between Schwarzenegger and the cerebral, Harvard-educated Angelides, who even acknowledged his own pedantic reputation in his speech.

"My daughters will tell you that sometimes, I can be too serious," he said. "Maybe that's because I take my obligation so seriously — to give back what this state has given me."

A Field Poll taken last month found that Schwarzenegger was favored by 52 percent of voters said they would favor Schwarzenegger if he ran for re-election. That compared to 37 percent for actor-director Rob Reiner, 35 percent for Angelides, 34 percent for Attorney General Bill Lockyer and 33 percent for Controller Steve Westly.

Of those, only Angelides and Lockyer so far have indicated they plan to run. In Washington, D.C., Tuesday, Lockyer told reporters that a formal campaign announcement was forthcoming. And he said that while he and Angelides share similar political views, they parted ways somewhat on the issue of taxes.

"I don't think Democrats ought to be defining themselves as the tax party all the time, and Phil's a little more inclined to do that," Lockyer said.

Lockyer, who surprised many Democrats by acknowledging he'd voted for Schwarzenegger in the 2003 recall election, told reporters he was disappointed by Schwarzenegger's performance this year and said the governor's tendency to go directly to voters to campaign for issues had "a little bit of the sort of odor of Austrian politics."

Asked to elaborate, Lockyer said, "There's a sort of arrogance of power that bothers me. You know, Arnold's still an Austrian citizen."

Schwarzenegger spokeswoman Margita Thompson had no comment on Angelides' campaign announcement, but Lockyer's comment provoked a reply.

"Bill Lockyer is just used to being in empty rooms when he goes out," Thompson said.



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NATIONAL

Senate prepares to vote on drilling in Arctic refuge

BY H. JOSEF HEBERT
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Mindful of rising oil and gasoline prices, a sharply divided Senate was close Wednesday to removing the biggest obstacle to opening an ecologically rich Alaska wildlife refuge to oil drilling, which would deliver a major energy policy win for President Bush.

"We believe we have the votes," said Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, who for more than two decades has tried to persuade Congress to authorize lease sales in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Democrats and moderate Republicans repeatedly blocked the effort.

Opponents of drilling complained that Republicans this time were trying "an end run" by attaching the refuge provisions to the budget, a tactic that would allow the measure to pass with a majority vote.

"It's the only way around a filibuster" which requires 60 votes to overcome, countered Stevens.

Drilling advocates argued that the refuge's oil will reduce U.S. reliance on imports. Opponents said the oil won't flow for nearly a decade and even then hardly make a dent in the more than 20 million barrels of oil the country uses daily while posing a threat to what environmentalists regard as an ecological treasure.

The 19 million-acre refuge was set aside for protection by President Eisenhower in 1960, but Congress in 1980 said its 1.5 million acre coastal plain could be opened to oil development if Congress specifically authorizes it.

"We won't see this oil for 10 years. It will have minimal impact," insisted Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., a cosponsor of an amendment that would strip the arctic refuge provision from the budget document. It is "foolish to say oil development and a wildlife refuge can coexist," she said.

But Sen. George Allen, R-Va., said development of the refuge would "bring energy security" by reducing U.S. reliance on imports and produce construction jobs not only in Alaska but elsewhere in the oil industry.

President Bush, who has urged Congress repeatedly to allow oil companies to tap the refuge's crude, said Wednesday it's "a way to get some additional reserves here at home on the books."

The House has repeatedly passed measures over the years to allow drilling in ANWR only to see the legislation stalled in the Senate. But last week, the House refused to include an ANWR provision in its budget document, although any differences between the Senate and House versions would likely be resolved in negotiations.

Drilling supporters argued that access to the refuge's oil was a matter of national security and that modern drilling technology would protect the region's wildlife.

"We know we've got to do it right. ... It's a fragile environment," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, maintaining that oil companies that would drill in the refuge would be subject to the most stringent environmental requirements in the world.

Environmentalists contended that while new technologies have reduced the drilling footprint, ANWR's coastal plain still would contain a spider web of pipelines that would disrupt calving caribou and disturb polar bears, musk oxen and the annual influx of millions of migratory birds.

Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., said even at peak production the refuge would account for less than 2.5 percent of U.S. oil needs.

"How in the world can this be the centerpiece of our energy policy?" asked Durbin, arguing that more conservation and more fuel efficient automobiles would save more oil than the Alaska refuge would produce.

The refuge's oil represents "the most significant onshore production capacity" in the country, said Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M. "We should do everything we can to produce as much as we can."

Drilling proponents acknowledged that even if Congress gives the go-ahead for tapping ANWR's oil, it would have no impact on soaring oil prices and tight supplies. The first lease sales would not be issued until 2007, followed by development seven to 10 years later, Interior Secretary Gale Norton said.

How much oil will be found is in dispute. Only one exploratory well has been drilled within the refuge, and the results have been kept secret. The U.S. Geological Survey, using seismic studies, estimated in 1998 that between 5.6 billion and 16 billion barrels of technically recoverable oil is likely to be found.

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NATIONAL

Yucca Mountain papers may have been falsified

BY H. JOSEF HEBERT
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Government employees may have falsified documents related to the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste project in Nevada, the Energy Department revealed Wednesday in a development that could jeopardize the project's ability to obtain a federal permit.

The department said that during preparation for a license application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission a number of e-mails were discovered, dating back to 1998 and 2000, in which an employee of the U.S. Geological Survey "indicated that he had fabricated documentation of his work."

Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman said the department had begun an investigation into what kind of information was falsified and whether it would affect the scientific underpinnings of the project.

"If in the course of that review any work is found to be deficient, it will be replaced or supplemented with analysis and documents that meet appropriate quality assurance standards," said Bodman. He said he was "greatly disturbed" that work involving the project may have been falsified.

The department said the questionable data involved computer modeling for water infiltration and climate at the Yucca site 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

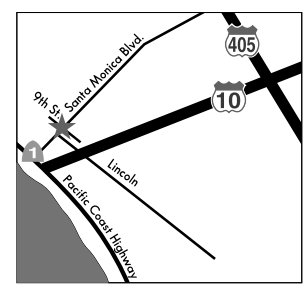
USGS Director Chip Groat said that the discovered e-mails "have raised serious questions about the review process of scientific studies done six years ago."

The disclosure follows a string of other setbacks for the proposed waste dump. The Energy Department has delayed filing its license application to the NRC and now acknowledges that the planned completion of the facility by 2010 no longer is possible.

Congress last year refused to provide all the money sought by the Bush administration for the project, and a federal appeals court rejected the radiation protection standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency. EPA is now developing new standards. Last month, the official in charge of the Yucca project resigned, citing personal reasons.

Bodman said the questionable documents were part of the papers required by the NRC verifying the accuracy of earlier work in the project. He said Nevada officials had been advised. The Energy Department's inspector general also has been asked to investigate.

"The fact remains that this country needs a permanent geological nuclear waste repository, and the administration will continue to aggressively pursue that goal," Bodman said. He said that "all related decisions have been, and will continue to be, based on sound science."

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NATIONAL

Mormon group in West Texas makes locals wary

BY MICHAEL GRACZYK
Associated Press Writer

ELDORADO, Texas — With the legal heat rising against its leader in Arizona and Utah, a splinter group of polygamous Mormons is hurriedly building a new community in sparsely populated West Texas. But the arrival of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints — marked by a temple tower rising out of the rocky terrain and prickly pear cactus — has been about as welcome among locals as a new species of rattlesnake.

"I think there's reason to be apprehensive, but they've done nothing to warrant any kind of great fear," says Schleicher County Judge Johnny Griffin. "But it's the unknown. ... It's the secrecy that bothers most people. I just hope nothing happens."

The congregation, known as FLDS and led by reclusive prophet Warren Jeffs since his father's death in 2002, is one of several groups that split from the Salt Lake City-based Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the decades after it renounced polygamy in 1890.

The FLDS began migrating 77 years ago to a remote area along the Utah-Arizona state line, where its members live in almost complete seclusion in the twin cities of Hildale, Utah, and Colorado City, Ariz. Members are not allowed newspapers, radio, TV or the Internet — and are forbidden to speak with reporters.

The sect, which may have as many as 10,000 members, has a history of polygamy that's long been an open secret in Utah. In civil suits filed recently by former members there, Jeffs is accused of sexual misconduct and of assigning young girls as wives to older men.

But authorities say the accusations aren't sufficient to produce criminal charges because they can't get anyone to talk about Jeffs.

"For three years now, he's been doing everything he can to keep people from cooperating with us and to take steps to avoid our efforts," according to Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff, who recently held a town hall meeting on the church with Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard.



For Larry Donaldson, who has a ranch just up the road from the FLDS site in Texas, Jeffs' move stirs memories of the fiery demise a decade ago of David Koresh and his followers at the Branch Davidian compound outside Waco.

"That's just the thing I thought of," Donaldson said from his pickup truck, a rifle resting on the seat next to him to take care of predators coveting his livestock.

The new complex just north of Eldorado, about 160 miles northwest of San Antonio, includes roughly a dozen concrete and log apartment buildings plus other structures around the fortress-like temple, about 80 feet tall, that's nearing completion.

The main entry to the property is a dirt easement blocked by a locked metal gate. A quarter-mile down the path there's a small guard shack, and someone equipped with binoculars has been spotted atop a construction tower that has a bird's-eye view of the 1,691-acre tract.

The Rev. Joseph Vathalloor, whose small Roman Catholic church is at the intersection of the road leading to the FLDS site, said he and other clergy in town have talked about trying to say hello to Jeffs.

"But what I'm told is he's not seeing anyone," Vathalloor said.

The number of church members in Eldorado is unknown, and while they've been seen only sporadically, they're easily spotted in the town of just under 2,000.

Men and boys wear buttoned-up long-sleeve shirts. Long, loose-fitting pastel-colored dresses are worn by women and girls, who also have long braided hair.

"They don't say much," said Tammy McGinnis, 28, who works at a Shell convenience store not far from the compound where some church men have purchased gasoline. "I said hello to one. He just looked down."

Randy Mankin, editor of the 1,100-circulation Eldorado Success — the town's weekly — says his newspaper has been following the construction of the compound for about year. That's when Mankin took a call from a woman named Flora Jessop inquiring about a local land purchase; she heard it was related to the FLDS.

Five months earlier, a company called YFZ Land LLC spent nearly $700,000 for a former exotic game ranch, prompting chuckles from locals who figured some greenhorn got snookered into paying about twice the value of the place. The buyer's representative initially told real estate agents and police he planned to operate the property as a hunting retreat.

Then pilots using an airstrip nearby reported buildings under construction that looked like something else entirely.

"They told a great big lie," says Jimmy Doyle, the county's justice of the peace.

Jessop, who said she escaped from the church nearly two decades ago and devotes her life to helping others to do so, showed up in Eldorado a week later. She claims she still has contacts within the church, and worries that the congregation's fierce loyalty to Jeffs might one day result in violence.

Yet George Arispe, the Schleicher County sheriff's chief deputy, noted that none has been reported at the site, and that the people he's seen are "hardworking folks" and "awesome contractors, great at what they do."

People who have watched from afar say much the same.

Within two months, the temple foundation was in, steel and decking four floors high was up, the exterior was wrapped in plywood and circular towers like castle lookouts stood at each corner. Now, cream-colored limestone from an onsite quarry is being attached to the temple walls.

Only a handful of nonbelievers have been allowed inside the compound. One woman died last July of breast cancer and her death had to be confirmed by Doyle.

"It was not elaborate, but it was very nice," Doyle said of his visit to the quarters of Barbara Barlow Jeffs, believed one of the 50 to 70 wives of the church leader.

In Texas, where bigamy is a misdemeanor, church men get around the law by declaring only one legal wife. The others are known as "celestial" wives, Doyle said.

Griffin, the county judge, is torn between what is viewed by many as a threat to his county and his respect for the rights of privacy and religious freedom. And Doyle said he can't see any criminal charges "until one of the girls comes into my office and raises her hand and swears they've been molested by so and so, and that's never going to happen."

NATIONAL

Iraq's national assembly opens for first time

BY RAWYA RAGEH
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq's first freely elected parliament in half a century began its opening session Wednesday after a series of explosions targeted the gathering. The opening marked a major milestone on the road to forming a new government in a country still beset by violence.

The parliament's 275 members, elected during Jan. 30 elections, convened in an auditorium amid tight security in the heavily guarded Green Zone with U.S. helicopter gunships hovering overhead.

Minutes before convening, at least a half dozen explosions detonated a few hundred yards away. The U.S. military said two mortar rounds landed inside the zone but caused no injuries.

The lawmakers opened with a reading of verses from the Quran. Iraqi Chief Justice Medhat al Mahmoud then administered the oath to the assembled deputies.

"It is a great day in Iraqi history that its elected representatives meet," said Fuad Masoum, a Kurdish delegate. "This day coincides with a painful memory that has many meanings. ... Today, on this occasion, we celebrate the inauguration of parliament after the fall of this regime."

Wednesday marked the anniversary of the Saddam Hussein-ordered chemical attack in 1988 on the northern Kurdish town of Halabja, an attack that killed 5,000 people.

Iraqi leaders have not yet agreed on a coalition government, and the leader of the Shiite-dominated United Iraqi Alliance, cleric Abdel Aziz al-Hakim, said his alliance hoped to "form a government whose motto is to serve the Iraqi people, a government of national unity and reconciliation."

"A government that can root out violence and set a trial for Saddam and the elements of his regime," Hakim said in a speech that wove in and out of prayer. He said a government led by the alliance would also try "to achieve the independence of Iraq and put an end to the role of multinational forces in Iraq."

Jalal Talabani, the Kurdish leader who will probably become Iraq's next president, said deputies "all have a duty to achieve real national unity."

"Iraq is facing tough times due to the continuation of criminal terror crimes," he said. "Al-Qaida is waging a war of extermination on Kurds and Shiites."

The alliance and a Kurdish coalition agreed last week to form a coalition government with Shiite politician Ibrahim al-Jaafari as prime minister. In return, Talabani will become Iraq's first Kurdish president, though the presidency is a largely ceremonial post.

To prevent suicide car bomb attacks against Iraq's new lawmakers, authorities stepped up security around the heavily fortified Green Zone. Two bridges leading to the zone were shut down Tuesday, and roadblocks were erected on other streets leading to the area.

Meanwhile, a suicide car bomb exploded near at Iraqi army checkpoint in Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, killing four Iraqi soldiers and wounding 15, said U.S. Maj. Neil Harper. The bomber also died.

On Tuesday, Shiite Muslim officials said they failed to reach final agreement in talks with the Kurds — who are mostly Sunni Muslim but secular — and the Sunni Arabs.

Ali al-Dabagh, a member of the Shiite clergy-dominated United Iraqi Alliance, which won the most seats in the elections, said Tuesday that Shiite, Kurdish and Sunni Arab politicians would meet after the deputies are sworn in "to finalize things. We need two to three days to announce an agreement."

The Shiite alliance won 140 seats in the National Assembly but needs the Kurds' 75 seats to assemble the two-thirds majority required to elect a president, who will then nominate the prime minister.

Shiite talks with Sunni Arabs focused on naming a parliament speaker, and it remained unclear if they would present a candidate Wednesday. Although the speaker's role is mostly restricted to presiding over the assembly and moderating discussions, the job has a great deal of visibility.

Sunni Arabs are believed to make up the core of the insurgency, and including them in the political process is seen as a way to isolate the militants.

"The Kurds want to make some amendments on the deal, and we are going to finish soon, Thursday to be exact. We do not want to impose any name from our side regarding the post of the parliament speaker. We want the Sunnis to nominate some people for this post, but until now they have not done this," al-Dabagh said.

Sunni Arab negotiators at Tuesday's meeting included interim President Ghazi al-Yawer — a possible choice for parliament speaker — the Iraqi Islamic Party and Iraqi nationalist leader Adnan Pachachi.

Sunni Arabs, who make up only about 20 percent of the population but were the dominant group under Saddam's regime, largely stayed away from the elections — either to honor a boycott call or because they feared being attacked at the polls by insurgents.

The U.S.-led coalition came under pressure as Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi announced plans to withdraw the country's 3,000 troops in September as the Iraqis slowly take control, a move that could complicate efforts to keep the peace.

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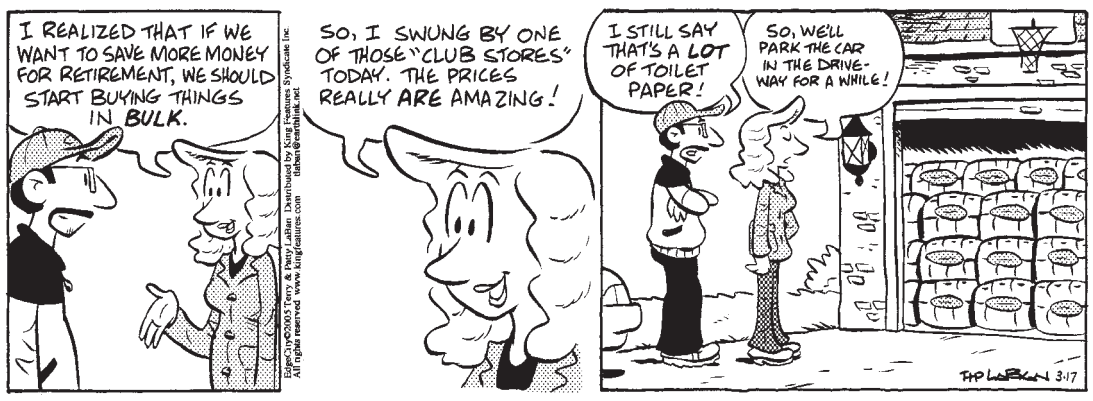
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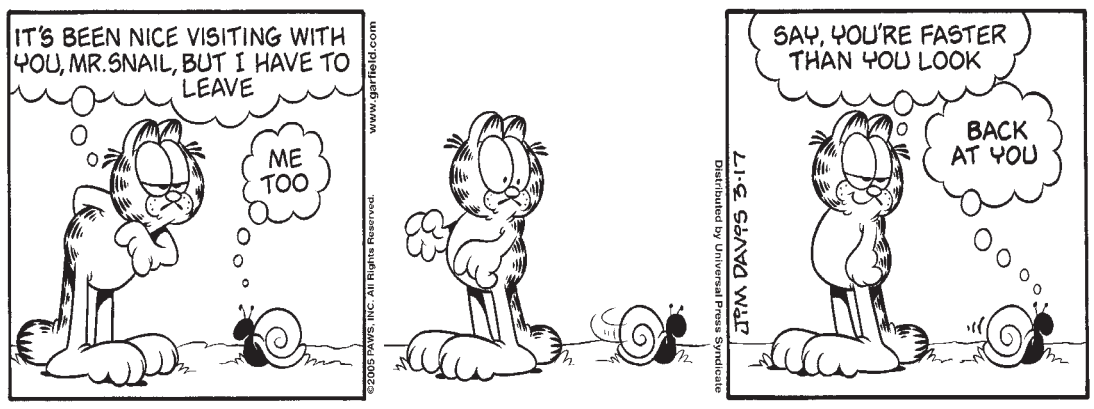


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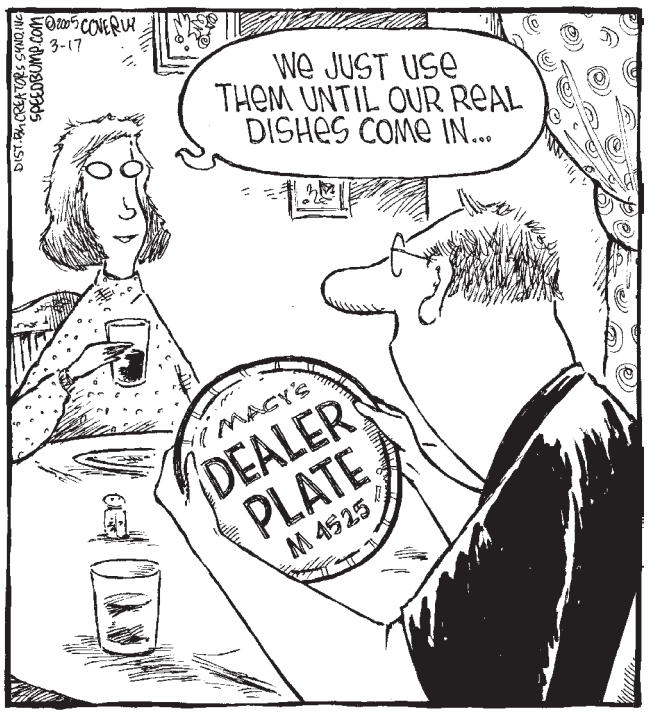
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13 Like haunted houses
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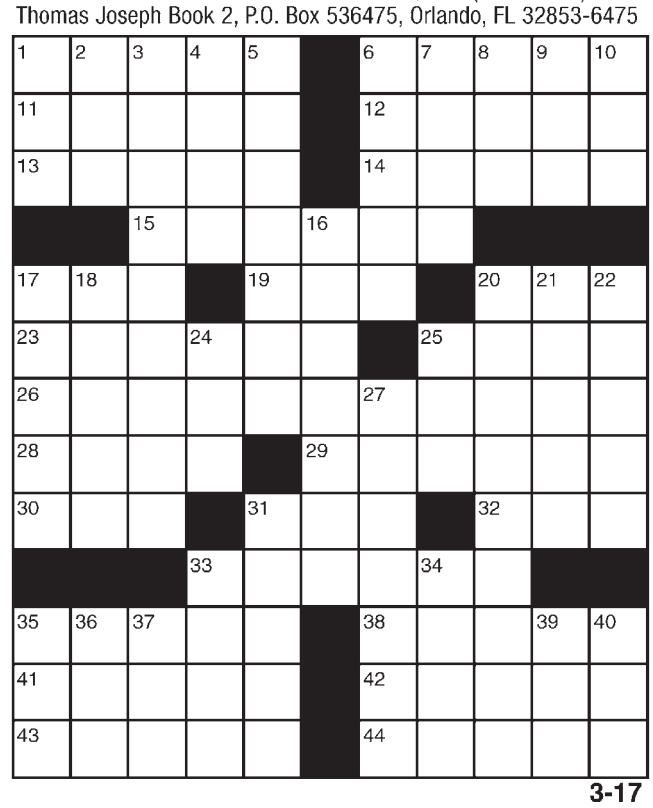
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2 Jiffy
3 Bed part
4 Jane of fiction
5 "On what authority?"
6 Relish
7 Rider's place
8 Dupe
9 One — time
10 Over there
16 Book starter
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Denmark captured the Dogg for Roskilde

By The Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Denmark got the Dogg. Snoop Dogg, that is.

Organizers of the annual Roskilde Festival said Wednesday the rapper was set to play the annual music show this year.

The artist, whose real name is Calvin Broadus, last visited Denmark in 1998. His latest release, 2004's "R&G — Rhythm and Gangster: The Masterpiece," spawned the hit single "Drop It Like It's Hot."

Other artists scheduled to play during the June 30-July 3 festival include Black Sabbath, The Go! Team and Junior Senior.

Last year, 75,000 tickets were sold for the outdoor event where more than 150 artists, including the Pixies, Morrissey, Sahara Hotnights and Avril Lavigne, performed on Roskilde's six stages.

First held in 1971, the festival was inspired by the 1969 Woodstock Festival in upstate New York.

The event, which in recent years has been shown on MTV, attracts visitors from throughout Europe and the United States.

LOS ANGELES — A Southern California man who sued NBC Universal, Donald Trump and the creator of "The Apprentice" in federal court last year on claims they stole his idea now is suing in state court.

In the Superior Court lawsuit filed Monday, Mark Bethea claims that he and the Velocity Entertainment Group came up with the idea for an unscripted series called "C.E.O." The lawsuit said the series would have been set up in a corporate office environment, with Trump as its host.

The lawsuit is against Mark Burnett and his partner, Conrad Riggs. It claims Bethea pitched the idea to Burnett and Riggs in 2001 and they later lifted "substantial and integral material" from "C.E.O."

A phone call to an NBC representative seeking comment early Wednesday wasn't immediately returned.

Burnett, producer of "Survivor" and "The Contender," had disputed Bethea's claims in the federal lawsuit, which was filed in Los Angeles in September. Burnett said he came up with the concept for "The Apprentice" in December 2002 while shooting "Survivor" in the Brazilian rain forest.

The federal lawsuit, which sought damages for copyright infringement, breach of implied contract and unfair competition, estimated that Burnett, Trump and the network had made more than $100 million from the NBC reality show.

Bethea owns the copyright to "C.E.O." and its idea was registered with the Writers Guild of America in August 2000, according to the state lawsuit.

PARIS — Lance Armstrong acknowledged that he's a little behind schedule in his preparation for a seventh straight Tour de France title and also reaffirmed his love for New York City — and his fondness for Paris.

Armstrong, who received a Sports Academy Trophy at the foreign ministry Tuesday in recognition of his sixth straight Tour win last summer, said he hopes to recover his form in time for July's Tour.

"I'm going to try and get in shape. I have to admit I'm a little bit behind, more than I would normally be," he said. "Perhaps I shouldn't have started with a race like Paris-Nice. It was a very hard, fast, intense race with bad weather."

Some stages at the Paris-Nice race were shortened severely due to heavy snowfall, meaning Armstrong — who eventually pulled out with a sore throat — had little chance to accumulate distance on his bike, a crucial part of his preparation.

However, Armstrong said nothing will stop him from trying to win his seventh Tour "other than injury or illness or some other external problem."

"I don't know that I'll win, but I'll be on the start line," he said.

Armstrong also commented on the 2012 Olympic bid.

"As an American my heart has to be with New York City, and I have to support the bid for New York City," he said. "But you also have to be fair and say Paris has a good bid. Are they deserving cities for the Olympic Games? Absolutely. They're great cities, legendary cities, historical cities.

"Perhaps I wasn't strong enough when I said my vote was for New York City. Since it wasn't strong enough they said, 'He's a traitor. He's a weasel.'"

Armstrong said he was upset by the media outcry and took a swipe at some of the publications that rose against him.

"Some of the tabloid papers, they let it rip. They took the gloves off. But c'est la vie, as they say."

MEXICO CITY — Paris Hilton arrived in Mexico to promote her perfume, book and film projects, saying she also wants to shop and visit the pyramids.

"I love Mexico," Hilton, star of the TV reality series "The Simple Life," told reporters in Mexico City Tuesday. "The people are so nice."

Hilton, who visited the Caribbean resort of Cancun last week, said her namesake fragrance "smells like flowers."

The 24-year-old hotel heiress has a role in "House of Wax," a remake of the 1953 Vincent Price horror movie. The new film, starring Elisha Cuthbert and Chad Michael Murray, is scheduled for release in the United States on May 6.

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