

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

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Megamember: 26

Jackpot: \$42 million

FANTASY 5

03, 09, 30, 32, 39

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 6, 6, 1

Evening picks: 0, 8, 6

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 02, Lucky Star

2nd Place: 11, Money Bags

3rd Place: 04, Big Ben

Race Time: 1:48.89



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Burnsville, Minn., according to city planner Mike Niewind, hopes to solve some garbage, energy, odor and environmental concerns all in one project by expanding its landfill, by 2007, to create an electricity-producing methane plant (to power 3,000 homes) underneath an 18-hole golf course that will be built on a manmade, pristine, 100-foot-high plateau offering scenic views of the Mississippi River Basin.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"My bank roll's on swoll. My shizzies on hit, legit, now I'm on parole."

— Snoop Dogg

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INSIDE THE CHAMBER

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



Eddie Guerboian rich with the jewels of life

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — When the local chamber of commerce installs former Santa Monica Mayor Nat Trives as chairman this summer, a local jeweler is expected to become chairman-elect.

Eddie Guerboian, 52, was recently nominated by chamber officials for the post. In order to be formally named chairman-elect, the decision must be ratified by the full chamber board at its meeting next month.

While the chamber plays an increasingly offensive role in local politics, Guerboian, a fifth-generation Armenian jeweler who came alone to America with just \$100 in his pocket at 16 years old, said he's more interested in building relationships than fostering controversy.

See PROFILES, page 8

Feds have final word on natural gas facilities

Two LNG terminals proposed to the north of SM Bay

By staff and wire reports

Regulators last week rejected arguments by California that states and the federal government have authority over approving liquefied natural gas facilities, two of which are proposed just north of Santa Monica Bay.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission said the federal government has sole jurisdiction over siting and construction of the terminals.

Two proposed facilities — at Cabrillo Port and off the shores of Ventura — in February submitted applications for LNG terminals to be stationed in the Pacific Ocean.

But at issue last week was a proposal to build a LNG terminal at the Port of Long Beach. The California Public Utilities Commission had argued that companies must submit an application to the state as well as to the federal agency.

The issue of jurisdiction over LNG terminals — including siting decisions and environmental impact reviews — is expected to grow in importance in the coming

See GAS, page 5

Price of admission on the Third Street Promenade goes up

Film and photo crews will face higher rates to use downtown Santa Monica as a backdrop

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

PROMENADE — From television hits "Beverly Hills 90210" and "The West Wing" to feature films such as "Freaky Friday," the Third Street Promenade has served as the backdrop for a variety of Hollywood shoots.

But filmmakers hoping to use the Promenade for their next blockbuster will face increasing fees from Bayside District Corp., the city-subsidized nonprofit organization that runs downtown. Board members voted unanimously last week to jack up the prices charged for some types of shoots.

It currently costs \$750 for a half-day shoot on the Promenade and \$1,500 for a full day, while a still-photo session can cost producers \$500. Under the new price list, half-day shoots will cost \$1,000, a full day will go for \$2,500, and still-photo sessions will cost up to \$1,500. Most other fees will stay the same, and the charge for student filmmakers will be reduced slightly.

Officials said the prices are still less than half of what's charged at other outdoor malls. The reason, they added, is the film crews are actu-

See FEES, page 4

Don't swim near the pipe



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Despite a sign warning swimmers that jumping into the Pacific Ocean near the Pico stormwater drain is hazardous to your health, plenty of them did on Sunday to escape the heat.

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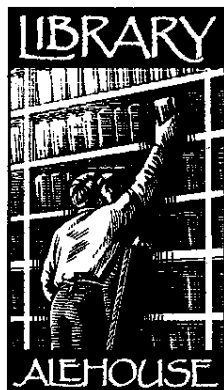
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Eddie Guerboian



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

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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Getting into a high-powered energy mode could take more effort than you want. Still, somehow you manage to get going. If you can work from home, do so. You also might want to add something to your workplace that will make it homier. Tonight: Home is definitely your castle!



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You make a strong impression on others. You might not be aware of your charisma, as others say "yes" very easily. Return calls and make time for others. Reach for others around you. Pass the good mood around. Tonight: Talk up a storm.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ If possible, curb a devil-may-care attitude that comes with finances. Right now, you see life as if there is no tomorrow. Unfortunately, there will be a tomorrow. Be cautious; don't overdo it or overcommit yourself. Tonight: Buy a favorite snack on the way home.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ With the Moon in your sign, you could find it difficult not to be scatterbrained, as so much interests you. A meeting proves to be significant, if you kick back and let others express their ideas. Realize that at this point, your magnetism could bowl others over. Tonight: Just ask, my dear Moon Child.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Sometimes your expression says it all, as is the case today. You don't need words, and you might choose to say much less than unusual. You smile as you gather facts. Others respond accordingly. Be an observer and not a player, for now. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Aim for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Not everyone sees a situation like you do. Know what absolutely works for you. An expert helps you with a major decision. Detach and don't come from an emotional basis. Tonight: Hook up with friends.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Others look to you to set an example, if not for direction. A partner or associate could be key to finding out what will work best. Trust this person's good intentions. Deal with others on a more direct level. Tonight: Take your time with each person.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Others need your vision and insight. But you might be seeking the same from them. A brainstorming session creates a better atmosphere for solution-finding. Remember, there are no problems, just solutions. Tonight: Call a friend at a distance.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Others, but one person in particular, seek you out. Know that this person wants to pitch in and help with a project. This person's good will helps make work more palatable. Together you build a stronger bond. Tonight: Say "yes."



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Others seek you out with only the best intentions. You find that ideas freely float between you and another. Understanding grows in this free-flowing atmosphere. Brainstorm away, but allow others to have more say. Tonight: Just don't be alone.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Your hardworking ethics come through. You are more than willing to go 100 percent of the way to clear up a problem. Think through an expenditure on your home. In fact play, Ralph Nader before committing. Tonight: How about some exercise?



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Let your imagination tackle your work or projects. You might enjoy yourself even more and get more done. A child needs special attention. Or could this be a new friend? Buy a little gift on the way home. Tonight: Enjoy the spring night.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday

Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

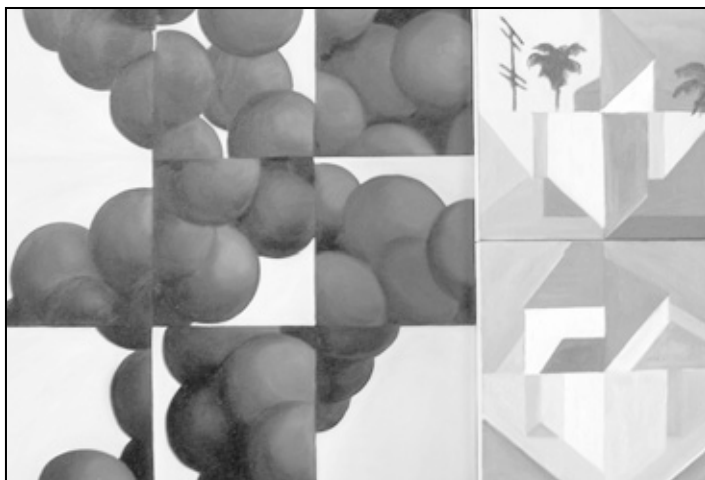


Photo Courtesy SMC

This artwork is an example of the work of Fielden and Gus Harper, a mother-and-son pair of artists who are contributing to an exhibit at Robert's Art Gallery at Santa Monica High School that is running through April 22.

Keeping it in the family

By Daily Press staff

A pair of locals will be presenting their art together for the first time, but to them, teaming up is nothing new.

Renowned artist, Fielden Harper and her son, local artist Gus Harper, contributed to an exhibit of selected paintings at Robert's Art Gallery at Santa Monica High School from March 23 to April 22. The artists' reception was March 24 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Many joint paintings are being featured.

Fielden Harper is a member of The Artists' Gallery, or TAG, in Santa Monica. Her artwork has recently been selected for many corporate and public collections, including the J. Paul Getty President's Fund Collection.

She resides in Santa Monica and teaches art and art history at St. Mathews School in Pacific Palisades. Her recent artwork can be found online at www.fieldenharper.com/pageeighteen.htm.

Gus Harper, 31, lives in New York and Santa Monica. Born and raised in Santa Monica, he graduated from UC Santa Barbara with a bachelor's degree in pre-law and studio art. He works out of his studios in both Santa Monica Airport and Chelsea, N.Y.

Recently, Gus Harper exhibited at the Brentwood Academy, LA Artcore, the National Orange Show and Joslyn Fine Arts Center. His recent artwork can be found online at www.gusharperart.com/pageseven.htm

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surf report

A very slowly fading WNW wind and ground swell combined with a touch of Southern Hemi swelled and generally cleaned conditions on Sunday. Many of the better exposed NW spots had waist-chest high surf, while standout spots saw slightly overhead sets. We'll see a small reinforcing WNW pulse to keep the surf from fading too much further on Monday, with a larger WNW swell arriving by Wednesday. A modest S swell also will build through mid week as well.

**Today the
water is:**

61°

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

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	8:40	1.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SUNDAY	10:25	0.8	N/A	N/A	1:02	4.1	N/A	N/A
MONDAY	11:29	0.4	11:01	3.0	3:01	4.0	7:10	3.4
TUESDAY	12:10	0.1	11:52	2.6	4:33	4.2	7:12	3.7
WEDNESDAY	N/A	N/A	12:42	-0.1	5:32	4.6	7:22	3.9
THURSDAY	12:28	2.0	1:09	-0.3	6:18	4.9	7:37	4.2
FRIDAY	1:03	1.5	1:35	-0.4	6:58	5.1	7:55	4.6

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The Q-Line

The Supreme Court is currently debating whether or not "under God" should be removed from the Pledge of Allegiance. The question arose when the parents — one an atheist and the other a born-again Christian — of a 9-year-old girl got entangled in a custody battle.

Now the issue has gone all the way to the high court and in 2002, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals declared that reciting the pledge in public schools is unconstitutional because the words "under God" amount to an endorsement of religion — and is not a separation of

church and state. If upheld, the ruling would overturn 50 years of common practice in America's schools.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Should the words 'under God' be removed from the Pledge of Allegiance? Why or why not?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your responses 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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LOCAL

Downtown filming and event fees take a hike

FEES, from page 1

ally an asset to downtown Santa Monica.

"We could never pay for the advertising that we get as a result of having filming, both still shoots and commercial filming, on the Promenade," said Kathleen Rawson, Bayside's executive director. "There's no way. It's priceless."

Bayside controls a \$900,000 budget, two-thirds of which comes from City Hall. Last year, Bayside generated \$32,218 in filming revenues, and it expects to generate about \$37,000 this fiscal year, which ends this summer. Rawson told board members the film income is "a nice cushion," but later added she doesn't know exactly how much the fee increases will generate because filming comes in spurts.

"It's all dependent upon what the season is like," she said. "It's going to be

very hard to project. I didn't make any changes in the budget based on a change in fees because it's so hard to say what will happen."

Filming has remained constant in recent years, Rawson added, saying there are typically two or three camera crews in downtown Santa Monica each month. The crews have worked on everything from reality shows, late-night talk shows, sitcoms and feature films to magazine ads for Dodge, Neon and Neiman Marcus, and commercials for Arby's, which are currently airing.

Bayside officials rarely turn away crews — but they will if the shoot has a negative impact on downtown businesses or impinge on nearby residents. Other considerations include impacting the carts that sell goods along the pedestrian walkway, street performers and access for emergency workers.

"We could never pay for the advertising that we get as a result of having filming, both still shoots and commercial filming, on the Promenade. There's no way. It's priceless."

— KATHLEEN RAWSON

Executive director, Bayside District Corp.

"We won't, for example, close down Santa Monica Boulevard," Rawson said. "There are physical restrictions because it is never our goal to have severe traffic or pedestrian impacts that would be negative."

Board members voted to raise the fees without any discussion. As part of the decision, they also agreed to increase the

fees groups must pay to stage events downtown. Currently, a one-block event costs \$1,500, while an auto show or a "festival," that runs the length of the Promenade, costs \$3,000. Under the new fee schedule, a one block event will cost \$1,700, auto shows will go for \$3,200, and staging a festival will cost \$3,800.

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Kristine Johnson Fountain of Joy

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



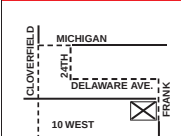
The fountain is a tribute to the love and joy that graced Kristi's life and the community which gave so generously during the search for Kristi prior to finding her body in the Hollywood hills.

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LOCAL



Residents voice opposition over LNG terminal

GAS, from page 1

years. There are nearly 30 proposals for LNG facilities in various stages of development.

Crystal Energy, LLC announced that it filed a project application for its Crystal Clearwater Port project with the U.S. Coast Guard and the California State Lands Commission. The two agencies are, respectively, the primary federal and state authorities responsible for environmental review of the project.

The Crystal Clearwater Port project, located 11 miles offshore Ventura County, calls for utilizing existing "Platform Grace" to import LNG. The cooled natural gas will be transported by ship to the platform, where it will be converted back into vapor form. The natural gas will be delivered from the platform to shore in a state-of-the-art pipeline using an existing pipeline corridor. It will then come onshore at an existing industrial facility before tying into an existing Southern California Gas Company pipeline.

Construction costs for the Crystal Clearwater Port project, which is anticipated to begin operation in 2007, are estimated at \$300 million. Crystal Energy, LLC is a Delaware Limited Liability Company formed specifically to permit the Crystal Clearwater Port project. The Crystal Clearwater Project terminal capacity will be 1 billion cubic feet per day, giving the project the ability to meet more than 25 percent of the state's projected residential demand.

California currently imports about 90 percent of the natural gas it consumes, and demand projections call for a 20 percent increase over the next 10 years, officials said.

Also in February, BHP Billiton announced that the United States Coast Guard/Maritime Administration had deemed complete the company's application for the deepwater port license to construct and operate Cabrillo Port. Cabrillo

Port is the proposed LNG floating storage and regasification unit that will be located off the coast. The application includes operation of a pipeline connecting the deepwater port to the existing natural gas transportation and distribution infrastructure onshore. BHP Billiton initially announced plans for Cabrillo Port in August 2003. Following public review and approval, BHP Billiton expects to initiate the fabrication, construction and installation of necessary facilities to allow for operations to commence by 2008.

FERC Chairman Pat Wood emphasized last week that the agency would work with state and local officials in considering such proposals. He also urged companies seeking approval for such facilities to do their "local homework first" before submitting an application to FERC, said an agency spokeswoman.

Proposals for two LNG terminals — one in California and the other in Maine — were canceled recently because of local opposition. And local residents in Malibu and Ventura have in the past voiced their opposition to Crystal Energy's proposal. They are afraid that the facility might explode, creating massive casualties onshore. There also are a host of concerns ranging from safety to development along the coast to water quality issues.

Calpine canceled an LNG project near Eureka, Calif., because of what officials said was negative feedback from local citizens and officials. Strong opposition to the plan surfaced at a Eureka City Council meeting earlier this month.

In Maine, TransCanada Corp. and ConocoPhillips abandoned a plan to build an LNG terminal at a former Navy fuel depot site after citizens in the community of Harpswell voted 55-45 against leasing land for the facility.

The case involving Long Beach appeared to test the traditional view that FERC has sole jurisdiction over LNG

facilities since it regulates the transportation of natural gas. In last week's decision, the agency sought to clarify the jurisdictional question.

The commission said in a statement that it would work closely with California officials and with local agencies in reviewing the application by Sound Energy Solutions, the company seeking to build the terminal at the Port of Long Beach.

It said it would examine the facility's potential impact on the environment and cultural resources, and take into consideration tanker operation, marine facilities, safety and terminal siting and operation.

"We acknowledge the legitimate concerns of the CPUC regarding matters of safety and security and give our assurance that the evaluation of the proposed project will include thorough and rigorous review of these issues," the commission said.

Sound Energy Solutions argued that the California PUC's involvement cast "a cloud of uncertainty" over the project.

The state agency maintained that while federal law gives FERC authority over gas imports, it does not explicitly give it authority over LNG facilities within a state.

In the case of the Cabrillo Port project, acceptance of the application initiates an extensive environmental review process. As outlined in the Deepwater Port Act, the agencies have 240 days to produce a final joint environmental impact report, which includes comprehensive studies that will cover all aspects of constructing and operating the facilities. The scope of the environmental analyses must conform to standards set by the National Environmental Protection Act and the California Environmental Quality Act, frequently referred to as "NEPA" and "CEQA," respectively. The Coast Guard and CSLC will take the lead agency responsibility, pursuant to federal and state environmental laws, and undertake a joint and cooperative environmental and public review process.

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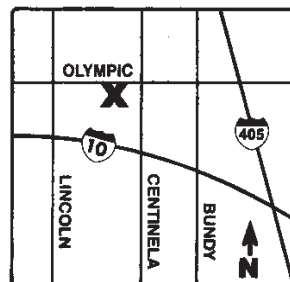
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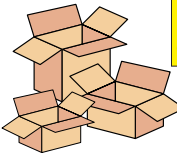
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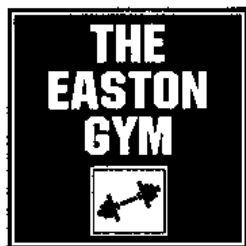
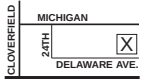


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OPINION

LETTERS

Columnist's poem alarming

Editor:

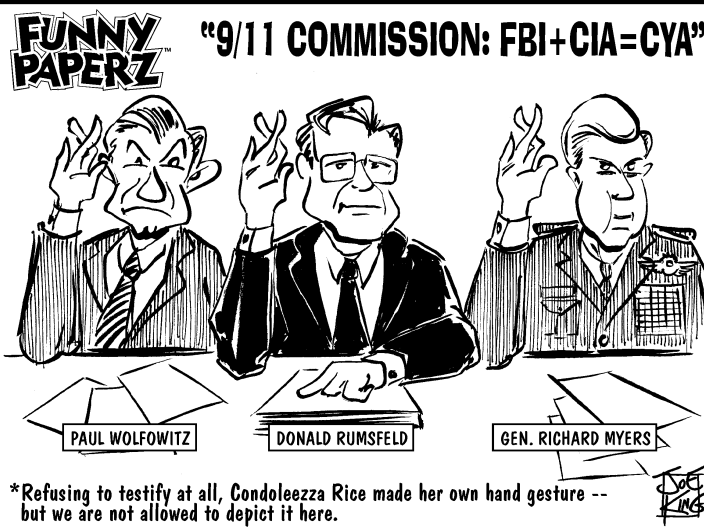
Regarding Janet Phelan's poem (SMDP, March 22, page 5).

In reading this poem, and being somewhat familiar with Janet's twisted and warped sense of reality, I find this poem extremely upsetting.

I request that the SMDP forward this "writing" on to the appropriate law enforcement agency. To anyone remotely sane, this seems to be an outright admission that she and her sister killed their parents.

Albeit, my usual responses are against aiding the homeless, in this case, Janet Phelan (if that is her real name) needs to be arrested, fingerprinted and investigated thoroughly. I would suggest that someone in the social services area check on her parents and their wellbeing also. It wouldn't be the first time that a murderer would be hiding amongst our vast homeless population.

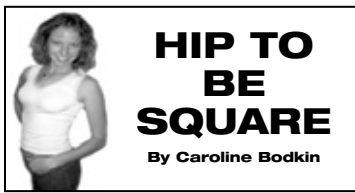
In the meantime, perhaps you can suggest that she refrain from writing such horrific material, unless of course, she wants to continue to prove my point that these homeless are just plain scary.

Lori Emerson
Santa Monica

Member: AAEC, NCS, SCCS

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Sometimes a sidekick will help with life's challenges



Sometimes, things are just too much for one person to deal with.

Like for me, lately, I've had a lot on my mind.

Being unemployed is sort of rough on the psyche. I never really look forward to Christmas shopping. I remember I want to live in the Yukon. Anyway, there's a lot to think about, a lot to do. Job-hunting, dealing, finding time of course to hang with friends, be sort of social, exercise, feed myself and all the rest. It's a lot. It's no different or more difficult than anyone else's lot, but it's a lot.

Which is why last week I decided to take on two sidekicks to help me out. I'll still do the big stuff, the "work work," the hard conversations and driving and shopping. The sidekicks help with the details of things, both logistical and personal. To remember where I put my keys. Or, on the annoying break-up date, they'd be the ones to say: "I'm breaking up with you

because I don't enjoy listening to you talk about yourself, not because I'm emotionally unstable."

They're there to make sure I'm not overdrawing my checking account, to return my parents' phone calls when I don't have the energy, to rub my temples, to find the remote.

I figured I needed both a girl and a boy, for perspective. I asked around, and I put out an ad: "Single girl needs sidekick. No pay, but great learning opportunity and exposure to the real world." Turns out, I just stumbled upon two. Meet Tam Tam and Benito. Tam Tam is a 1986 Rocker Barbie I found on eBay for \$4. Tam Tam is missing one leg. To help her feel less self-conscious about it, I replaced her original hot pink leggings (one leg of which just dangled — how difficult!) with little leather one-legged pants. Her hobbies include finger weaving and oil painting. She wants to learn how to rollerblade.

Benito is a green, terrycloth bath friend puppet washcloth I bought at Pottery Barn for Kids. Benito's a lady's man, and he likes to salsa. They call me C-Bod.

They spent the whole first week in the apartment, getting used to their new positions. Ins and outs. They cozied in quite quickly. After two days, Tam Tam was helping me put texturizing cream in my hair, and Benito was updating my

They're there to make sure I'm not overdrawing my checking account, to return my parents' phone calls when I don't have the energy, to rub my temples, to find the remote.

Rolodex. We listened to talk radio and discussed the war.

Tam Tam thinks we shouldn't have invaded, Benito's all for battle. It's a lively crew. There were times we'd laugh so hard, I'd almost forget that I'm a struggling, unemployed, single girl. How could I feel overwhelmed when I had a team? They really want what's best for me. Then on Friday I got a call, an interview — see what a little help can do? To assist a big shot at a major motion picture studio. Everyone was excited and nervous.

I brought them in with my larger leather purse. Tam Tam likes to lie on the bottom and Benito folds himself into the side pocket. The interview went really well. He asked me great questions that I answered with full confidence. What's your background? What do you really want to do? Tell me about yourself. I said I'm from Utah, but I'm not a Mormon, and I'm very socially adaptable. After

they'd heard enough from the big guy, Benito and Tam Tam left my purse to check out the scene. Tam Tam's super agile with her one leg; she can use it to swing. She crawled up the wall and through the heating ducts to check out the potential fellow employees. Benito stuck around in the office. He's skinny enough sideways to fit into the filing cabinets, check out the dirt. Things appeared to be in ship shape by the looks of them when they returned. At the end of the interview, the big guy asked if I'd be happy working there. I said we'd have to discuss it, but it looked like we'd be very happy there. I haven't heard from him yet, but I feel super hopeful.

(Caroline Bodkin lives in Los Angeles and wonders daily if she'll miss her calling. You can e-mail her at hiptobesquare-bybodkin@yahoo.com).

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OPINION



Toss out charter proposal within school district

For almost a year, the Santa Monica-Malibu Board of Education has been grappling with a SMASH dependent charter petition (that was eventually withdrawn), a memo of understanding with the Big Picture Company to provide staff development and other services for SMASH, and most recently an independent charter petition from the same Big Picture Company that would expand a SMASH-type program through the 12th grade, under the name Met-Santa Monica.

In light of the projected \$3.5 million revenue shortfall for 2004-05, all attempts to super-size SMASH should be rejected. Instead, the savings from downsizing the alternative school should be given serious consideration. A historical perspective for the creation of SMASH might be helpful in the board's deliberations.

Just why is there an "alternative" in the Santa Monica Alternative School House name? About 30 years ago — raw and disillusioned from assassinations, drugs and Viet Nam — anything "traditional" was taking a big hit and the time was ripe for reform. The "traditional classroom" of the '70s was — fairly or unfairly — characterized by having a female teacher standing at the front of the class over by the chalkboard giving a directed lesson to 30 or more students sitting at desks in straight rows all facing the teacher. So a group of local parents including Jane Fonda and Tom Hayden persuaded the board to establish a small, K-12 alternative school of choice for 120 students and their parents who were seeking instructional innovation in a relaxed atmosphere.

Over three decades, SMASH has added more students and teachers, changed locations, and reconfigured to its current K-8 structure while struggling unsuccessfully to meet one of the original board stipulations: "The school should

run on the same cost per student as the other schools in the district."

Fast forward 30 years and look at a partial list of progressive educational choices available in Santa Monica and Malibu schools today: Multiage strands, looping, team teaching, grade level cores, block and modified-day schedules, advisory, K-3 class-size reduction, technology, governance councils, assessment aligned with standards-based instruction, portfolios, PARS, conflict resolution, peer mediation, AVID, and a SAMOHI redesign. So for SMASH to take the position that it's the last bastion of progressive education in our district is just simply no longer true. This, coupled with the rather arrogant belief that SMASH teachers need a different kind of staff development, smacks of elitism and is a slap in the face to hundreds of successful teachers across this district. It's ironic that progressive education at SMASH is being touted as the "new tradition" that must be preserved at all costs.

So what are the cost implications associated with the SMASH experiment today? Using 2003-04 enrollment data (which is based on second-month enrollment), SMASH has a total of 189 students, including 57 out-of-district permits. That equals 30 percent permits of total SMASH enrollment as compared to just over 18 percent for the whole district. In its conception, SMASH was never meant to be so reliant on permit students. But as it became difficult to draw local residents into the program, a liberal inter-district permit policy evolved without formal board action. The 189 breaks down into 80 K-3 students, 46 fourth and fifth graders and 63 middle schoolers. State class size reduction requires a 20 to 1 ratio for all K-3 classes

in the district, but the 23 to 1 at fourth and fifth is far below the 30 to 1 staffing at all the other elementary schools and is even lower than Edison's 25 to 1. With a generous allotment of 2.5 teachers for SMASH sixth, seventh and eighth graders, the student/teacher ratio comes to 25 to 1, substantially lower than the classes in the 30s at the other middle schools. Given the limited revenue crunch, it would be fiscally irresponsible not to consider aligning the SMASH staffing formulas and permit policies with the rest of the district.

One example would be to "blend" — not move or close — the K-5 structure with the John Muir program right next door. The four teachers allotted to the K-

3 portion could become the multiage strand similar to the structure at Will Rogers and Franklin, and the fourth and fifth graders could be team taught by two of the current SMASH teachers. This configuration

could be called the Santa Monica/Muir Multiage School House, or SMASH. These six teachers would remain in their assigned classrooms on the SMASH site but would receive administrative and clerical support from the Muir principal and support staff. The continuing middle school students would be given a choice to attend John Adams, Lincoln or Malibu High next year while "grandfathering" the 26 permit students if they wish to stay in the district. This reconfiguration of SMASH could reduce the need for one principal, two teachers, and possibly one clerical position, saving the district approximately \$250,000 next year in personnel costs.

This is in stark contrast to the sketchy funding proposed for the Met-Santa Monica high school charter that leaves many unanswered questions: Has the

financial oversight committee reviewed this proposal? What would be the compelling reason for the board to approve any charter containing contingencies on soft-money funding? Instead, shouldn't the board require a budget proposal that guarantees full funding for the first three years before entering into a memo of understanding? How does the board justify approving a charter with a staffing pattern of 19 pupils per teacher when the class sizes at SAMOHI and Malibu High are in the 30s? What's the relationship between the superintendent and the Big Picture Company? If enough local parents don't want SMASH or the proposed high school charter, then why offer them?

The Met charter proposal was a discussion item last week during a special Board of Education meeting at the district offices but wasn't taped for rebroadcast. Due to unfortunate timing, the board — by law — must approve or reject the charter petition at its April 1 meeting, 21 miles up the coast at Malibu High School. Given the long-term implications of its impending decision, the board should consider changing the meeting location to Santa Monica where the proceedings could be taped by City TV and where the potential for public participation would be increased.

Regardless, the bottom line is that SMASH is a small, expensive school to operate, and the proposed high school charter would further exacerbate the inequitable distribution of scarce resources. Since the petitioners have not met the financial criteria, the board must reject the Met-Santa Monica charter proposal.

(Jim Jaffee is a retired Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District teacher, a longtime Santa Monica resident and a graduate of Santa Monica High School.)

Guest Commentary

By Jim Jaffee

The loss of civil liberties might mean the end is near



On May 30, I should be celebrating my 52nd birthday. I wonder if I will reach it. The problem of "environmental contaminants" being deposited around my sleeping areas has not been addressed by the authorities. Even the wildlife is suffering. I have begun to see dead birds on the streets of Santa Monica. It is a sign I cannot ignore.

They say God notices when a sparrow falls. I believe God is outraged when a sparrow is shot down, or when the environment simply becomes too toxic to support its life. After all, we are all God's

creatures.

Considering my failing health due to these toxins, I now have an urgency to address certain matters in writing. I have had many conversations with friends Sue Gregory and Joann Nelson concerning the issues that will affect us all — the increasing global aggression by the United States, Bush's attempts to dominate the world's oil and water and the changes in activities in the Middle East. As Sue has said many times, "The focus is Israel."

Last year, when I realized there were dreadful and lethal "forces in play" in my life, I made a request of the Almighty: "May I survive to witness the unfolding of this terrible global agenda. May I see the 'Jews driven again from the homeland,' as it is written in prophecy."

The settlements are being dismantled. Synagogues are being torn down. I personally might not survive to see the sad end of Israel, but I have seen enough to know it is imminent.

There is a particular reason this event is so critical now. Israel was established after WWII as the homeland for the Jewish people, of which, due to my mother's blood, I am one. It was established after the unspeakable horror of the Holocaust, to ensure this could never happen again, to ensure there would be a safe haven for a terribly persecuted people.

With the imminent loss of the homeland, the stage is set for another Holocaust. A recent issue of Jerusalem report reviewed three new books, two scholarly and one more popular, detailing the unfortunate turn of events since 9-11, which has made another Holocaust more than likely. The loss of civil liberties since the Patriot Act and the rise of anti-Semitism worldwide are only two sources of concern.

Not so incidentally, 9-11 had a prototype. Students of history are aware that, before the Holocaust, Hitler achieved his own version of the Patriot Act by having

his own troops burn down the German Parliament, which he conveniently blamed on the Socialists. This created a bogus necessity for his "state of emergency," and Hitler received dictatorial powers, which have been mirrored in our Patriot Act. The resultant loss of civil liberties enabled the Holocaust in Germany. The conditions have now been duplicated in the United States.

The stage is set. There is no need for camps or ovens. Technology has progressed to a point where the slaughter will occur in our own homes, our places of work.

Since 9-11, in every city and every state, the government has been working on the water lines. We will die of cardiac failure by water piped into our own faucets.

Through this completely frank report, I believe I have fulfilled my destiny. Bring on the chemicals. You may silence me now.

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.

Community Profiles

PROFILES, from page 1

Guerboian, a father of three who moved into an apartment on Strand Street in the late 1960s, said he hopes to work collaboratively with City Hall to help tackle homelessness, parking and other issues that affect local merchants.

"I'm not a controversial guy," Guerboian said in an interview last week. "Build relationships, because when you are a team you can win. Individually, you cannot win."

Guerboian said his dedication to teamwork reaches into all aspects of his life — as a husband and father, a businessman and community member, as well as a basketball fan and coach. Guerboian has coached for the local Boys & Girls Club, at Balboa Park and for his kids. He calls Magic Johnson his "Magic Man."

Here, the Daily Press sat down with Guerboian, owner of Readers Fine Jewelers on Wilshire Boulevard, and asked how he's kept the business alive for 28 years.

You were recently voted chairman-elect by the nominating committee of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. Why do you want to serve?

"I want to serve because I am part of the Santa Monica community and I am part of the business community. We want to have fun and do business in Santa Monica, and have more members get involved, and really build relationships between chamber members and the city — bring our two existing groups together to better our Santa Monica."

What do you hope to accomplish?

"What I hope to accomplish is build relationships, better relationships, with the city and have the membership get involved more with the chamber events, and increase the membership, of course, and have fun while we're doing business ... We need to have some council members that know about business or are part of business in the community so we can communicate ... If some council people own businesses then they understand what the business

needs are in the community."

The chamber recently has taken a more aggressive role in local politics, with its formation of a political action committee to endorse city council candidates. Will it be a challenge to work with City Hall after butting heads with the powers that be?

"Everyday we have a challenge in our lives. It doesn't mean we don't care. After the election, maybe we realize we need to work together. I'm a guy that likes to have peace. I like to have good relationships ... I think when we get together, I will try to do that with the city, and talk and communicate with some more of the reasons why we're getting involved with politics now."

If you were in control, what changes would you advocate?

"I would be more flexible to help businesses start in Santa Monica and cut back on bureaucracy. I would listen to the business owners, or apartment owners — whatever it takes to make the city better. I would like to listen to the chamber members or the individual members and then see if I could put them together to better Santa Monica ... My No. 1 concern for the businesses is the homeless situation. And another one is some cleanliness of the city. There's a lot of, in my area, a lot of dirt and things, it's not always kept up ...

"Really, in my experience, the tourists and the clients, they meet the homeless. They're bothered with these people in Santa Monica. Some of my tourist clients, they come in and say they see more homeless in Santa Monica and they don't want to shop in Santa Monica, the way they beg all day. Especially the women, they have the problem (with transients)."

Does the situation seem to have gotten worse over the years?

"There's more coming in and I think the feeding helped more come in. I'm not against feeding, but in a certain way people come in — they're not even homeless they just come in to get food, that's what I'm hearing ... We're very liberal about it. We're known as the center of the homeless people. The homeless people come

here a lot. We have a lot of them, and I believe it's because it's very easy for them to live here."

How would you address homelessness?

"Well first of all, I would try to control the city better and try to guide them to go where the homeless shelter is, all the time. Have you been to Beverly Hills? You don't see homeless people, right? I went to Wilshire in Beverly Hills, and I was driving, and I saw the cops talking to a homeless man and I was watching, and they took him away to wherever the homeless go. They're trying to control the homeless in Beverly Hills. Why can't we be like that?"

What do you think of the recent vote to ban smoking on the beach?

"OK, well — can I say no comment? ... You know it was OK not to smoke in the restaurants or the stores, but I'm not for the idea of not smoking on that pier. I know it's going to affect a lot of businesses. In the long run, we are taking the freedoms away from our visitors, our residents. And I think it can affect a lot of tourism there."

You've been with the chamber for decades. How has it changed over the years?

"We're united. We have a goal to help the businesses improve and do better in Santa Monica. The events that we pro-

vide now and the increase in the membership that helps the chamber do the work ... Before, we weren't as involved in the concerns of the businesses of Santa Monica. We didn't have that many of the situations we have now — the homelessness, the parking, the new businesses coming in. Right now we're a big, small city. We're big, but we're still small."

You've mentioned a few times that it's important to have fun while doing business. What do you mean by that?

"Enjoy doing business among ourselves. Don't take everything seriously — and if something goes wrong, we can try to correct it. All it takes is great communication between our business people. That's my thing. I communicate between all the people in our business (community). I care about people. When we have our luncheons and our mixers with the chamber — get together, get to know each other better."

Any tips or secrets?

"I will surprise you."

What's your philosophy on life?

"Enjoy your life. Live every day as though it's your last day. Thank God for what you have and for the family you have. I believe that the United States is the land of opportunity, because I came with nothing, and I appreciate everything I receive and I have, and I like to give back to the community."

Eddie Guerboian

Income: Declined to state.

Born: August 6, 1951, in Cairo, Egypt.

Education: Went to high school in Cairo. Studied for an AA degree at Santa Monica College before dropping out to attend the Gemological Institute of America.

Background: He worked minimum wage jobs on the Promenade while in school. Started as a jeweler in 1970. In 1976, he took a job with Readers Fine Jewelers, then located on the Promenade. In 1978, he bought the family-owned business and has stayed with it ever since, moving to the current location on Wilshire Boulevard in about

1980.

Residence: Tarzana.

Organizations: Serves on the board for the Boys & Girls Club, the Salvation Army and Kiwanis, where he also is a distinguished past president. Guerboian is a member of the Santa Monica College advisory board. He received a distinguished award from the Jaycee's in 1990.

Family: Guerboian met his wife Evelyn through his church. They have three children: Son Avedis, 21, daughters Natalie, 18, and Nicole, 13.

Hobbies: Coaching and playing basketball, playing tennis, dancing, spending time with family and friends, teaching, fundraising and enjoying life.

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Kerry mines California gold in fund-raising tour

BY BETH FOUHY
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — When John Kerry kicks off his multistate fund-raising tour in California this week, stars including Ben Affleck and Leonardo DiCaprio will add a celebrity buzz to a crowd already passionately committed to ousting President Bush in November.

Home to some of the Democratic Party's deepest pockets, California has always been a mother lode for candidates pursuing national office. This time, though, the anybody-but-Bush intensity among Democrats has motivated activists to seek money like never before.

"I've never seen a time when Democrats and many independents are more galvanized and interested in helping," said state Treasurer Phil Angelides, who has raised more than \$50,000 for Kerry. "I believe there is greater intensity and widespread willingness to give than in any previous election I can remember."

First up for the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee is a luncheon Monday in Sacramento hosted by Angelides, then a San Francisco reception organized by the area's top high-tech moguls.

On Tuesday, Kerry lunches with donors in San Diego before hitting a gala at the Los Angeles home of billionaire supermarket mogul Ron Burkle, with Affleck, DiCaprio and Barbra Streisand. Singer James Taylor will perform.

Kerry is familiar to many Democratic donors here, having spent years cultivating contacts in Hollywood and the high-tech community, the state's two main treasure troves of campaign cash. He has already raised more money in California, \$5 million, than from any other state, according to recent financial disclosures.

"This is going to be a long battle ahead, and it's important to give John Kerry the ammunition and the resources he needs. Beyond that, there are a lot of ways people can help."

— PHIL ANGELIDES
State Treasurer

But Bush has raised more than \$13.3 million in the state, for a \$170 million war chest that even Kerry's staunchest supporters say he is unlikely to come close to matching. Kerry has set a goal of raising \$105 million before the Democratic National Convention in late July.

To be sure, not all of California's Democratic donors have been Kerry supporters. Many found the four-term Massachusetts senator a bit stuffy, and his tortured justification for his vote authorizing the U.S.-led war in Iraq persuaded many activists to support former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean.

One is Steve Kirsch, a Silicon Valley multimillionaire who is one of the Democratic Party's biggest donors. Originally a Dean supporter, Kirsch has switched to Kerry — but with reservations.

"I will do anything I can to defeat President Bush — that's easy," Kirsch said, "and John Kerry is very much aligned with the types of things I'd like to see done. If I have any complaint, it's that he's not aggressive enough."

But with the state's vast resources come limitations. Because of a \$2,000

federal limit on individual contributions, Kerry's fund-raisers must cast their nets wide by "bundling" checks from multiple supporters.

"I'm on the phone all morning, and another three hours in the afternoon," said Susie Tompkins Buell, founder of the Esprit clothing company who, like Angelides, has raised more than \$50,000 for Kerry. "I've been calling everyone I know."

Many of California's wealthiest Democrats can give far more to Kerry than the \$2,000 allowed by law, including Kirsch and entertainment moguls Haim Saban and Steven Bing. Together, the three gave \$20.2 million to Democratic Party committees in 2002, mostly as "soft money," which the political parties are now barred from accepting.

As a result, many wealthy donors have "maxed out" to Kerry. But they can make larger donations to the Democratic National Committee, which can accept \$25,000 per individual, or one of several groups created to accept soft money — corporate, union and unlimited donations. These groups include America Coming Together, the Media Fund and

MoveOn.org, which oppose Bush. Bing already has contributed nearly \$3 million to these groups.

While the groups can raise and spend unlimited amounts, they are legally prohibited from coordinating with Kerry's campaign. That leaves his fund-raisers to find ways to hint that donors can and should contribute to both efforts.

"This is going to be a long battle ahead, and it's important to give John Kerry the ammunition and the resources he needs. Beyond that, there are a lot of ways people can help," Angelides said.

But Margery Tabankin, a longtime Democratic activist who advises Streisand on her political donations, said that while it is natural for the same group of high-profile Hollywood Democrats to be targeted by both Kerry and these independent organizations, she and other fund-raisers take pains to keep the discussions separate.

She said everyone understands these groups can help "neutralize Bush's money, but I've never made the linkage on the same phone call when I'm raising money for Kerry."

At the opposite end of the spectrum are the grass-roots donors who lined up in droves for Dean, who raised \$5.8 million in California before dropping from the race. Most of it came from small donors over the Internet.

"Democrats who want to be competitive have to have grass-roots financial support — the only way to challenge Bush is to get people to contribute what they can," said Jude Barry, Dean's California campaign director. "I think the Kerry campaign gets it, and if they don't get it, they don't get it at their own peril."

DID YOU KNOW?: After John Kerry came home from Vietnam, he led numerous antiwar protests and earned high praise in front-page coverage in the Communist Party/USA newspaper Daily World.

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NATIONAL

Hawaiian Airlines hits turbulence after Chapter 11 filing

BY DAVE SEGAL

Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU — Hawaiian Airlines' bankruptcy was supposed to be simple.

File for reorganization in March and emerge in the fall.

Force Boeing Capital Corp. to restructure aircraft leases and come out of Chapter 11 with a lower cost structure for the post-Sept. 11 environment.

At least, that was the plan of former Hawaiian Chairman John Adams. But the plan began to unravel in just 10 days, when a distrusting Boeing Capital, unwilling to accede to Adams' financial demands, asked Bankruptcy Court to replace Adams as chief executive officer with a trustee. After a two-day hearing last May, Adams was removed.

Two trustees and one year after its bankruptcy filing, the airline's reorganization is still in doubt.

No longer can this case be called simple. Its complexity can be seen in the nearly 2,100 filings that have been made in Bankruptcy Court and the involvement of more than 100 attorneys and consultants since the Chapter 11 filing on March 21, 2003.

To complicate matters, Joshua Gotbaum, the second trustee to be appointed, filed a \$28 million lawsuit against Adams and his affiliates that accuses them of fraudulent and preferential money transfers and breach of fiduciary duties. The Securities and Exchange Commission also is investigating Adams, who repeatedly has claimed that all his decisions were made in the open with public filings and board approval.

"I don't think you can have a Chapter 11 filing for a company of this magnitude and expect it to be a simple procedure," said San Diego-based U.S. Trustee Steven Katzman, who oversees the Hawaii region and was responsible for selecting Gotbaum and his trustee predecessor, John Monahan.

"Chapter 11 is a complicated process, and it's further complicated by the fact that there are several players involved in the process," said Katzman. "We're talk-

ing about a significant company with a host of issues, and I think the public pleadings have made it acutely aware of what those issues are."

The good news, though, is that the company has posted 11 consecutive months of operating profits, leads the nation in percentage of seats filled, has the best on-time performance in the United States, has been rated among the top airlines nationally for its cabin service and has \$94.6 million in unrestricted cash.

Hawaiian's turnaround has caught the attention of several groups, three of whom already have filed reorganization plans and others who plan to participate in the bidding process that will lead to the best proposal to bring the airline out of Chapter 11.

That's encouraging to flight attendant Pono Hiram-Macdonald, who has been with the airline for 29 years and was doubly worried at the bankruptcy's outset because her husband also works for the company as a Boeing 767 pilot.

"In the beginning of the bankruptcy, we were very concerned with both of our incomes coming from one company," she said. "It's a little disconcerting to us ... because my husband is a year away from retirement."

Hiram-Macdonald, who weathered the airline's first reorganization bankruptcy 11 years ago, said she knows more what to expect this time around and is happy to see more than one party interested in investing in the airline.

"I think employees feel better that there may be more choices rather than us being told what we're going to have to do (in regards to agreeing to concessions)," Hiram-Macdonald said. "There are several different plans on how Hawaiian can continue to be successful and make money."

Corporate Recovery Group LLC, a Wilson, Wyo.-based turnaround company, and Boeing Capital, the airline's primary aircraft lessor, filed the first reorganization plan on Feb. 10, 2004. That was followed by plans from Hawaiian Airlines pilot Robert Konop and parent company Hawaiian Holdings Inc., whose chairman

and CEO is Adams.

All of the parties involved in the bankruptcy process expect the company to emerge from reorganization sometime in the third quarter of this year. But things figure to get harder before they get easier with an April 1 hearing looming before Bankruptcy Judge Robert Faris that will determine the bidding process for selecting a reorganization plan.

Mechanic Dave Figueira, who has been with the airline for nearly 16 years, said he's feeling better about the airline's future now than he did a year ago.

"There was an uneasy feeling about our future in the beginning, but it's kind of subsided with the success of the company," Figueira said.

"So far, everybody who's come in with plans of reorganization wants to expand the airline," Figueira added. "That's good for the airline because it would bring more jobs and more routes to grow the airline, which is what John Adams' plan was."

Capt. Jamieson Cheng, who flies Boeing 717s on interisland routes, said a dispute between the trustee and the Air Line Pilots Association about the funding of the pilots' pension plan has kept him and other pilots glued to their cockpit seats.

"We're worried about our futures," he said.

The pension plan was underfunded by \$94.5 million at the end of last year, and

the pilots and Gotbaum have been at odds over whether a \$4.25 million payment due last Sept. 15 can be deferred. But the pilots received some good news March 17 when Gotbaum agreed to put \$4 million — unrelated to the \$4.25 million payment — into the pension plan.

"Morale has gone up and down depending on the news, but currently we're all confident the company is doing better," Cheng said. "The employees are working as hard as they can, being as professional as they can, treating the customers with just the greatest of care. It's like one big family pulling together, and we're hoping to emerge from bankruptcy soon."

Another byproduct of having Adams replaced is that the appointment of a trustee removed the "exclusivity" period that company management would have had to propose its own reorganization plan. As a result, any party can file its own plan.

"John Adams' public statements oversimplified the issues at Hawaiian, and I'm sure even privately he didn't expect that, two months after filing, he would be removed by the court," Gotbaum said. "Even in a case where, like Hawaiian, the company is doing very well, getting out of bankruptcy involves negotiations to resolve dozens or hundreds of claims, and that's not 'simple.'"

Hawaiian Airlines overview

By The Associated Press

Some facts and figures about Hawaiian Airlines:

Employees: 3,300.

Inaugural flight: Nov. 11, 1929.

Fleet: 14 Boeing 767s, 11 Boeing 717s.

Destinations: Mainland — San Diego; Los Angeles; San Francisco; Sacramento, Calif.; Portland, Ore.; Seattle; Las Vegas; Phoenix.

Interisland — Oahu, Kauai, Big Island (Hilo and Kona), Maui, Molokai, Lanai.

South Pacific — Pago Pago, American Samoa; Papeete, Tahiti; Sydney, Australia (service starting May 18, 2004).

Source: Honolulu Star-Bulletin



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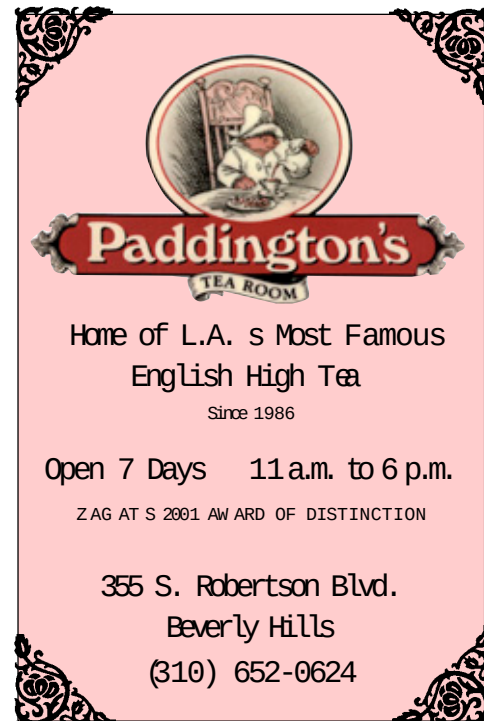
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Half million Taiwanese protest disputed election

BY STEPHAN GRAUWELS

Associated Press Writer

TAIPEI, Taiwan— A half million people swarmed into Taiwan's capital on Saturday to protest the disputed presidential election, while China hinted that the turmoil might provide a reason for it to take control of the island.

Demonstrators wore yellow rain ponchos in the cold drizzle and waved Taiwanese flags as they filled the wide boulevard outside the Presidential Office. They cheered and listened to fiery speeches that alleged President Chen Shui-bian rigged the March 20 vote.

The rally started peacefully — a contrast from the day before when about 2,000 people stormed the Central Election Commission headquarters in Taipei. The mob broke glass windows and scuffled with police in an unsuccessful attempt to delay the formal certification of the election's results.

The losing candidate, Nationalist leader Lien Chan, addressed the crowd and repeated his demands for a recount of the vote that Chen won by a tiny margin.

"If someone uses nasty means to gain power, such power won't be effective and won't be respected," said Lien, a 67-year-old former political science professor and ex-vice president.

Lien also demanded an independent investigation into the bizarre election-eve shooting that lightly wounded Chen and might have given him a crucial last-minute boost at the polls.

His running mate James Soong told the crowd that if a new election is held, he'd be willing to give up his candidacy for vice president to prove that he was motivated by a desire for a fair vote, not by a hunger for power.

Those who believed conspiracy theories that Chen staged the shooting to gain sympathy votes carried signs

that said, "Democracy shot in the stomach" and "Shooting tricks shall be revealed."

After Lien's speech, ruling party lawmaker Hsiao Bikhim expressed disappointment that Lien and Soong didn't tell the crowd that the president has already agreed to a recount and an independent investigation.

Hsiao also noted that the opposition candidates didn't say whether they would accept the results of a recount. "This is really regrettable," she said.

Police said about 500,000 people attended the rally.

Chen was officially declared the victor by the Election Commission on Friday, drawing a statement of congratulations from the United States that was condemned by China.

"We congratulate Mr. Chen on his victory," White House press secretary Scott McClellan said, while recognizing the pending legal challenges of the results.

China expressed displeasure Saturday over Washington's message, saying it was an "incorrect act" that undermined its commitment to Beijing's one-China policy. China still claims the island as its territory although the two sides split during civil war in 1949.

The admonition came one day after Beijing said it wouldn't "look on unconcerned" if the turmoil in Taiwan continued. China didn't say what it might do, and it wasn't clear whether the comments were more than a ritual declaration of the mainland's rights over the island. Beijing previously has threatened to take over the island if it ever descends into chaos.

Taiwan's government warned China against meddling in its affairs.

The president, who campaigned on a platform of standing up to China, has agreed to a vote recount, but lawmakers disagree about how to amend election laws to allow for a speedy re-tally and who should examine the

ballots.

One of the most difficult tasks for Chen might be satisfying the many skeptics who believe he faked the shooting.

Police haven't made any arrests, but on Friday sought the public's help by releasing photos captured by security cameras of a man hurrying away from the shooting scene.

The president's Democratic Progressive Party urged supporters to avoid the rally and refrain from displaying the party's logo.

Chartered buses from cities in southern Taiwan arrived for the rally, as protesters said Friday's violence didn't scare them away.

"That was a small minority of overexcited people. We still know our demands are reasonable, so we still have to persist and stay here," said Colin Wu, 38, an insurance salesman.

Some protesters held up pictures of Chen and the vice president as others beat the images with umbrellas. Many wore black, as requested by the Nationalist Party, to symbolize mourning for Taiwan's democracy.

"This was a very dirty election. We want the truth," said Carla Wang, a 56-year-old who works at a trading company.

The brown-brick Presidential Office was ringed by police buses, while streets leading to key government buildings and to the ruling party headquarters were barricaded.

At the tall marble Nationalist Party headquarters facing the Presidential Office, protesters were picking up white balloons with the word "Recount."

"This is a moment in history I cannot let pass," said Eve Chiang, 29, a sales assistant at a clothing store, waiting to receive a balloon.



WORLD BRIEFLY

Attacks rock Mosul, Baghdad

By The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Rebel rockets slammed into a government building in the northern city of Mosul on Saturday, killing two civilians and wounding 14 others. An explosion rocked central Baghdad in a roadside bomb attack on a convoy, wounding five Iraqis.

The Mosul attack brought to 21 the number of people killed in two days of explosions and shootings across the country.

The rocket launcher was hidden in a wooden cart that was wheeled up to a blast wall surrounding the three-story main government building, said Mosul police Sgt. Jassim Mohammed.

In the country's south Saturday, a gunman shot and killed the Iraqi driver of a civilian truck carrying supplies to Japan's military, Japan's Kyodo News agency said. The attack was an apparent robbery attempt, it said.

Japan's Defense Agency said a civilian truck hired to transport supplies to Japanese troops in Samawah had been attacked. Tokyo has about 1,000 naval, air, and ground forces in Iraq to help with reconstruction.

In central Baghdad Saturday, a bomb exploded on a street as a convoy of sport utility vehicles passed, wounding five Iraqis, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Peter Jones said. It was not clear who was in the cars. U.S. troops sealed off the area after the blast.

Arab summit postponed indefinitely

By The Associated Press

TUNIS, Tunisia — An Arab summit was postponed Saturday two days before its start because of differences on peace overtures to Israel and plans for political reforms, the Tunisian hosts announced.

The decision reflects deep divisions after Monday's Israeli assassination of Hamas founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin and U.S. efforts to pressure authoritarian Arab states into providing greater freedoms.

No new date for the summit was announced.

The Tunisians announced the postponement after acrimonious discussions by Arab foreign ministers over the agenda to be presented to the heads of state. The two-day summit was slated to begin Monday.

Tunisian Foreign Ministry official Hatem bin Salem told reporters the differences were "particularly over the issues of modernization and reform ... to reactivate Arab institutions."

Bush's fund-raising bonanza ends

By The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — President Bush's fund-raising odyssey, which carried him thousands of miles on a quest for \$170 million, is coming to an end. But the dollars will continue to flow into his war chest.

Having already crossed that goal, Bush's money drive comes full-circle with a fund-raiser Wednesday night in Washington — the same place the push for cash started on June 17, 2003. It will be one of the last of its kind. The final fund-raiser is likely to be next month, campaign officials say.

In another sign the effort is winding down, Bush holds a pair of thank-you events Friday in Greensboro, Ga., the home town of his finance chairman, Mercer Reynolds III. These appearances are meant to show Bush's appreciation to backers who rounded up the biggest donations — the president's "rangers," "pioneers" and "mavericks," Scott Stanzel, a campaign spokesman, said Saturday.

Rangers raised at least \$200,000 each for the president; pioneers, at least \$100,000; mavericks, at least \$50,000.

NASA launches super jet

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Three years after its first test flight ended in an explosion, NASA on Saturday successfully launched an experimental jet designed to reach

speeds approaching 5,000 mph.

The unpiloted X-43A made a 10-second powered flight, then went through some twists and turns during a six-minute glide before plunging into the Pacific Ocean about 400 miles off the California coast.

"Everything worked according to plan. It's been wonderful," NASA spokeswoman Leslie Williams said. "I actually thought it was the most beautiful thing I've ever seen. We've been waiting a few years."

It wasn't immediately clear what speed the needle-nosed jet achieved after it was boosted to about 3,500 mph by a rocket, Williams said.

The first X-43A flight ended in failure June 2, 2001, after the modified Pegasus rocket used to accelerate the plane veered off course and was detonated. An investigation board found preflight analyses failed to predict how the rocket would perform, leaving its control system unable to maintain stable flight.

Episcopalians call for tolerance

By The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Moderate and liberal Episcopalians from dioceses that oppose an openly gay bishop called Saturday for church members to find common ground and tolerate differing viewpoints so the church can remain whole.

Episcopalians from 11 conservative dioceses said at the conclusion of a three-day meeting in Atlanta they are trying to move past a debate that has caused divisions in the church.

"There is a place for everybody in this church," said the Rev. Michael Russell, rector of All Souls' Episcopal Church in San Diego. "Because a vote was taken that a group doesn't like isn't a reason to leave the church. It's a reason to stay together in conversation."

Church conservatives have heavily criticized leaders who consecrated openly gay Bishop V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire in November, and have created a national oppositional organization called the Network of Anglican Communion Dioceses and Parishes.

The network opposes same-sex unions and the ordination of gay clergy. Members have said they plan to defy church leaders and contend for control of parishes and dioceses, which could lead to a schism in the national church.

COMICS

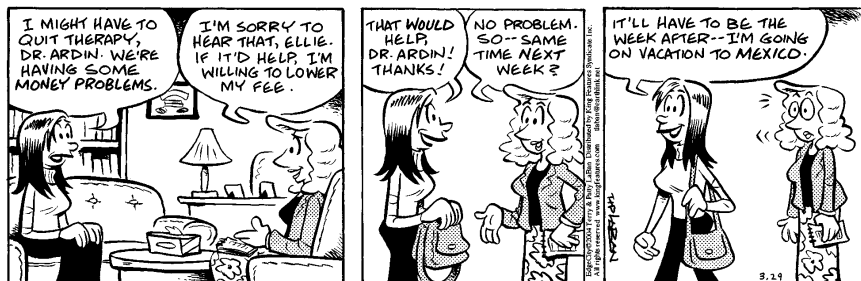
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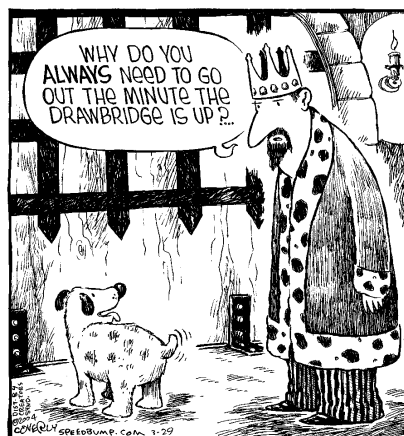
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ACROSS

- 1 Two-masted boats
- 6 Pick up the bill
- 11 Poet T.S.
- 12 Blackjack phrase
- 13 Sluggo's pal
- 14 Wanders
- 15 Painter Paul
- 17 Parking place
- 18 1862 Civil War battle
- 22 Pride member
- 23 Beautiful boy
- 27 Cord ends
- 29 Play part
- 30 Frames
- 32 Hudson of "Almost Famous"
- 33 Go all out
- 35 Soup buy
- 38 Enthusiastic
- 39 Hawaiian greeting
- 41 Spy
- 45 Fifth element
- 46 Blender button
- 47 Play place
- 48 Generate

DOWN

- 1 Longing
- 2 Menu phrase
- 3 Take the prize
- 4 Jailing
- 5 Manner
- 6 Clothing, in slang
- 7 Brazilian resort
- 8 List-ending abbr.
- 9 Bullets
- 10 Exam
- 16 Greek vowel
- 18 Swiss peaks
- 19 Egypt divider

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Saturday's answer

- 20 Extol
- 21 Making a model of
- 24 Tidy
- 25 Wild about
- 26 Spotted
- 28 Washing-ton city
- 31 Take to court
- 34 Harvests
- 35 Truck parts
- 36 Scads
- 37 Nick's wife
- 40 Glutton
- 42 Historic time
- 43 Fresh
- 44 Decimal base

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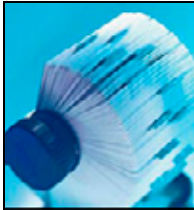
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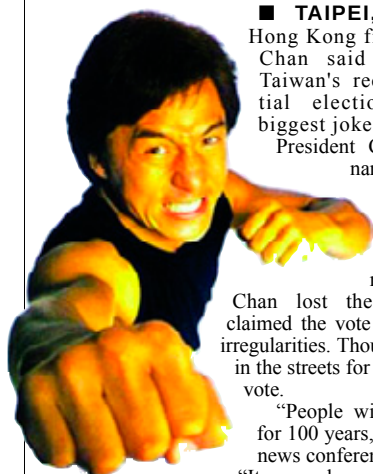
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Jackie Chan: Taiwan election "biggest joke in the world"

By The Associated Press



Jackie Chan

■ TAIPEI, Taiwan

Hong Kong film star Jackie Chan said Sunday that Taiwan's recent presidential election was "the biggest joke in the world."

President Chen Shui-bian narrowly won the March 20 vote. The opposition wants to nullify the results after Lien Chan lost the election and claimed the vote was marred by irregularities. Thousands protested in the streets for a week after the vote.

"People will talk about it for 100 years," Chan said at a news conference in Shanghai. "It was a shame. Not so good to look at. I was very upset and couldn't fall asleep."

■ **MADISON, Wis.** — Singer Howie Day was arrested for apparently locking a woman in a bathroom and breaking another woman's cell phone after one of the women allegedly refused his sexual advances.

Day, 23, who opened for the band Barenaked Ladies

at a concert Wednesday, was charged Friday with misdemeanor counts of criminal damage to property and disorderly conduct in connection with the post-concert incident on his tour bus.

Day was released from jail after posting \$850 bail Thursday. He is scheduled for a court appearance on April 1.

According to a criminal complaint, Day allegedly locked a woman in a bathroom on the tour bus after she refused his sexual advance. He then broke the cell phone of another woman trying to call police.

"That was probably wrong of me," Day told police of breaking the phone. "But I felt violated."

The singer-songwriter has received critical acclaim with his 2003 album "Stop All the World Now."

■ **PHILADELPHIA** — The parents of a 6-year-old girl who was raised by her alleged kidnapper after she was believed to have died in a fire sold the rights to their life stories for a movie and book.

The buyer is the Larry A. Thompson Organization of Beverly Hills, Calif., maker of TV movies including "And the Beat Goes On: The Sonny and Cher Story" and "Lucy & Desi: Before the Laughter."

Terms of the deal call for a six-figure payment up front and an additional six figures once production on the movie begins, Thompson said. He declined to elaborate.

Authorities believe Delimar Vera was kidnapped from her crib in Philadelphia in 1997 when she was 10 days old and her house set ablaze to cover the crime.

Carolyn Correa was found raising the girl and is charged with kidnapping and arson. She has been held

on \$1 million bail since her arrest March 2. Delimar was reunited with her family earlier this month.

Thompson said that he negotiated separately with the little girl's mother, Luzaida Cuevas, and father, Pedro Vera, since they are no longer a couple.

Alex Murphy, an entertainment lawyer retained by Cuevas, said Cuevas would receive most of the money, which he categorized as "considerably in excess of \$150,000." He said close to 25 legitimate offers were made from producers all over the world.

■ **TAMPA, Fla.** — The Rev. Henry J. Lyons, the scandalized former leader of the National Baptist Convention USA released from prison in November, is back in the pulpit.

He's also getting remarried nearly six years after his then-wife sparked his downfall by setting fire to the waterfront mansion he secretly owned with his mistress.

The fire sparked an investigation and Lyons was convicted in 1999 of grand theft and racketeering and was sentenced to five years in prison.

Lyons, 62, is interim pastor of New Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Tampa, where he helped mediate a dispute leading to the departure of the previous pastor. He met Thursday with his new congregation.

Lyons and Willie Beatrice Thomas applied for a marriage license Wednesday, public records show. Thomas is a former member of Lyons' congregation at St. Petersburg's Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church.

Lyons divorced Deborah Lyons last year. She is suing him for breach of contract.



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