

FREE

TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2004

Volume 3, Issue 119

# Santa Monica Daily Press

*A newspaper with issues*

LOTTTO

**FANTASY 5**  
5, 6, 13, 16, 31

**DAILY 3**

Afternoon picks: **5, 6, 1**  
Evening picks: **0, 6, 4**

**DAILY DERBY**

1st Place: 02, Lucky Star  
2nd Place: 04, Big Ben  
3rd Place: 12, Lucky Charms  
Race Time: 1:42.70



**NEWS OF THE WEIRD**  
by Chuck Shepard

Ms. Farrah Daly, 27, who told officers (upon her arrest for allegedly stealing \$1 million in jewels from her employer) that she was too "cute" to go to prison, was sentenced to three years in prison (Akron, Ohio). And a 30-year-old man challenged as unconstitutional the police search of his 18-month-old son's diaper that produced a stash of cocaine (a search the police defended as legal, in that they had noticed a "large load" in the diaper (Evansville, Ind.). And a restaurant selling only dishes made with Hormel Spam opened in an upscale shopping mall in Manila, Philippines.



**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"You've really got to start hitting the books because it's no joke out here."

— Spike Lee



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## Tangled in tofu



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Three lucky men wrestle with animal rights activist Kayla Warden and former Penthouse pet Kira Eggers in a swimming pool of tofu on Monday at the corner of Broadway and the Third Street Promenade. The stunt was staged by the activist group, 'People For The Ethical Treatment of Animals' to promote tofu instead of meat consumption.

## Market control could create chain reaction

*Officials worry too many corporate stores will hurt downtown business*

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

**PROMENADE** — Officials charged with managing downtown Santa Monica are calling for a special meeting with City Hall, saying the debate over regulating chain stores on the Third Street Promenade needs to finally be laid to rest.

Directors of Bayside District Corp., a nonprofit organization that runs downtown, said they want city leaders to focus on vagrancy and the lack of parking downtown. They say the effort to control the mix of large and small merchants on the thriving thoroughfare should be scraped. The contentious issue has been batted back and forth for at least seven years.

"The issue with the large stores — it's done, it's not going to happen again," said Johannes Van Tilberg, a

See RETAIL, page 4

## Santa Monica: A friendly place to park?

*(Editor's note: This is the first article in a series that examines the multi-million dollar business of parking tickets in Santa Monica.)*

BY JAMIE WETHERBE

Special to the Daily Press

**CITY HALL** — For most Santa Monicans, forgetting to pay a parking ticket means higher fines, the boot, even a tow.

But one Santa Monican has learned how to fight the system — and he's let \$450 in parking citations go unpaid without hearing a word from City Hall. His secret? The out-of-state plates on his SUV.

The resident, who asked not to be named,

racked up more than 10 parking tickets in the past year and hasn't paid a dime. Not only hasn't he been contacted by City Hall, he also hasn't been hit with late fees.

Not so with the same resident's second car. The fines for two unpaid parking tickets on the second vehicle — which has California plates — have doubled to \$94 a piece because of his delinquency.

While city officials said out-of-state cars should be booted and towed after five citations, they admitted there's little else they can do to catch scofflaws. When most tickets go unpaid after 90 days, a hold is put on the renewal of the car owner's driver's license at the California Department of Motor Vehicles. But for out-of-

staters, that's not standard procedure.

Santa Monica Police Department Lt. Frank Fabrega said traffic service officers carry machines that indicate if there are five or more outstanding tickets issued in Santa Monica or West Hollywood to a particular license plate. If there are five or more, traffic officers contact the California DMV to verify the unpaid tickets before they boot or tow the car.

The process takes 30 seconds and is done regardless of where the car's license plates are from, Fabrega added.

"Could be California, could be any state," he said.

Parking tickets are expected to generate

See TICKETS, page 4

## Adding fuel to the fire: Gas prices climb in CA

*Santa Monica leads the race in high prices*

By The Associated Press

**THE GAS PUMP** — There is little chance that gas prices, which have reached a record high, will fall significantly in the near future, a national analyst says.

Gas prices climbed another 3

cents in the past two weeks, said Trilby Lundberg of the Lundberg survey, which regularly surveys 8,000 stations nationwide.

The nationwide average in the past two weeks is \$1.80 for all grades, a new record high, Lundberg said.

Santa Monica has some of the highest gas prices in the country, a Monday survey shows.

At Chevron at Lincoln and Santa Monica boulevards, it was \$2.29 for a gallon of regular unleaded, 87 octane. At Ultramart, 1348 Pico Blvd., a gallon of 89 octane was \$2.25 and at the Chevron on Pacific Coast Highway and Entranda Drive, it was \$2.49 for high octane. In Malibu, high octane went for \$2.85 a gallon at the 76 station on PCH.

Increased demand will likely result from an improving economy, Memorial Day travel, and even the extra hour of light from daylight savings time, Lundberg said.

"The demand push this time of year is adding to supply tightness and therefore price," Lundberg said. "I don't see any recipe for substantial gasoline price cuts anytime soon."

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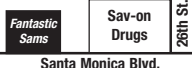
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## Sag, play a favorite game tonight



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)**

★★★★ You come from a basis of security with others this morning. You might be more creative than you realize, especially if you run into a problem. A romance could add a sparkle to your smile and a lightness to your step. Tonight: Play away.



**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**

★★★★ You are coming from a place of security with others. Just keep conversations going, and you'll gain new insight. Don't overreact, if possible. You might take a statement more strongly than it's intended. Tonight: At a favorite spot.



**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**

★★★ You come from a solid place when making decisions right now. There could be confusion around communication. You might not be able to get it straight immediately. Express what really counts for you. Tonight: Head on home.



**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**

★★★ Use the morning to get key matters completed. In the afternoon, focus on what you need as well as how you can turn a talent into a financial asset. Make a 100 percent effort right now, and you will gain. Stay on top of a problem. Tonight: Your treat.



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

★★★★★ You feel a tremendous surge of energy as the day gets older. You might want to handle a situation more carefully than in the past. You get eye-opening news from a distance. Your ingenuity mixed with your detachment makes you a winner. Tonight: As you like it.



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

★★ Use the a.m. to deal with people and to schedule meetings. You find that in the afternoon you might want to close your door and stay away from others. You'll get much more done on your own. Take a walk for a break. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.



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

★★★★★ You come into a situation in control and ready to take command. Why would anyone give you flak? Walk through a partner's upset and focus on your long-term desires. Laughter comes out of a meeting. Demonstrate your gregarious personality. Tonight: Where the gang is.



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

★★★ Stay within present confines. What might seem like a sure deal could backfire, especially if it involves money. Your softer side emerges when dealing with a partner. Accept responsibilities, even if you're not in the mood. Tonight: Work late.



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

★★★★★ Move from dealing with individuals to perhaps doing research via the telephone, computer or experts. You will gain insight. You might be surprised by how different the same situation can look given time. Tonight: Play chess, Scrabble or some other favorite game.



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

★★★ Ask, and you will find out that others seem more than willing to chip in and help. Laughter surrounds a misunderstanding once you get it straightened out. A one-on-one conversation later in the day works well for you. Tonight: Be receptive to someone's suggestion.



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

★★★★★ You might be so enthusiastic about an idea that you miss a detail or two. Ultimately, what happens could cause a misunderstanding. Open up to possibilities by allowing others to give you their suggestions. Tonight: Accept an invitation.



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

★★★ Focus on news and make sure you confirm every detail. You could get a message mixed up. Don't cause yourself an unnecessary problem. Clear out extra work and focus on the job at hand rather than socializing. Tonight: Lie back.

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# LOCAL



## Samohi swings into spring action

### Local Sports



### THE HOT CORNER By Jonathan Lee

Well into the starts of their seasons, Santa Monica High School's sports teams are all performing very well. With notable performances being turned in by members of every team, it's time we paid attention to some of this year's most impressive athletic accomplishments.

Junior **Cody Decker**, one of the most highly regarded hitters in Southern California, notched three hits against Saugus, including a blast over the wall for his first home run of the season.

On Mar. 24, the Vikings faced El Segundo, the team's first league opponent. The team lost 0-9 to the powerful Eagles, but bounced back against Hawthorne on Mar. 26. In a valiant effort, the Vikings came back from behind to send the game into extra innings. However, the game was called after the eighth inning because of darkness.

The team went on to play South Torrance on Mar. 27. In the 7-2 victory, sophomore **Garrett Griffin** pitched an incredible game, going all nine innings and giving up just two runs.

The Vikings travel to Culver City on Mar. 31. Led by the powerful hitting of senior **Rosa Ordaz**, the softball team is notching wins at a rapid pace. The strong pitching duo of sophomore **Tyra Maxwell** and freshman **Hannah Rose Peters** contributes to the team's well-balanced attack. The girls play in their first

home league game against West Torrance on Mar. 31.

After breezing through the start of its season, the track and field team faced its most difficult opponent on Mar. 25. Peninsula, one of the most talented teams in the Bay League, presented the toughest challenge so far.

As returning Bay League Champions, the boys and girls came into the meet with high expectations. Following impressive individual performances against Malibu on Mar. 11 and Hawthorne on Mar. 18, the team strived to achieve similar success against Peninsula. However, Peninsula was just too strong in most events and pulled off a victory.

Perhaps the most consistent performers so far have been the members of the shot put team. Seniors **Taj Lands** and **Kevin Hornesby** can be counted on to place high in both the shot put and discus events. Juniors **Sabrina Fields** and **Rebecca Frank** regularly take first place. Against Peninsula, Fields placed first in the shot put event and **Frank** placed first in the discus event.

"Since we won Bay League last year, all the other teams are after us, but we'll be prepared for our next meets," **Fields** said.

Although the team did not do as well as it hoped to against Peninsula, it is looking forward to its next meets as chances to redeem themselves. The team faces Torrance at home on April 22.

*(Jonathan Lee is a sports editor at The Samohi and enjoys being Homecoming Duke, writing, playing sports and hanging out with his homeboys and homegirls. He can be reached at jleebroadcast@yahoo.com)*

### Mystery photo winner

Diane Hernandez is this week's mystery photo winner. She correctly identified the construction cone hanging in a tree between Arizona Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard on Fourth Street. Hernandez has won two free tickets to the movies at Loews Cineplex Broadway on the Third Street Promenade. Check the upcoming weekend edition for the next mystery photo.



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Our current WNW swell winds down further as new S swell builds through the day today. Look for the NW exposed spots to see surf mainly in the 2-3' range, with some occasional chest-high sets at the best breaks.

We'll also see an increase in new Southern Hemi swell over the next couple of days. The S swell is looking a little punchier than originally anticipated, so look for the good S exposed breaks (Northern LA) to build into the waist- to chest-high range through the day on Tuesday.

OUTLOOK: Those waves hold through Wednesday and then slowly fade through the second half of the week, as new SW swell also mixes in.

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

Today the water is:

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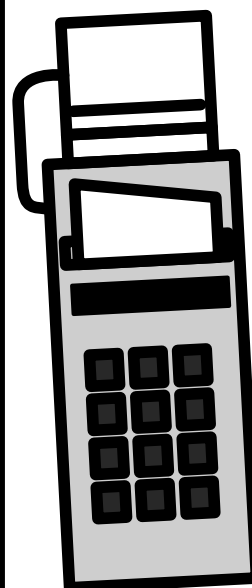
The Supreme Court is currently debating whether or not "under God" should be removed from the Pledge of Allegiance. The question arose when the parents — one an atheist and the other a born-again Christian — of a 9-year-old girl got entangled in a custody battle.

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

# Bayside calls for special meeting with City Council

RETAIL, from page 1

Bayside board member and property owner. "To assemble these properties on the Promenade — it ain't going to happen again."

While many feel chain stores have led to the homogenization of the Promenade, others contend the high-profile chain merchants are driving its success. City Hall is currently considering creating a law that could specifically ban corporate chain stores, a possibility that has outraged local property owners.

Jack Kyser, senior vice president of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp., a group that studies and forecasts area economic trends, said it would be difficult for City Hall to specifically limit chain stores on the Promenade. Doing so would involve balancing the often competing interests of existing tenants, possible tenants, property owners, financiers and everyday shoppers, he said.

"It's very hard to find a winning strate-

gy," said Kyser, who added there are no other cities in Southern California he knows of that have an outright ban on chain stores. "When you get that many competing interests, it almost becomes a no-win situation."

One of the reasons City Hall hasn't yet passed a law banning chain stores is that some of the corporations affected may sue, claiming the law is unfair. Kyser said a bitter lawsuit is just one thing that could go wrong.

"That's always a risk, because any time you start to do something like this you have what is called 'the law of unintended consequences.' So you may think you've thought it all out, but there may be some things you haven't thought of," he said.

Since at least 1997, Bayside officials have discussed how to address the balance of stores on the Promenade. Though it recommended against limiting chain stores outright, the Bayside board last year supported an ordinance that limits storefront lengths. That law discourages chains, which typically demand large

storefronts and a lot of window space.

Still, some local leaders said more action needs to be taken. The City Council last week tabled a discussion on the matter, saying it wanted to hear from Bayside first. But Bayside officials said they'd already made clear they don't want to regulate chains any further and called for a special meeting with the council to reiterate that.

"We keep saying this and it's like an issue that nobody wants to hear," said John Warfel, chairman of the Bayside board of directors, during a meeting last week.

Rob York, a local business consultant, said that of 38 new stores opened downtown in the last 15 months, only a few are large corporate chains. What's more, the council should be focusing on Bayside's priorities — safety, parking and getting new movie theaters — not on how to limit new chain stores, York added.

"There's a lot of room for large and small," he said. "I don't think it looks like some tidal wave of stores that people rec-

ognize."

But York's numbers are misleading because they include properties on Second and Fourth streets, where rents are lower and smaller businesses are able to set up shop, said Rob Rader, a local entertainment lawyer and Bayside board member. Rader was one of the few board members who said the matter ought to be studied further.

"I don't think it's fair to say, 'Just look at the list and count the numbers,'" Rader said. "Let's stop trying to avoid answering the question that's been asked of us and start looking at the gentlest regulation we can live with."

Mayor Richard Bloom, who attended the Bayside meeting, told the board the issue has been discussed for too long.

"In many ways, we're as lost as everyone else out there," Bloom said. "I think it's a very real issue in people's minds. I think the solutions, at a minimum, are very ... complex."

## THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY



## Collections for parking tickets farmed out to Dallas firm

TICKETS, from page 1

more than \$10 million in revenue in Santa Monica this year. The undertaking is so huge that City Hall contracts collection operations out to a Dallas, Texas-based company with a Los Angeles branch that keeps \$1 or more for each ticket that's paid.

And there's no sign of things slowing down. With more people moving to Santa Monica, space is increasingly scarce. New meters are being added, and meter

rates and parking fines have increased this year.

In the meantime, the Santa Monica resident with the out-of-state plates said he's saving his money for more pressing matters.

"I feel like I'm getting away with something, you know, here in Santa Monica that's unheard of," he said Monday. "It really doesn't matter when I pay them, does it? It's still going to be the same amount of money."

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## STATE



### CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

#### Lifeguards need a rescue

By The Associated Press

**LAGUNA BEACH** — Lifeguards are crying “Help!” More full-time lifeguards are needed along on one of California’s most picturesque coastal stretches, according to lifeguards who are lobbying for more full-time guards. The city’s three full-time lifeguards and their supervisor patrol 5 1/2 miles of beach.

Lifeguards as well as beachgoers are at risk because part-timers have less training, guards claim. About 100 seasonal workers join the permanent lifeguard staff each summer.

“Things can’t get any worse for us. We’ve got an undertrained, inconsistent work force,” said Tom Trager, a member of the Laguna Beach Lifeguard Association.

In a letter to the City Council, the association said City Manager Kenneth C. Frank has ignored pleas for more full-time guards for a decade, forcing the Marine Safety Department to rely on part-time lifeguards with less training.

Trager said it also results in Laguna Beach-trained part-timers being hired by other agencies as full-time employees.

“It sounds like there’s no appreciation for some of the things the council has done (for lifeguards) in recent years,” Frank said, insisting the needs of lifeguards haven’t been ignored. The city added a full-time lifeguard three years ago, increased the budget for seasonal help and has begun replacement of 39 lifeguard towers.

The lifeguards want the city to hire three more full-time lifeguards and change the status of two more from part-time to regular part-time in order for them to qualify for benefits.

Full-time lifeguards are trained as emergency medical technicians, certified as scuba divers and trained in underwater search and rescue.

#### Attack of the rabbits

By The Associated Press

**CHINO** — Bunnies are multiplying, well, like rabbits in a neighborhood just north of the city.

Cheryl Emmerling didn’t give much thought to the few rabbits she spotted on her one acre property three years ago. Now, there are more than 300 of them hopping across her property and four neighboring parcels and it’s getting weird.

They eat plants, rip into feed bags and dig burrows. But there’s something more subtle: They have also crept into Emmerling’s subconscious.

“I’ve had dreams where I’m walking out here and I’m being attacked by rabbits,” Emmerling said.

Chino-based Bunny Bunch is now working to give the woman, and her neighbors, peace of mind. For three weeks, the group has built cages and hutches and spent countless hours at Emmerling’s home trying to contain the rabbits.

“Our goal is to catch as many as we can as quickly as we can,” Bunny Bunch founder Caroline Charland said. She began rescuing rabbits two decades ago, and started Bunny Bunch a few years ago.

Emmerling’s bunch is the largest group of wild rabbits she has ever seen. The rabbit population boom probably occurred because a backyard breeder nearby moved away and left the rabbits behind, Charland said.

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## OPINION

# LETTERS

## City Hall's priorities are backwards

Editor:

Our city leaders sure have the pulse of the community: The bums have taken over the streets, and the traffic and congestion is unbearable with the city approved constructions projects at every downtown corner. In the last few years Santa Monica has become a giant rathole. Oh wait, no smoking on the beach ... there's progress.

John Linfesty  
Santa Monica

## Representative government?

Editor:

I'm one of the many frustrated citizens of Santa Monica who thinks it's laughable for our current City Hall to create a special task force for a sustainable city plan (SMDP, March 26, page 1), whose "bottom line is to preserve, protect and sustain Santa Monica."

The present administration, which has been in power for some time, has done everything it can to destroy — not "preserve" what was once a beautiful and charming community. The only thing they "protect and sustain" is the status quo of their positions on the City Council through voting regulations that make representation outside their constituency nearly impossible.

They have turned Santa Monica into a mini-megalopolis, where congestion from rampant development chokes the streets. Perhaps they should sue themselves for contributing to global warming (SMDP, March 24, page 1).

I believe the chief reason they've encouraged commercial real estate prices and rents to skyrocket (and thus drive mom and pop businesses like Polly's restaurant out of business) is to increase the tax base they need to continue their expensive social agenda. Meanwhile, the people they purport to protect under rent control, including the elderly, no longer have places to eat or shop that they can afford. Many no longer feel safe even walking in the city.

Santa Monica desperately needs a coalition government that represents the elderly, homeowners, renters and local business interests, so it can contain development, help the homeless (while controlling social behavior), monitor housing starts, so that our schools don't continue to be overcrowded and under funded, and rein in a burgeoning budget that would be considered bloated for a city three times our size.

The principle job of our representatives is to make Santa Monica a livable environment, not to continue to come up with policies that bitterly divide us, just because they think "it's the right thing to do."

Carmen Finestra  
Santa Monica

## Smoking ban leaves nothing to the imagination

Editor:

I was sad to read about the new no smoking on the beach ban going into effect in May. Sad and nostalgic, for it brought back memories from 30 years ago when I used

to sit on the shore just north of the pier building sand castles.

My brother and sisters always used the differently-shaped, leftover cigarette butts they found to represent cars on the freeways that went around the castle. But I used the butts for tiny people because I didn't understand how a castle could have freeways. Anyway, don't you see how Santa Monica's City Council is robbing our imaginations? Who are they to do this to the children of tomorrow.

Henry Rosenfeld  
Ocean Park

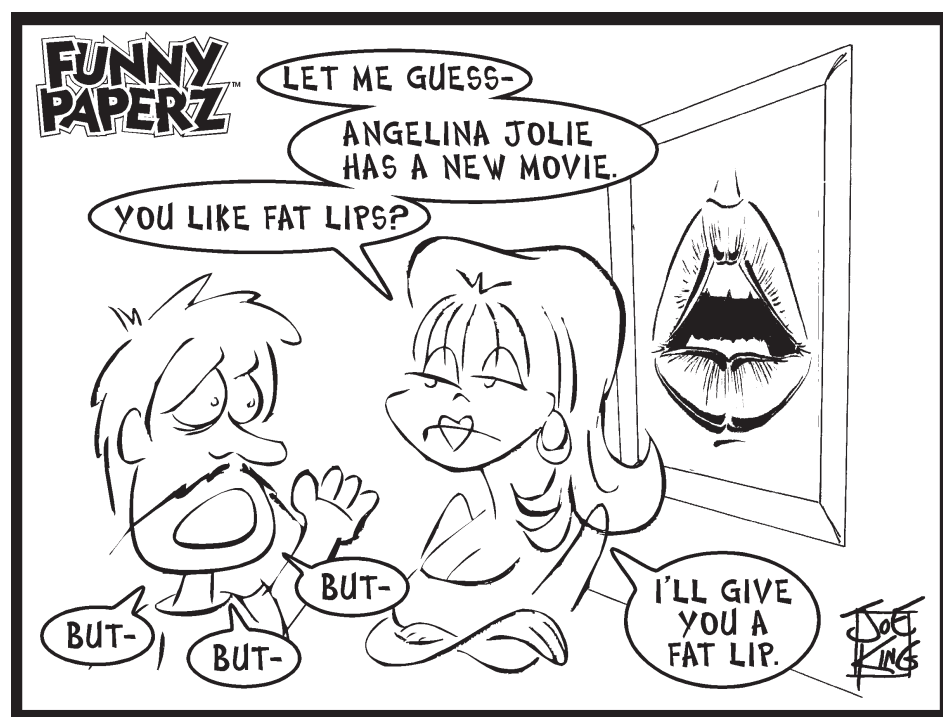
## Defending SMASH

Editor:

As a Santa Monica native and the father of two sons enrolled at SMASH, I feel compelled to respond to Jim Jaffee's inflammatory opinion piece about the future direction of our city's public alternative school (SMDP, March 29, page 7).

He characterizes SMASH's request to align itself with the Big Picture Co. for staff development as part of an elitist plot to "supersize" the school. The reality is that our hard-working teachers are merely seeking much-needed development support — resources that come at no cost to SMMUSD. Current district development programs hinge on norm-based assessment and compartmentalized curriculum — systems that

See LETTERS, page 7



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## THE FLORA FILES

By Todd Flora

I got to thinking this week — if I were a corporate recruiter conducting an executive search for "U.S. President," what qualities would I seek? Among others would be "shows strong leadership;" a commitment to issues of universal importance to all Americans; a sense of fairness; strong principle mixed with a balanced spirit of bipartisanship; respect for our friends and allies; a reform minded/good government agenda, and a commitment to preserving national resources and natural treasures.

I then began to imagine my interview with George W. Bush. His interview would be more of a "four-year review." It might go something like this:

**TF:** Oh, hi Mr. President. Thanks for stopping by. I wasn't sure what "Swift Justice O'clock" meant, but I guess it means 4 p.m. Great. Shall we begin?

**W'ya:** Operation Kick Ass Interview.

You betcha. Shoot.

**TF:** Well, I'm new here at the firm. Tell me a little bit about yourself — including previous employment.

**W'ya:** I started out a rich Yankee. Now I'm a rich Texan. I specialized in dilettantry, playing around with some oil ventures and such. I even became a general partner of the Texas Rangers baseball team.

**TF:** The Rangers — no kidding? What would you say earned you the most attention during your tenure as owner of the club?

**W'ya:** Trading Sammy Sosa.

**TF:** Ooouch. I mean — I see. So tell me ...

**W'ya:** ... I even got to hang in the dugout with the guys.

**TF:** That's great, Mr. President. Let's focus now on your current job as leader of the free world. Brrrr — oh my. Just got a chill. What would you say are your three biggest accomplishments as president?

**W'ya:** Winning the war on Terra' ...

**TF:** Scarlet O'Hara's estate?

**W'ya:** No. Against the evildoers. You know — terrarerrrrr.

**TF:** I see. Well, I would hardly call your "war" a victory, with due respect sir.

Frankly, I think if John Kerry asked Americans, "Do you feel safer today than you did four years ago," people would say "no" if they answered honestly. My report on you, I'm afraid to say sir, will show a lack of resources and commitment in the right places. But continue ...

**W'ya:** Humph. Well, I guess you still have some right to your opinion ... for now. But I kicked Saddam Hussein's butt, whether you like it or not. So now we're safer, savvy hot shot? So that's No. 1. No. 2 — Medicare prescription drug benefit.

**TF:** You mean the one that is going to explode the deficit and put Medicare's long term solvency at risk for people of my generation? The one your administration suppressed the real costs of?

**W'ya:** That's the one! And ... er, how about "No Child Left Behind?"

**TF:** Are you referring to your own education reform package that you didn't even fully fund in your own budget? You know — perhaps we should just focus on some areas that are no brainers. For example, protecting our national treasures. You must have some success preserving and enforcing environmental laws that protect not only America's scenic beauty, but also our public health and tourism industry,

yes?

**W'ya:** Nope. God gave us all of these resources. I say it's time to use them without care. They say there's global warming because it's a degree or two hotter now? I say let's hit the beach! Big business doesn't feel like there should be any cost to doing business and I agree. So I'm trying to loosen every environmental regulation I can get my hands on. Look, we'll all be dead before the air gets unlivable. And we might as well use all this oil while we have it.

**TF:** Mr. President. Why do you feel you deserve to be reelected?

**W'ya:** Because I may make some terrible decisions but in so doing I'm incredibly decisive. And people think I'm "coooooool."

**TF:** Uh, OK Mr. President. Thank you for your time. Let me give you my card, and feel free to give me a call. They say it's always smart to start looking for a new job six months before you really have to.

Todd Flora is a seven-year resident of Santa Monica. He is active in the Democratic Party and Heal the Bay. To comment or reach Todd, e-mail him at: [reformadvocate@yahoo.com](mailto:reformadvocate@yahoo.com)

## OPINION



## LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 6

are fundamentally at odds with SMASH's core educational philosophy.

This partnership will connect our teachers with a network of like-minded educators around the nation who can help them enhance curriculum development and formalize assessment. Our teachers have sought help from Big Picture, not the other way around. There are no hidden agendas here. No money is changing hands.

He also suggests that the district downsize the K-8 school instead and "blend" SMASH classrooms and administrative duties into the adjacent Muir elementary school. Our middle schoolers would be shipped off to other district campuses. Facing budget shortfalls, the district should eliminate positions for the SMASH principal and two teachers, he argues.

It's shocking to see Jaffee, the former vice president of the local teachers union, make such a rash recommendation to pinkslip dedicated educators. So much for union solidarity.

Mr. Jaffee asks why is there an "alternative" in the Santa Monica Alternative School House name? Let me answer from a personal perspective. My memories of elementary/secondary school are of educators promoting rote memorization and advancing surface knowledge, with worth being assigned by how students ranked on norm-referenced tests. At SMASH, my two sons develop skills in context and participate in shaping their studies. Fear and competition have been replaced by encouragement, cooperation and authentic assessment.

It's clear that parents nationwide are clamoring for an alternative to a traditional educational system that underserves many children. SMASH turns away 10 prospective kindergartners for every one that it accepts. Our school tours for prospective attendees are packed with energized families looking for alternatives. Come to our school each and every day and you'll see dozens of parents helping out in classrooms. These are committed parents who have chosen to send their children to a school that promotes a creative and individualized curriculum rather than a standardized and tracked course of study.

Mr. Jaffee rightly notes that the district finds itself in a very precarious fiscal situation. Years of legislative incompetence and civic indifference have left school districts throughout the state in dire straits. The SMMUSD board will likely face hard choices in the coming months as the financial picture becomes clearer in Sacramento.

Discussion about permits and class sizes have been — and will continue to be — part of the debate districtwide. But to suggest now that the district "blend" SMASH into Muir is mind boggling. The diverse school is a unique treasure that has served our progressive community so well for more than 20 years. It truly embodies all that is noble about community-based public education.

**Matthew King**  
Santa Monica

## Poetry 'from the street' is art

Editor:

I didn't know whether to laugh or cry when I read Lori Emerson's letter about Janet Phelan's moving poems in the letters section (SMDP, March 29, page 4). Emerson's point of view is a good illustration of why I feel so reluctant to give money to our education system: It does not educate. Here is Lori Emerson, literate enough to write a letter free of typos, yet totally ignorant of the nature of poetry.

Perhaps she has never heard of metaphor, for example. Why not? She knows how to spell "law enforcement agency." The system has failed her.

Thank you for publishing Janet's beautiful and moving poetry. For Emerson, I suggest some books to help her get started, perhaps In the "Palm of Your Hand," by Steve Kowitz ("The Poet's Portable Workshop"), or Muriel Rukeyser's "The Life of Poetry."

**Frances Dean Smith**  
Santa Monica

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*Santa Monica Daily Press*

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## Our town has become a haven for petty crime

LEGAL  
VIEWS AND  
NEWS

By David Pizarra

Life here in the sleepy little "Home to the Homeless" has gotten downright ugly — the disgusting behavior of our homeless population, the willful ignorance of any realistic solutions by the city attorney and City Council, and a misguided police department that has been handcuffed and is fast becoming mere window dressing.

Good lord, it sounds like I hate the place. But in reality, I love this city. I love the people, I just hate the bureaucratic bungling, the ineffectiveness of the city government to foster quality of life for those of us who live south of Wilshire Boulevard. I hate the way the city is driving good people out of Santa Monica as our representatives welcome with open arms the scum of the earth and proudly declare their "humanity."

I'd like to see less "humanity" and a bit more responsibility. Our politicians need to take a stand for law and order, and make this a community where you can live safely and securely. Enough with the tolerance of bad behavior and illegal activity. To speak metaphorically, our government needs to grow up and act like a man, and get the job of governing done.

In the last 12 months my car has been broken into twice, my office has been burglarized and my apartment has been burglarized.

The chief of police says crime is down. Not if you ask me, and not if you ask my neighbors. For in the previous seven years of my residency in this lovely city, I had my car broken into four times. So that adds up to eight incidents in eight years. An annual breaking into my home, office or car is a horrible track record for a city like ours. My neighbor's car has had the window smashed and her property stolen at least twice in the eight years I've lived here.

Earlier this month my apartment was burglarized. The criminal was clearly, to my mind at least, a drug addict since he or she only took items that were easily pawned. The laptop computer I usually write this column on, my cell phone, a Sony Walkman, my watch collection, some jewelry my late mother had given me, and my nickels, dimes and quarters, along with two gym bags to carry it all in. Nice that I can provide the criminal with the tools of his trade.

When I called in the report, the police were exceedingly polite as only a department that is extremely experienced in dealing with this type of crime can be. They informed me that an officer would be out to take a report sometime that day. Thanks.

Luckily for me, when I walked outside there were two police units in front of a local business at the end of my street. How convenient, I thought. Of course, the only reason they were there is because the

business had a car that was broken into and the police were taking the report.

The officers then dealt with me. They were quite nice and informed me that one person had already been caught and some property was recovered. Putting me in their car, they took me to the suspect and showed me a phone and a Walkman they had recovered. I recognized the "suspect" as one of the local reprobate drug addicts, and even though I was desperate to see my property and incredibly inclined to say anything to implicate this scumbag in the heat of my anger, it wasn't mine and I said so. Luckily someone else identified the property as theirs, so the scumbag will hopefully be convicted and receive his 90 days or so in county jail, where he'll get three square meals and a hot shower on our taxes.

About two weeks after this, a pleasant detective called me to follow up. No, he hadn't found anything, and frankly I won't be seeing the ring my mother gave me ever again. However, he did tell me that, "You might get the computer back if you know the serial number." Yeah, I'll get right on that one.

In the course of our conversation, he said that he did remember me. You see, he was the same detective who handled a case where a homeless loser was walking the streets entering open offices and stealing whatever was on the desk that was closest to the door. From me he stole a tumbler full of quarters and dimes I had for the parking meters. Our front door is now kept locked.

This is petty crime. No one is likely to get killed over it. The reality is that if I lose a computer, I can get another one. I can't get another ring my mom gave me, and she can't give me another one because she's dead.

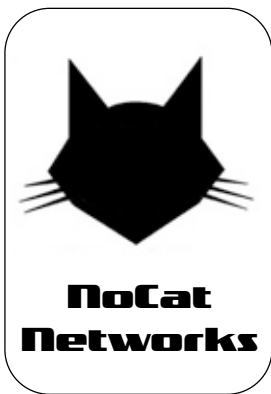
In Othello, Act 3, Scene 3 the character of Iago says, "Good name in man and woman, dear my Lord, is the immediate jewel of their souls, who steals my purse steals trash; 'tis something, nothing, 'twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands. But he that filches from me my good name robs me of that which not enriches him. And makes me poor indeed."

The same could be said of the mementos that poor bugger stole from me. The computer is nothing, the watches are mass produced, a phone is easily replaced. But the ring is like my name. Not that it was exceedingly valuable, but it had memories and love attached to it. I'll miss it, but I'll survive.

But my love of this city is diminished each time a piece of my life is stolen. And for that, there is no amount of insurance, no amount of "gee, we're really sorry, but there's nothing we can do's" that the City Council or the police or the city attorney can say, that will give me back what has been stolen from me.

(David Pizarra is a partner in the law firm of Pizarra & Grist, he can be reached at (310) 664-9969 or by e-mail at [dpizarra@pizarra.com](mailto:dpizarra@pizarra.com). He welcomes your comments and questions.)

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## STATE

# Guards' silence challenges new 'zero tolerance' policy

BY DON THOMPSON

Associated Press Writer

**SACRAMENTO** — Dozens of prison employees have refused to cooperate in recent weeks in probes of inmates who bled to death or were beaten as they lay prone on the floor.

Investigators say they're running head-on into the "code of silence" that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's corrections secretary promised last month to end with a new "zero tolerance" policy for anyone shielding employee wrongdoing or retaliating against whistleblowers. That promise helped persuade a federal judge not to put the state prison system under federal control.

California may need to change state law and labor contracts to put an end to it, said state Sen. Gloria Romero, D-Los Angeles, who plans an oversight hearing as early as this week on a problem she characterized as "an octopus with many tentacles."

"These are probably some of the more extreme examples," said Tip Kindel, spokesman for Youth and Adult Correctional Agency Secretary Roderick Hickman. "The code of silence exists to cover up wrongdoing. It's a conspiracy to lie. It's especially bad for peace officers."

The most recent allegations are in an internal California Youth Authority report on the videotaped beatings of two youths, ages 19 and 21, by two employees at Stockton's N.A. Chaderjian Youth Correctional Facility Jan. 20.

Four employees who witnessed the beatings gave information that is "misleading, factually false and contradicted by witness statements and the videotape evidence," says the confidential report obtained by The Associated Press.

They reported that their two colleagues acted in self-defense, when the evidence showed the youths were beaten after they had been subdued. Two of the four said they shot both youths with pepper spray and one with a pepper spray gun because they were fighting, when the video showed the youths were shot at point-blank range while they were face down and not resisting.

All six have since asserted their right against self-incrimination. All remain on leave pending disciplinary action and a decision by the state attorney general whether the San Joaquin County district attorney abused his discretion by not filing criminal charges.

Meanwhile, only about 12 of 50 Corcoran State Prison employees would talk to investigators about the Super Bowl Sunday death of Ronald Herrera, a dialy-

sis patient who bled to death in his cell last month after guards reportedly ignored his screams for hours.

"It's tough to get to the bottom of what happened in the face of that," said Kings County Chief Deputy District Attorney Patrick Hart, who last week summoned several guards to testify before a grand jury.

The state attorney general currently is limited to reviewing whether county prosecutors abuse their discretion in charging decisions, said spokesman Nathan Barankin, despite a San Joaquin County prosecutor's suggestion last week that the state should have primary responsibility in cases at state facilities.

A Senate-approved bill that would have transferred prison prosecutions to the state died in an Assembly committee in 1999. But Romero said it may be time to revive the proposal if local prosecutors won't act, and to consider changes to state law and labor contracts that can shield employees from reporting wrongdoing.

"I absolutely support due process," said Romero, "but we're talking about witnesses here; we're talking about employees of the state of California; we're talking about peace officers."

She agreed with the California Correctional Peace Officers Association that the prisons' internal disciplinary process also needs to be fixed because some witnesses who have come forward have found themselves the subject of investigations or retaliation themselves.

Employees refused to cooperate in Herrera's bleeding case because investigators wouldn't let them tape record the interviews, said CCPOA Vice President Lance Corcoran. Contractual safeguards such as requiring 24-hour notice of interviews are necessary so union attorneys can sit in, he said.

The union fought the 1999 bill and opposes transferring employee prosecution powers to the state attorney general unless the state also will prosecute inmates who assault guards an average nine times a day, Corcoran said.

He accused Romero of "political grandstanding" by planning a hearing of her Senate oversight committee before there is a final prosecution decision in the Stockton beating case.

Employees have a constitutional right against self-incrimination in criminal cases but can be compelled to testify in administrative investigations, Corcoran said. "They're being lazy; I'm talking about investigators who say they can't investigate because of the pesky Bill of Rights."

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**Santa Monica Daily Press**

## STATE



# \$1B in Medi-Cal fraud savings significantly overstated

BY TOM CHORNEAU

Associated Press Writer

**SACRAMENTO** — State auditors say estimates of nearly \$1 billion saved over the past five years fighting fraud in the Medi-Cal system have been significantly overstated by public health officials, raising big questions about how resources aimed at the problem have been used in recent years.

In an effort to eliminate as much as \$2 billion lost annually to fraudulent claims and services, the Legislature has added more than 250 positions to the Department of Health Services since 1999. Also, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed to fight Medi-Cal fraud by, among other things, transferring 20 auditors from the state controller's office to health services and hiring 41 more auditors.

But State Auditor Elaine Howle has called the program into question — both because health officials have overstated the savings achieved so far and because some of the staff hired to conduct investigations may be doing other jobs.

"We took a bunch of money and threw it at the problem, and it hasn't worked so far," she said Friday.

Howle's report on the program, a key part of a legislative hearing last week, concluded the department needs to develop a comprehensive strategy for dealing with Medi-Cal fraud.

Medi-Cal is California's version of the federal Medicaid program that provides medical services to low-income families, the elderly and the disabled. Jointly funded by the state and federal government, the program serves about 6.8 million people and costs about \$31 billion annually, of which the state pays \$12 billion.

The auditor's criticism of the anti-fraud campaign comes only a week after disclosure of another audit from the Department of Finance that raised questions about the health agency's handling of a \$230 million data processing contract.

Texas-based Electronic Data Systems has had the contract to process the state's

Medi-Cal claims since 1987. Records show the costs more than doubled since 1999 while the number of bills processed by the company has increased only 37 percent. But auditors say record keeping by health officials has been so poor no one could detail why costs have escalated.

Some lawmakers fear there is a trend. "People have been asleep at the wheel," said Assemblyman Rick Keene, R-Chico, vice chair of the budget committee. "There seems to be very little accountability out there."

Howle's office conducted an audit of the department's anti-fraud program in December. Among other things, they discovered a major flaw in the department's way of calculating savings derived by its efforts to stop doctors and hospitals from a variety of abuses including over billing, double-billing, billing for services not provided and false claims.

Instead of counting only the value of the specific fee or service found to be improper, Howle said the department was including in their total the value of all other bills submitted by that fraudulent provider during the entire year.

That caused a "significant" overstatement of the likely savings, Howle said, because only the improper bills should be considered for reimbursement to, or non-payment by, the state. Legitimate bills submitted during the year by that doctor or hospital would have to be paid.

Howle said her staff did not attempt to evaluate the state's actual saving through its anti-fraud efforts. She noted the department has acknowledged the flaws in its calculation system and has agreed to work on developing a better system.

Nicole Evans, a spokeswoman for Health and Human Services Secretary Kimberly Belshe, would not say whether the department disputed the auditor's findings. She said the department's system to calculate savings is considered a reasonable one, but they have agreed to consider reevaluate the model in light of the auditor's findings.

A related problem, the auditors found,

is that department staff assigned to the task of weeding out fraud are poorly managed. The anti-fraud activities are spread across several units at the department and there is no central oversight.

More importantly, according to the Legislative Analyst's Office, is that the department does not have a priority system in place to ensure investigators are focused in areas and issues that would provide the biggest return.

Diana Ducay, deputy director of health services over audits, said she did not agree that her staff was not already largely assigned to the highest-priority areas but also wants to conduct a comprehensive

study of the system to ensure her resources are being applied properly.

Howle and other say the rapid expansion of the program has helped create the management problem for the department and that lawmakers need to be patient. But some say the time has come to impose changes at the department.

"What bothers me most is that the same people who have been screwing up this program for years are coming before us saying they now really want to fix things," said Assemblyman Ray Haynes, R-Murrieta. "These guys are not doing the job. Maybe we should take a serious look at blowing up boxes right here."



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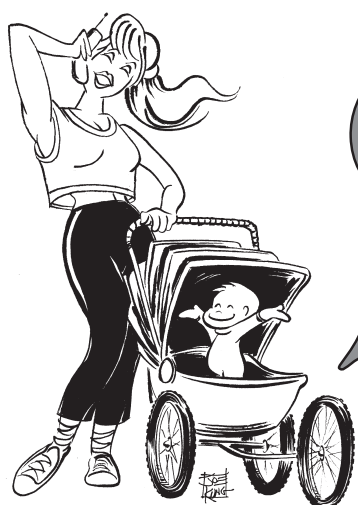


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## Guest Commentary

By Margaret Altman

It has been almost five years since the deadly shootings at Columbine High School. Information released this month has refocused our attention on adolescent behavior, specifically on issues of predicting problems early enough to interrupt the cycle of unhealthy behavior.

The following article is not an abrupt departure from our usual focus upon issues relating to infants and very young children. We know now that behavior patterns develop from birth onwards. When you look into the bright eyes of your little child and watch that child learn and grow, you can often glimpse some key facets of adolescent behavior patterns.

The teen years are often considered to be a definitive "stage" that begins and ends with designated birthdays (13 and 19). These are the years that parents hope will lead to independence and health. Adolescence, many people will say, is a time to "grow out of" childish behavior and adopt mature ways of thinking and acting. Often, parents look at their youngster's teenage behavior and believe that this behavior is radically new and bizarre. What we know now about the development of brain and behavior sheds new light on our beliefs about the teen years.

It is time to address the following questions and clear up some of the confusion about the teen years.

Questions from parents:

What do we need to look for and be aware of?

Can you predict adolescent problems as early as the first two years?

### WHAT WE KNOW NOW ABOUT THE TEEN YEARS

1. We should think of adolescence as a very critical developmental phase or a series of developmental

changes. These changes occur in the brain, as well as in the body. Brain growth and development does not begin or end in childhood. Studies are showing that during the teen years there is both growth and death of brain cells in specific areas. For example, the gray matter in the brain which is the "thinking matter" is overproduced prior to the teen years and then thins out during adolescence. This has led some researchers to describe adolescents as "off-line" in terms of their capacity in planning, impulse control and reasoning. However, during adolescence the brain regions related to sensory functions are largely mature. This makes sense in terms of the teen's increased desires for sensory input and their interest in music, food, physical stimulation, etc.

2. Adolescence begins earlier and lasts longer. In societies such as ours, youngsters are exposed to and influenced by adult material at increasingly young ages. This, along with good nutrition and health practices, seems to have resulted in altering the age at which kids mature physically and begin to act like teens. Some youngsters are physically maturing by age 10 and 11, and others are imitating and acting like adolescents when they are 8 and 9 years old.

3. Research shows that early childhood behaviors, specifically those that are disruptive and impulsive begin in infancy and are very resistant to change. There are studies showing that 18-month-old infants who have difficulty calming down, stopping behaviors, and adapting to changes may continue to demonstrate these behavior patterns throughout childhood and adolescence. Behavior has a history, whether it is healthy behavior or unhealthy behavior, and behavior patterns become deeply entrenched at an early age.

4. Adolescent development is influenced by environmental and genetic factors. In this media-driven age, teenagers are heavily impacted by advertising and programming that is scientifically formulated to

get their attention and direct their behavior. Teens are acutely sensitive to what they see and hear, and the media is well aware of how to engage and target their appetites for high risk, high stimulation activities.

5. During the expanded teen years there is even more need for adult guidance and support, and less time for adults to engage in helping teens. Many parents find it increasingly hard to find the time to tune into their teen's behavior and this role becomes the primary role of the peer group.

### A NEW AND USEFUL PERSPECTIVE ON ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT

Before giving you some hot tips on how to cope with teen and pre-teen issues it might be helpful to introduce you to a strength building model of behavior. If you look at four key areas of your youngster's behavior it will help guide you to that child's strengths and weaknesses. These areas are the ability domains that make up emotional intelligence.

The four areas are: The ability to delay impulsive responding; the ability to self-soothe or regulate emotions; the ability to shift focus between internal or external factors (inner feelings or outer situational demands) and the ability to set healthy goals and to work towards them.

Ask yourself if your youngster has strengths or weaknesses in each of the above ability domains and you will have a good idea of where that youngster needs support.

### GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS WHOSE CHILDREN ARE APPROACHING OR ENTERING ADOLESCENCE

1. Always try to put your youngster's behavior into context or framework. For example, consider whether the actions that your child is doing are new or if they are a continuation of old behavior with a new

twist. Radically new behavior should be looked at from the perspective of whether it helps or harms the child or other people. If you suspect danger in the new behavior, deal with it immediately and don't wait for this "stage" to end on its own.

2. Pay attention to your youngster's moods and behaviors even when things are going well. Take the time to observe behavior and ask questions about how your youngster is feeling.

3. Choose your battles carefully. You cannot change every nuance of your child's behavior.

4. Never argue when you or your youngster are angry. Use your own self regulation strategies to calm down before you deal with the problem.

5. Persist in maintaining communication with your teen or pre-teen. Make efforts to have good eye contact and to engage the child in daily conversations.

6. Model what you want your youngster to learn in terms of respecting others and following rules.

7. Problem solve with your child as soon as they can understand the basic problem-solving steps. Help them to identify problems, to figure out ways of setting goals and making alternative plans.

8. Always look first at your youngster's strengths, abilities and positive behaviors when you want that child to change something. Parents can look at the ability list and find real strengths in at least one of those areas in every youngster.

Transitioning into adulthood is a very difficult task. Some youngsters take a longer time to accomplish this and they need more support and direction from parents and concerned adults. The author welcomes questions and comments on this and other topics and you can e-mail her at margiealtman@yahoo.com

(Margaret Altman is in private practice in Sherman Oaks with Dr. A Korchmarev and can be reached at (818) 788-7580).

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### CALENDAR OF MOMMY EVENTS:

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

**YMC&A HEALTHY KIDS DAY** – 10:00 a.m. – 2 p.m. Want to get happy? Then get healthy. Check out this event at the YMCA featuring basketball tryouts, moonbounce, arts & crafts, community tables, resident and day camp registrations and more. Open to the public. Free admission. For more info call 393-2721. Santa Monica Family YMCA, 1332 6th St.

#### SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS APRIL 3 – MAY 30

**SNOWHITE** – a brand new musical presented by the Santa Monica Playhouse. For kids of all ages, based on the original European fairytale, with a gaggle of comic woodland elves and gnomes, a most romantic heroine, a well-meaning, if misguided, Queen, and a fantastical singing two-way mirror. Sat. and Sun., 12:30 and 3:00 p.m.; kids 12 and under \$10, adults \$12. Call 394-9779, ext. 1 or visit [www.santamonicaplayhouse.com](http://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com) for more info.

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

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

**COMING UP  
THE WIGGLES IN CONCERT!** Tickets are on sale now. Universal Amphitheatre, April 21 & 22 (Tues. & Wed.), 3:00 & 7:00 p.m. Long Beach Convention Center Arena, April 24 & 25 (Sat. & Sun.), 1:00 & 4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 – \$35, all kids and adults age 1 and up need a ticket. Buy tickets at the venue box office, at all Ticketmaster outlets, at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) or call 213-480-3232 (LA) or 714-740-2000 (LB).

#### TUESDAY

**Movies for Moms sponsored by:** "The Cooler" showing March 30 11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. Doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. [www.reelmoms.urbanbaby.com](http://www.reelmoms.urbanbaby.com) The Cooler stars William H. Macy, Maria Bello and Alex Baldwin and is directed by Wayne Kramer. Baldwin plays a shifty casino owner who hires a compulsive loser (Macy) to stand by the winners at the tables and help their winning streaks turn to losing streaks just by virtue of his down-trodden presence. Things start to change, though, when a waitress takes a liking to the fellow and his luck begins to turn, along

with the casino's other visitors. Rated "R" for strong sexuality, violence, language and some drug use.

#### Storytelling

**Main Library**  
**Toddler Storytime at Reed Park;** 10:00 & 10:30 a.m. Stories for two year olds with adult.  
**Fairview Branch Library** – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.  
**Preschool Story Time** – 10:30 a.m., March 3 – April 7, next session April 28 – June 2; six-week series for 3-5 year olds with adult.  
**Montana Avenue Branch Library** – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.  
**Lap Time** – 11:00 a.m., thru April 6, next session April 27 – June 1. Six-week series in Spanish for 24 – 36 month olds with adult.  
**Twilight Story Time** – 7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.  
**Montana Avenue Branch Library** – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.  
**Family Story Time** – 7:00 p.m., all ages.  
**Ocean Park Branch Library** – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.  
**Toddler Storytime,** 10:00 and 10:30, next session begins April 13 – May 18, registration begins March 31. Music, rhymes and stories for 24-36 month olds with adult.  
**Tiny Tuesday Storytime at Storyopolis** Themes change weekly; for ages infant to 3. 11:00 a.m. 116 North Robertson, Plaza A, LA. 310-358-2500, [www.storyopolis.com](http://www.storyopolis.com)  
**Barnes and Noble at the Grove** Storytime for ages 2 – 6. 10:00 a.m. 189 Grove Drive, LA, 323-525-0270  
**Spring Vacation Special** – April 6 & 13 at the Montana Ave. Library Meet the authors and illustrators of two children's books. Ages 5 and up, 3:30 p.m. April 6 – Gretchen Wolfe, author of Katje, The Windmill Cat April 13 – Debroah Lanino, illustrator of Maria's Comet

**Yoga & Exercise**  
**Yoga Baby (Venice)** – 310-306-9381 – Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) – 10 – 11 a.m.; (infants only) – 1 – 2 p.m.. Pre-natal yoga – 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
**Yoga Works**, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.  
**Mommy Care** – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd, at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711. Pregnancy Exercise – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

**Spring Vacation Special** – April 6 & 13 at the Montana Ave. Library Meet the authors and illustrators of two children's books. Ages 5 and up, 3:30 p.m. April 6 – Gretchen Wolfe, author of Katje, The Windmill Cat April 13 – Debroah Lanino, illustrator of Maria's Comet

#### Yoga & Exercise

**Yoga Baby (Venice)** – 310-306-9381 – Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) – 10 – 11 a.m.; (infants only) – 1 – 2 p.m.. Pre-natal yoga – 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
**Yoga Works** – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.  
**Mommy Care** – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd, at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711. Pregnancy Exercise – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

#### Breastfeeding Group

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

#### WEDNESDAY

#### Storytelling

**The Walking Stick Coffee Lounge** – 1630

Ocean Park Blvd., 450-6052 10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4. This neighborhood coffee shop has a comfortable atmosphere, toys and storytelling every Wednesday.  
**Fairview Branch Library** – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.  
**Preschool Story Time** – 10:30 a.m., March 3 – April 7, next session April 28 – June 2; six-week series for 3-5 year olds with adult.  
**Montana Avenue Branch Library** – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.  
**Lap Time** – 10:00 & 10:30 a.m., thru March 31, next session April 14 – May 19. 6-week series for children up to 24 months of age with adult.  
**Toddler Story Time** – 11:15 a.m., thru Mar. 31, next session April 14 – May 19. 6-week series for 2 year olds with adult.  
**Ocean Park Branch Library** – 2601 Main St. – 392-3804.  
**Preschool Twilight Story Time** – 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. An ongoing story time for parents and their children ages 3 – 5.  
**Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion** – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144  
**Border's, Westwood** – 11am – 310-475-3444.

#### Yoga & Exercise

**Yoga Baby (Venice)** – 310-306-9381 – Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) – 10 – 11 a.m.; (infants only) – 1 – 2 p.m.. Pre-natal yoga – 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
**Yoga Works**, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15 Ocean Oasis Day Spa, 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow – 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN – 408-1717

#### Breastfeeding Group

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

#### Other

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

### THURSDAY – APRIL FOOLS DAY!

#### Storytelling

**Babystyle**, 1324 Montana Avenue, 434-9590 10:30 a.m. Free story time for moms and kids ages 0-4.  
**Main Library** – Reed Park Toddler Storytime at Reed Park; 10:00 a.m. Stories for two year olds with adult.  
**Preschool Story Time at Reed Park;** 10:30 a.m. Stories for 3-5 year olds with adult.  
**Fairview Branch Library** – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443.  
**Toddler Story Time** – 10:30 a.m., Mar. 5 – April 8, next session April 29 – June 3; 6-

week series for 2 – 3 year olds with adult.  
**La Hora Del Cuento** – 7:00 p.m. Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.  
**Montana Avenue Branch Library** – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081.  
**Toddler Story Time** – 10:15 a.m., thru April, next session April 15 – May 20. Six-week series for 2 year olds.  
**Preschool Story Time** – 11:15 a.m. Stories for 3-5 year olds with adult.  
**Ocean Park Branch Library** – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804.  
**Lap Time** – 9:20 & 10:20 a.m., thru April 15, next session May 6 – June 10. 6-week series for babies 0-24 months, co-sponsored by the SMMUSD Infant and Family Support Program.

**Spring Break Art Workshops with Ally Keller at the Fairview Branch Library** April 7, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Beginning watercolor techniques for students grades K – 2. April 14, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Intermediate watercolor techniques for students grades 3 – 5. Registration is underway. 450-0443

#### Yoga & Exercise

**Yoga Baby (Venice)** – 310-306-9381 – Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) – 10 – 11 a.m.; Pre-natal yoga – 7- 8:15 p.m.  
**Yoga Works** – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.  
**Mommy Care** – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd, at the Dance Factory, West LA, 310-394-6711. Pregnancy Exercise – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)

#### Breastfeeding Group

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

#### FRIDAY

**La Leche League of LA/Mar Vista** – meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Call 310-390-2529 for info. (next meeting April 9)

#### Yoga & Exercise

**Yoga Works** – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.  
**Yoga Baby (Venice)** – 310-306-9381 – Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) – 10 – 11 a.m.; (infants only) – 1 – 2 p.m.. Pre-natal yoga – 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
**Ocean Oasis Day Spa**, 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow – 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness – noon – 1 p.m Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN – 408-1717  
**NEW LISTING** – Next session begins April 23rd.  
**Prenatal Breath and Movement** – a Continuum Movement and Yoga-based program designed to support women through

various sound and movement explorations that celebrate pregnancy and labor as powerful rites of passage. 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
**With Deborah Raoult at the Continuum Studio**, 1629 18th St., #7. For more info call 625-3739, [www.openskymovement.com](http://www.openskymovement.com). \$108 for a six-week session.

**Other**  
**April 2 Nature Walk** (Children's Nature Institute) – Solstice Canyon (Malibu)-10:00am Reservations required - 310-998-1151 or [www.childrensnatureinstitute.org](http://www.childrensnatureinstitute.org)

#### SATURDAY

#### Storytelling

**Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid's Story Time** – 10am – 310-260-9110 Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144.  
**Children's Book World** – 10580 1/2 Pico Blvd, LA - 10:30 a.m., 310-559-B00K. April 3 – stories with Kathleen Zundell.

#### Yoga & Exercise

**Santa Monica Yoga** – Pre- & Post-Natal Yoga, Saturdays – 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. 1640 Ocean Park Blvd, 396-4040, [www.santamonicyoga.com](http://www.santamonicyoga.com)  
**Yoga Baby (Venice)** – 310-306-9381; Prenatal yoga – 9:15 – 10:45 a.m., \$13  
**Mommy Care** – 11870 Santa Monica Blvd, at the Dance Factory, West LA, 394-6711; Pregnancy Exercise – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.; Post Partum Exercise – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. (babies welcome, includes baby massage and workout at the end)  
**Ocean Oasis Day Spa**, 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow – 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness – noon – 1 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN – 408-1717

#### Other

**Snowwhite**, a brand new musical for kids of all ages, at the Santa Monica Playhouse Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. April 3 – May 30, \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 1 for reservations, [www.santamonicaplayhouse.com](http://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com)  
**Puppetolio** – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested  
**Magiopolis** – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.  
**Youth Rugby** – Santa Monica Rugby Club (ages 6-15, co-ed, non-contact) Saturday mornings thru May 15; times and location vary; get details at [www.santamonicarugby.com/youth.html](http://www.santamonicarugby.com/youth.html) or contact Kilian Kerwin at [smyouthrugby@earthlink.net](mailto:smyouthrugby@earthlink.net).  
**Precious Prints** – Ceramic Heirlooms for a Lifetime Second Saturday every month at The Pump Station, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Contact Kristan Ritchie at 310-802-8013 or

visit [www.preciousprintsstudios.com](http://www.preciousprintsstudios.com) for more info.

#### SUNDAY

**Snowwhite**, a brand new musical for kids of all ages, at the Santa Monica Playhouse Saturdays & Sundays at 12:30 & 3:00 p.m. April 3 – May 30, \$12 adults, \$10 kids ages 12 & under. 394-9779 ext. 1 for reservations, [www.santamonicaplayhouse.com](http://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com)  
**Main Street Farmer's Market** – 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Main St. and Ocean Park Blvd. Pony rides, live music, lots of vendors and great family socializing.  
**Puppetolio** – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested  
**Magiopolis** – 2 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$15. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

#### MONDAY

#### Storytelling

**Main Library** – Lap Time at Joslyn Park, 9:30 a.m., Jan. 5 – June 4 (no class April 5, 12 and May 31). Ages 0-24 months with adult in conjunction with the Infant and Family Support program of SMMUSD. Followed immediately by "Family Connections" - a series of discussions related to early childhood development and growth. Children welcome, free.  
**Ocean Park Branch Library** – 2601 Main Street, 310-392-3804.  
**"Spanish for Little Ones"**, 11:15 a.m., next session April 19 – May 24 (no class April 5 & 12). Rhymes, songs and very simple stories in Spanish for ages 2-5 with adult.  
**Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade** – Toddler Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110

#### Breastfeeding Group

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

#### Yoga & Exercise

**Yoga Works**, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15 Yoga Garden, - Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal – 6:30 p.m., 310-450-0133. [www.yogagardenstudios.com](http://www.yogagardenstudios.com)  
**Yoga Baby (Venice)** – 310-306-9381 – Mommy & Me (ages 0-5 years) – 10 – 11 a.m.; (infants only) – 1 – 2 p.m.. Pre-natal yoga – 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
**Ocean Oasis Day Spa**, 1333 Ocean Avenue, 458-8190. Pre/Post Natal Yoga/Gentle Flow – 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.; Yoga for Fitness – noon – 1 p.m. Private sessions available; call Kate Thomas, RN – 408-1717



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## NATIONAL

# Jury must decide fate of former Quest executives

BY JON SANCHE  
Associated Press Writer

**DENVER** — A federal judge refused Monday to acquit four former Qwest executives accused of artificially boosting company revenue by \$34 million, saying there is sufficient evidence to submit the question to a jury.

Thomas Hall, Grant Graham, John Walker and Bryan Treadway are accused of conspiring to help the telecommunications company improperly book the money in 2001 to meet financial targets, perhaps hoping to boost their own bonuses.

All have pleaded innocent to conspiracy and fraud charges stemming from a \$100 million deal to connect Arizona schools to the Internet.

Prosecutors say the defendants adjusted terms of the deal

to allow revenue to be booked right away, instead of over the life of the contract, and then lied to cover their actions.

U.S. District Judge Robert Blackburn issued his decision on a defense motion for acquittal before jurors entered the courtroom.

"The relevant evidence, direct and circumstantial, is sufficient to support a conclusion by a reasonable juror, including these reasonable jurors, that each defendant could be found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt," Blackburn said.

Blackburn has said he wants the case to go to the jury by Friday.

The case is the first stemming from investigations that prompted former chief executive Joseph Nacchio to quit in 2002 and ultimately led Qwest to remove \$2.5 billion

in revenue from its books.

Graham was chief financial officer for Qwest's global business unit, which was \$29 million short of its second-quarter revenue target before the Arizona revenue was recorded. Hall and Walker also worked in the unit; Treadway was the company's controller.

The defense asked for the acquittals last week, saying the government in part had based its criminal case on "an accounting guideline."

The defense also suggested the four men were led to believe the transactions were legal by others who were given immunity in the case, including the former managing partner of Arthur Andersen, the company's auditor.

Qwest provides telephone services in 14 states in the West and Midwest.

# Fake turf growing in popularity as drought threatens Colorado

By The Associated Press

**AURORA, Colo.** — Fake turf is becoming more popular along the Front Range as homeowners, schools and cities face water restrictions from another summer drought.

Helen Patten offered her front yard and backyard to test the fake grass last year as part of Aurora's water-conservation efforts.

The artificial lawn saves the city water while saving her time and money, Patten said.

The city of Aurora has been looking long and hard at Patten's lawn and will decide next month whether other residents should be allowed to "plant" fake turf.

"I don't have to mow, I don't have to weed, and I don't have to water it or fertilize it," Patten said. "And (for a dog owner) this makes it a whole lot easier to clean up after them."

Denver Water displayed the turf at its headquarters to show residents alternatives to thirsty lawns.

Several preschools across the metro area have already installed or will install faux turf on their playgrounds.

The Primrose School of Highlands Ranch installed artificial grass about six months ago.

Primrose owner Jackie Fawcett paid \$44,000 to cover an area about half the size of a football field.

"It was very hard to get grass to grow with the kids on it five days a week," Fawcett said.

"It's the only green lawn around, and there's nothing the kids can do to it," she said of the faux turf. "It's also a great marketing tool to attract parents who come here for the first time and see a playground that looks like a park."

But some cities in the metro area have resisted artificial turf.

Last year, Thornton officials ordered a homeowner to pull out \$9,000 worth of artificial grass from his home. A city spokeswoman said Thornton officials may consider artificial turf in the future, but currently they have no plans to do so.

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## NATIONAL



# Woman, 92, rearing six great-great-grandchildren

BY MITCH STACY

Associated Press Writer

**LAKELAND, Fla.** — Lucille Bouges has been rearing children, hers and other people's, for the better part of 70 years. Most everybody around here just calls her "Mother."

Bouges is 92 now and thought maybe she was finished bringing up babies.

That lasted until this past New Year's Eve, when her 26-year-old great-granddaughter went to jail again and left a brood of six young ones without a place to live or anybody to look after them.

As she's done so many times before, Mother Bouges stepped up. With the blessing of state social service workers — and much support from her church, charities and family — she took them in.

Six great-great-grandchildren, ages 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 11. Four girls and two boys.

Up at 6 a.m. to get them ready for school. Shopping. Cooking meals. Wiping noses. Washing piles of dirty clothes. Settling arguments. Disciplining, cuddling, reassuring.

"Some people said, 'You're too old,'" Bouges said, sitting on the front porch of the old three-bedroom, tin-roofed house she rented recently to accommodate the family. "And I said, 'I didn't hear God say nothin' about that.' God's happy and I'm happy, so there's nothing to worry about."

Grandparents raising grandkids is certainly not an anomaly. The 2000 Census reported 2.3 million grandparents were responsible for their grandchildren in this

**"Some people said, 'You're too old.' And I said, 'I didn't hear God say nothin' about that.' God's happy and I'm happy, so there's nothing to worry about."**

— LUCILLE BOUGES  
Mother

country. But not like this.

When great-granddaughter Tabatha Worlds was arrested for the 10th time — authorities say she violated probation by having cocaine — she pleaded with Bouges to take the children and try to keep them together. Workers from the Department of Children & Families tried to place them with other relatives, but nobody could take all six. There was talk of splitting them up.

"Not while I'm alive," Bouges said.

As a child, Bouges picked cotton and helped raise hogs and chickens near Fairfax, S.C. Both parents died before she was 10, and she grew up with other families. She had two children of her own, but has had a hand in rearing every generation of her family since, as well as various other children. Her husband died years ago.

She and her six little ones live on about \$1,400 a month in Social Security benefits, plus food stamps. Half of the money goes for the rent on the drafty, clapboard

house she was able to find in a modest Lakeland neighborhood, just east of Tampa. Her daughter helps out with the cooking and cleaning, along with other family members and friends, and tries to make sure she gets the children to school and to doctor's appointments and such.

Charities have donated a house full of clothes, furniture, toys and other things, including a new washer and dryer and two televisions.

The children have their own beds, but they'd all rather be in hers.

"They all pile up on the bed with me like little rats," she said with a hearty laugh.

Bouges' health is remarkable, considering her age. She's bothered by a little arthritis in her knees and shoulder, and her bright eyes don't see as well as they once did, but that's about it. People say her mind is sharp enough to do what she needs to do for the children, one of whom has a disability that requires braces on his legs.

"Her attitude is always positive," said Ruth Olinger, whose Polk County charity, Miracle Resources, has helped out the family. "She is never depressed. I've never heard her complain about anything. She is so grateful that she is physically able to keep those children. Her biggest fear is that somebody will take those children and split them up."

DCF officials declined comment on Bouges' case, citing confidentiality laws. But a caseworker has indicated that the situation is a "long-term commitment," regardless of what becomes of the children's mother. Authorities say Worlds will be in custody until early next year.

Brent Elrod, statewide coordinator of the Florida Kinship Center, a University of South Florida agency that assists grandparents raising children, said he's heard of an 83-year-old great-grandmother caring for a single child, but never a great-great grandparent. And certainly no one as old as Bouges, with six young ones.

"I don't have any doubt she can do it with the help she's getting," said DeEtte Blythe, a Kinship Center volunteer who has gotten in touch and will try to help. "She is just as bright as she can be. She's very alert."

As 4-year-old Curdaisya and 2-year-old Curtesha chattered and played on the sunny porch, their grandma was looking ahead with a sense of hope.

"I believe we're going to make it," she said.



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# Student pleads not guilty to torching SUVs

By The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — A graduate student pleaded not guilty Monday to charges that he took part in a vandalism and firebombing spree that damaged or destroyed 125 sport utility vehicles, crimes that federal authorities allege were acts of radical environmentalism.

Billy Cottrell, 23, of Pasadena entered the plea in federal court to one count of conspiracy, seven counts of arson and one count of using a destructive device. Trial was set for May 11.

Cottrell faces a mandatory 35 years to life in prison if convicted of all counts, said Thom Mrozek, spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office.

Defense attorney W. Michael Mayock said outside court that nothing connects Cottrell to the crimes.

Cottrell, a physics graduate student at

the California Institute of Technology, has been jailed without bail since his March 9 arrest.

The arson and vandalism occurred last August at auto dealerships and homes in the San Gabriel Valley, east of Los Angeles.

In an affidavit, the FBI alleged that Cottrell, using an alias, e-mailed the Los Angeles Times and claimed involvement in the Molotov cocktail attacks on some vehicles.

The e-mails claimed affiliation with the Earth Liberation Front, a radical group of environmentalists that has taken responsibility for other acts of arson and vandalism, the affidavit said.

Words such as "ELF," "Fat, Lazy Americans" and "I (heart) pollution" were spray-painted on some SUVs. Prosecutors estimate the total damage was about \$2.3 million.

# Radical environmentalist ordered detained by FBI

BY JEREMY HAINSWORTH

Associated Press Writer

**VICTORIA, British Columbia** — A Canadian judge ordered a radical environmentalist wanted by the FBI detained Monday, after the American was caught allegedly trying to steal bolt cutters from a tire store.

A Canadian government spokesman said U.S. officials are working with Canadian counterparts to extradite Michael Scarpitti, who says he has legally changed his name to Tre Arrow.

The FBI says Arrow has links to crimes claimed by the Earth Liberation Front, considered a terrorist organization by the U.S. agency. The FBI offered a \$25,000 reward for his capture.

Arrow appeared Monday in a Canadian court for a status hearing on charges of theft, assault and obstruction. He was arrested in Victoria on March 13 for allegedly attempting to steal some bolt cutters.

He has also been charged with providing false information to immigration officers, after telling them his name was Joshua Murray. It was only when his fingerprints were checked that authorities realized he was an American fugitive.

A British Columbia judge ruled Monday that Arrow will be arraigned on April 20.

Arrow's lawyer, Tim Russell, said his client plans to oppose deportation. Russell said he has not seen any paperwork indicating the United States will request Arrow's extradition.

"I'm told the Department of Justice here won't disclose any extradition proceedings that have not commenced," Russell said.

But FBI special agent Jane Brillhart said from Portland that American officials were working with Canadian authorities to "get him back here as soon as possible."

Outside court, a group of people read a statement on Arrow's behalf, saying he was on a hunger strike to protest his incarceration and the lack of justice in the U.S. judicial system.

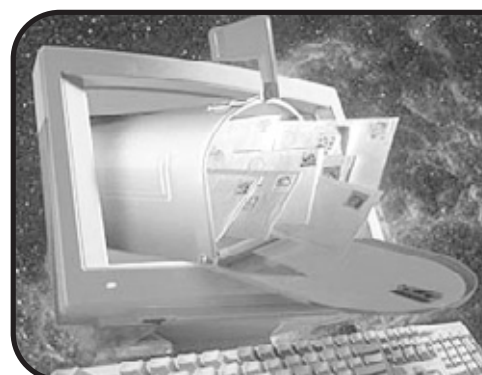
Russell said he did not know how long the hunger strike would last.

Arrow was put on the FBI's most-wanted list after his disappearance two years ago.

He was among four activists charged with setting logging trucks on fire on June 1, 2001, to protest logging on the slopes of Mount Hood. Three other suspects were captured after one of them told a girlfriend about the crime, according to arrest papers.

Arrow is also accused of taking part in an April 15, 2001 arson attack that damaged three cement trucks at Ross Island Sand & Gravel in Portland. Responsibility for that attack was claimed by the ELF, a shadowy group blamed for dozens of environmentally-motivated crimes over the past several years.

Arrow first gained notoriety in July 2000 when he scaled a U.S. Forest Service building in downtown Portland and lived on a ledge for 11 days to protest timber policies.



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## NATIONAL □ INTERNATIONAL



## WORLD BRIEFLY

**U.S. soldiers kill rebels in Iraq**

By The Associated Press

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — U.S. soldiers in the northern city of Mosul shot and killed four rebels suspected of involvement in attacks in the region, the military said Monday. Two American soldiers were wounded in the firefight.

The fighting came hours after gunmen fired on a convoy carrying a government minister and the separate killings of a Canadian and Briton in the region.

Earlier Sunday, the U.S.-led coalition shut down a weekly newspaper run by followers of a hardline Shiite Muslim cleric, saying its articles were increasing the threat of violence against occupation forces.

Hours after the closure of Al-Hawza, more than 1,000 supporters of cleric Muqtada al-Sadr demonstrated peacefully in front of the newspaper's offices, decrying what they called a crackdown on freedom of expression.

In Mosul, the four rebels were killed late Sunday in a firefight with a U.S. military police patrol, the military said in a statement. The troops had stopped the rebels' vehicle because it matched the description of one used in an earlier drive-by shooting at U.S. forces in the city.

Inside the vehicle, soldiers found assault rifles, a rocket-propelled-grenade launcher and other weapons.

**Tax cuts on the minds of president hopefuls**

By The Associated Press

**CRAWFORD, Texas** — Vice President Dick Cheney, seeking to shore up President Bush's standing on the economy, contends that Democratic opponent John Kerry would sweep away an array of tax cuts the administration has enacted.

Kerry has tried to outflank Bush on tax cuts in recent weeks, promising to lower corporate tax rates and saying that he and the president agree on the need to extend some personal income tax cuts due to expire this year.

One major difference between the candidates is on taxing the wealthiest. Kerry would repeal cuts for

Americans who earn more than \$200,000 a year.

In a speech prepared for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on Monday, Cheney questions Kerry's commitment to extending other tax cuts that are due to expire: an increase in the child tax credit; tax reductions for some married couples who would pay more than they would as individuals; and an expansion of the bottom 10 percent tax bracket.

Kerry has said he would keep those tax cuts in place.

**Scripture used for political gain?**

By The Associated Press

**ST. LOUIS** — John Kerry cited a Bible verse Sunday to criticize leaders who have "faith but has no deeds," prompting President Bush's spokesman to accuse Kerry of exploiting Scripture for a political attack.

Kerry never mentioned Bush by name during his speech at New North Side Baptist Church, but aimed his criticism at "our present national leadership." Kerry cited Scripture in his appeal for the worshippers, including James 2:14, "What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds?"

"The Scriptures say, what does it profit, my brother, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?" Kerry said. "When we look at what is happening in America today, where are the works of compassion?"

Bush campaign spokesman Steve Schmidt said Kerry's comment "was beyond the bounds of acceptable discourse and a sad exploitation of Scripture for a political attack."

Kerry told worshippers in the largely black congregation that the country's leadership has served the privileged while ignoring people across America who live in neighborhoods like theirs.

**Late-term abortion suits filed**

By The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Even before President Bush signed a bill into law in November outlawing a type of late-term abortion, opponents made the unusual step of filing

three federal lawsuits seeking to block it.

Those lawsuits were expected to be heard Monday in a trio of courtrooms stretching from coast to coast as abortion-rights supporters challenge the first substantial limitation on abortion since the Supreme Court's landmark Roe v. Wade decision.

The simultaneous litigation centers on the ban on what lawmakers defined as "partial-birth" abortion and what doctors call "intact dilation and extraction" — or D&X.

In the outlawed procedure, generally performed in the second trimester and occasionally in the third, a fetus is partially delivered before its skull is punctured.

The National Abortion Federation, Planned Parenthood Federation of America and a handful of doctors sued in San Francisco, New York and Lincoln, Neb., to overturn the law.

Critics of the law say its language could criminalize more common types of abortion and could be a step toward abolishing abortion. Supporters contend it applies only to a procedure done late in pregnancy that is never necessary to protect the health of the mother.

**Russians and Bush meet and greet**

By The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — Russia may be quietly concerned about NATO's expanding girth, but the United States is not as President Bush welcomes seven former Soviet-dominated nations joining the 55-year-old alliance.

Bush presides Monday at a White House ceremony to greet the prime ministers of the new member nations along with NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer.

With the addition of Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, NATO's membership grows from 19 countries to 26. The new members will take part in their first meeting Friday in Brussels. Three other nations — Albania, Croatia and Macedonia — hope to join.

U.S. officials have minimized worries that NATO expansion could cause tensions with Russia, but President Vladimir Putin's government has warned that Moscow intends to take steps to defend itself should it perceive NATO's eastward push as a threat.

Russia is not a member of NATO but has accepted an invitation to participate in talks at NATO's headquarters in Brussels on Friday.

# Rice defends White House refusal to let her testify despite pressure

BY PETE YOST

Associated Press Writer

**CRAWFORD, Texas** — National security adviser Condoleezza Rice is waging a vigorous defense of her actions in every public forum except one: the Sept. 11 commission where she would be questioned about the government's failure to prevent the terrorist attacks.

Rice declared Sunday night that "nothing would be better, from my point of view, than to be able to testify" to the commission. But, she added, "there is an important principle involved here: It is a long-standing principle that sitting national security advisers do not testify before the Congress." She has appeared before panel members in closed session.

Interviewed on CBS' "60 Minutes," Rice also said she'd like to meet with the families of the Sept. 11 victims.

"I'd love to meet with (Rice) as long as it's under oath and it's live in front of television cameras," responded Kristen Breitweiser, whose husband Ronald died in New York's World Trade Center.

Rice should "come out and explain what the national security adviser knew, didn't know, what kind of information was passed to the president and didn't" get passed, said Lorie Van Auken, widow of another World Trade Center victim.

Commission member John Lehman, a Republican, called the refusal to testify "a political blunder of the first order."

The controversy stemming from the publication of former White House counterterrorism chief Richard Clarke's book is in its second week, complicating President Bush's re-election campaign. Bush spent a long weekend on his Texas ranch, giving no ground, and several aides said he will not change his mind on letting Rice testify.

Rice acknowledged Sunday that Bush had asked Clarke at a meeting on the day after Sept. 11 to find out if Iraq had been involved in the terror attacks.

The president, she said, was not trying to bully Clarke or force him to give a particular answer.

"This was a country with which we'd been to war a couple of times, it was firing at our airplanes in the no-fly zone. It made perfectly good sense to ask about Iraq," Rice said on CBS.

Rice offered a rebuttal to criticism by Clarke on NBC's "Meet the Press" that President Clinton "did something, and President Bush did nothing" before Sept. 11 and that both "deserve a failing grade."

Rice responded: "I don't know what a sense of urgency — any greater than the one that we had — would have caused us to

**"I don't know what a sense of urgency — any greater than the one that we had — would have caused us to do differently."**

— CONDOLEEZZA RICE  
National Security Advisor

do differently."

Appearing on ABC, Democratic commissioner Jamie Gorelick said better coordination inside the government might have averted "disconnects."

"The CIA had not told the FBI that two bad actors it knew about were coming to this country," she said.

"If you brought people together and say, 'What do you have today? Have you talked to so-and-so?' perhaps those connections would have been made," Gorelick added.

Rice said "the war on terrorism is well served by the victory in Iraq."

Told there have been more terrorist attacks since Sept. 11 than before it, she replied: "I think that's the wrong way to look at it."

While the terrorists will sometimes succeed, she said, in the end, "they are going to be defeated."

Clarke said his Jan. 25, 2001, memo urging steps against the al-Qaida terrorist network and the Bush administration's national security directive eight months later are "basically the same thing."

"They wasted months when we could have had some action," said Clarke, urging that his Jan. 25 memo and the Sept. 4 national security directive be declassified for comparison purposes.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said, "My bias will be to provide this information in an unclassified manner not only to the commission, but to the American people. ... We're not trying to hide anything."

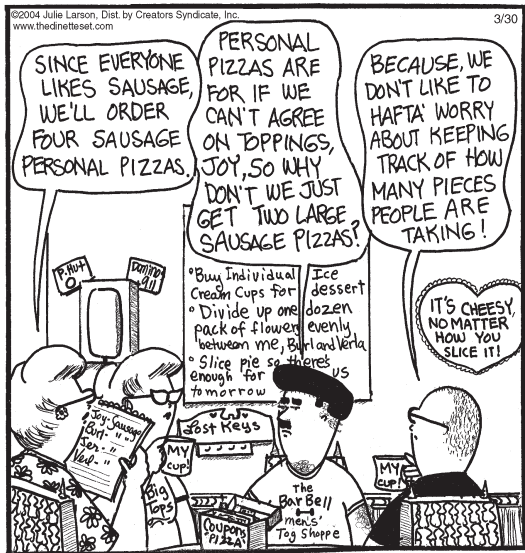
Powell criticized Clarke, saying, "I think Dr. Rice is getting a bit of a bum rap. It's been set up as, I told her everything we needed to do and she ignored it all. That's not accurate. Condi was on this from the very beginning. She took action."

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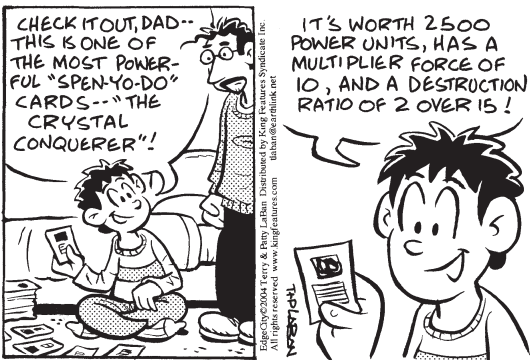


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- 11 Large lizard
- 12 Tardy
- 13 Cotswold steps
- 15 Top story
- 16 Dyeing places
- 18 Travel need
- 21 Mud
- 22 So far
- 24 Do something
- 25 Very popular
- 26 Weather map marking
- 27 Popular nut
- 29 Go, for one
- 30 Pitcher Nolan
- 31 Boys
- 32 Characteristic
- 34 It has an adjustable back
- 40 American lake
- 41 Poke a hole through
- 42 Trampled
- 43 "Sophie's Choice" star

### DOWN

- 1 Edge
- 2 Before now
- 3 Mongrel
- 4 Dojo activity
- 5 Feet and meters
- 6 Yesterday
- 7 Peaceful
- 8 Actor McKellen
- 9 Catchall abbr.
- 10 Go out with
- 14 Fairway chunk
- 16 Parish leader
- 17 Pretentious

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- 20 Molecule
- 21 Buddy
- 22 Pull
- 23 Flock
- 25 Painter
- 28 Enmity
- 29 Bring together
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- 33 African snakes
- 34 Got together
- 35 Bobby of hockey
- 36 —
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3-30

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## Obituaries

LOIS ODLE, age 84, died on January 14 in Portland, Oregon. She was born in Pittsburgh on March 4, 1919. She received a B.A. in Music from Carnegie Mellon University when she was 19. Her husband Sydney Nashner died in 1955, and she raised her three children Marjorie, Lewis, and Robert. At the age of 50 she earned a Master's degree in Public Administration at UCLA and worked as a Human Relations Management Consultant. She was an accomplished concert pianist and performed at chamber music and other recitals in Los Angeles and Santa Monica, where she lived for 30 years with her partner Kark Kreuter. She leaves her three children, her sisters Sylvia Lilley and Jeanne Perlman, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

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## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

# Diana Ross tries to escape jail sentence in Tucson

By The Associated Press

■ **TUCSON, Ariz.** — Diana Ross shouldn't be required to serve time at the county jail here because unforeseen circumstances prevented the singer from serving a consecutive jail term in Connecticut, her lawyer says.

Lawyer James Nesci has asked Tucson City Court Magistrate T. Jay Cranshaw to rescind his order requiring Ross to serve time in Tucson.

Ross pleaded no contest last month to a drunken driving charge in Tucson in December 2002. She arranged to serve her 48-hour sentence in Greenwich, where she lives.

Based on an account from Greenwich police, Cranshaw found Ross failed to serve 24 consecutive hours as required by Arizona law.

Ross served 47 hours in the custody of Greenwich police over a three-day span, Cranshaw found.

Nesci, in a court document filed last week, claims Ross was unable to serve her time consecutively because of staffing problems at the jail.

A hearing is scheduled Thursday in Tucson City Court.

■ **OSLO, Norway** — Wangari Maathai, founder of the Green Belt Movement in Africa, has been selected as the winner of the 2004 Sophie Prize.

The \$100,000 prize was created in 1997 by Norwegian author Jostein Gaarder and his wife, Siri Dannevig. It is named after Gaarder's book "Sophie's World," a surprise international best-selling novel based on philosophy for young people.

The prize is intended to foster work aimed at improving the environment and sustainable development.

In simultaneous announcements Monday in Oslo and Nairobi, the Norwegian awards committee said Maathai for "30 years (has) fought fearlessly for the protection of the environment, human rights, social justice, human

dignity and the promotion of democratic governance."

The award committee called Maathai "the most outspoken and respected environmental activist in Africa."

Maathai, an assistant environment minister in the Kenyan government, founded the Green Belt Movement in 1977 while head of the National Council of Women of Kenya.

The committee said her group quickly became the largest community-based environmental organization in Africa with a focus on planting trees and empowering women.

It also praised her for standing up to Kenya's former government, led by President Daniel arap Moi for 24 years until he stepped down after elections in 2002.

At a news conference in Nairobi, Maathai said she felt many emotions, "but the one I would like to share is one of great and deep gratitude to many of you who sit here ... because of the role you have played in our trying to bring awareness of the need to protect our environment in this part of the world for so many years."

Maathai said she'll use the prize money to set up a foundation to make sure the effort continues.

The prize will be presented by Norwegian Environment Minister Boerge Brende at a ceremony in Oslo on June 15.

■ **NEW YORK** — An actor who has appeared on episodes of "ER" and "The Drew Carey Show" was shot twice by his father while he was eating lunch, police said.

Vincent Ford Jr., 42, who uses the professional name Keith Diamond, had flown home to Queens to visit his ailing mother, police said. He was eating in the family's kitchen Sunday afternoon when his father, Vincent Ford Sr., 81, walked in and shot him in the chin and torso, police said.

The actor was taken to Mary Immaculate Hospital, where he was listed in stable condition Sunday night,

said Detective Bernard Gifford, a police spokesman.

Police arrested the senior Ford on charges of first-degree assault and criminal possession of a weapon. A .32-caliber revolver was found at the scene.

The motive in the shooting was unknown, but neighbors said Vincent Ford Sr. had Alzheimer's disease or dementia, according to published reports.

Beside his TV work, the actor has appeared in feature films such as "Dr. Giggles" (1992) and "Biker Boyz" (2003).

■ **NEW YORK** — As a child, Denzel Washington would go to the Apollo Theater to check out his favorite performers.

"I actually sat out in the audience a few times with my mother," recalled Washington, remembering when he met David Ruffin of The Temptations.

On Sunday night, Washington, Bob Dylan, Ashanti, Quincy Jones, Mo'Nique, Tracy Morgan and Willie Nelson were among the celebrities who celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Apollo at a gala concert taped for broadcast on NBC.

"It's not only a pleasure, but an honor for me to be here tonight," Washington told the audience.

The evening was filled with memories, tributes and music. Herbie Hancock, along with Harry Connick Jr. and trumpeter Arturo Sandoval, paid tribute to the music of Duke Ellington. Dylan sang "A Change Is Gonna Come," made famous by Sam Cooke. Natalie Cole also performed, Willie Nelson and James Ingram sang the songs of Ray Charles, and Quincy Jones was given an award.

Jones noted that at 71, he's only one year older than the Apollo.

"I was here 52 years ago when I was 18 years old," he said.

"Apollo at 70: A Hot Night in Harlem" will air June 19.

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