

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

1 22 25 36 43
Meganumber: '7
Jackpot: \$17 Million

FANTASY 5

4 15 24 26 32

DAILY 3

Daytime: 3 2 7
Evening: 7 6 7

DAILY DERBY

1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 11 Money Bags
3rd: 01 Gold Rush

RACE TIME: 1:46.23

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Wade Harris, 39, was arrested in Pittsburgh in December and charged with stealing at least 100 (maybe as many as 400) parking meters. According to detectives, a meter usually contains only \$10 to \$15 in coins but requires about 90 minutes "of hard work" to break into (and the job creates a risk from the noise made by the initial removal of the meter from the street).

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today the 90th day of 2005.
There are 275 days left in the year.

One hundred and twenty-five years ago, on March 31, 1880, Wabash, Ind., became the first town in the world to be illuminated by electrical lighting.

In 1945, the Tennessee Williams play "The Glass Menagerie" opened on Broadway.

In 1949, Newfoundland entered confederation as Canada's 10th province.

In 1968, President Johnson stunned the country by announcing he would not seek another term in office.

In 1986, 167 people died when a Mexicana Airlines Boeing 727 crashed in a remote mountainous region of Mexico.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"So often we rob tomorrow's memories by today's economies."

JOHN MASON BROWN
AMERICAN CRITIC AND LECTURER (1900-1969).

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Parlor games lead to warrant

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

PICO BOULEVARD — A bench warrant has been issued for two women who were arrested last month for soliciting sex in a massage parlor from an undercover Santa Monica Police officer.

Hyon Chu Pak, 41, and Yung Suk Davenport, 49, were arrested

on Feb. 24 at Tokyo Health Studio, 817 Pico Blvd., after Santa Monica police vice detectives were allegedly solicited for sex in exchange for money, police said.

Pak was arrested for aiding another person in the commission of prostitution and Davenport was arrested for prostitution and unlawfully exposing herself in a massage parlor, said Chief Deputy

City Attorney Betty Haviland.

Acting on a citizen complaint, an undercover officer went inside the parlor at 4:55 p.m., asked for a massage, and was taken to a room in which Davenport provided the detective with a massage, police said. Davenport allegedly removed her clothes and solicited sex, at which time the detective gave a predetermined signal and the other

officers entered the parlor, police said. Pak, who accepted money from the officer prior to the massage, allegedly signaled to Davenport in the massage room through an electronic device that officers had entered the parlor.

Released on their own recognition, the two women failed to

See **PARLORS**, page 6

Missing son has father on lookout

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

A Los Angeles father is desperately searching for his missing son, who is believed to have last been seen in Santa Monica.

Javier Segovia said he last saw his son Nick Segovia, 16, when he dropped him off at Los Angeles International Airport on Monday morning for a return flight home to Miami.

Nick Segovia, a high school student, has been living with his mother in Miami this past year and had been visiting his father in Los Angeles for spring break when he disappeared. His parents have been divorced since he was 3 years old.

"I got a call from Nick Monday night, saying he was fine," Javier



NICK SEGOVIA

Segovia said. "Then I heard he never left Los Angeles."

Javier Segovia said it was a coincidence that a friend he was with on Monday night heard his son never got on his flight and was still in the Los Angeles area — first in Marina del Rey, then in Santa Monica.

"I was told Nick spent the night in Santa Monica with a homeless man named Scott, or 'Scooter,'

See **MISSING**, page 7

Turbulent times for SMC

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM AIRPORT — A workshop intended to address issues related to the new Santa Monica College Airport campus appeared to have a rough take-off Tuesday night, with more than 50 residents coming out to weigh in on a project that some said will crash and burn.

The workshop was part of an effort by Santa Monica College to develop a master plan and environmental study for its Santa Monica Airport campus, a 10.4-acre site at 3171 S. Bundy Dr., a plan that will be used to design facilities for its students.

SMC officials said part of that process includes resident feedback on what programming the college might offer at the airport site — a focus which frustrated some Santa Monica residents.

"I didn't come here to find out about what programs the college might offer," said Santa Monica

resident Emmelie Hodgin. "I came here to find out what's going to be done about the parking and traffic from the new buildings."

**"I wasn't sure
what was going
to be discussed."**

MICHAEL WIRST
Architect

SMC has hired three consultants for a combined \$362,000 to address environmental factors, traffic issues and community outreach. The consultants will be paid out of Proposition U money, the \$160 million bond measure passed by Santa Monica-Malibu voters in 2002, according to SMC

See **AIRPORT PARK**, page 7



Kim Calvert/Special to the Daily Press

The Harbor Patrol demonstrates fire-fighting techniques in the Bay on Wednesday.

Kids treated to real super soaker

BY KIM CALVERT

Special to the Daily Press

SM PIER — The Harbor Patrol worked towards saving a different clientele on Wednesday, demonstrating water rescue procedures and how to become a Harbor Patrol officer to children in need of a brighter future.

Approximately 10 youths, between the ages of 8 and 14, from a residential care facility for abused children were treated to demonstrations courtesy of Santa Monica's Harbor Patrol.

The Harbor Patrol officers explained how they handle emer-

gency situations on the pier and the surrounding harbor area, which included a mock water rescue as well as a demonstration of a fire-fighting boat that shoots sea water at the rate of 500 gallons per minute.

The presentation was just one of many duties performed by the Harbor Patrol, which handles emergency and safety issues, along with educational events for area schools.

Sgt. Steve Heineman, who leads Harbor Patrol efforts from its headquarters at the end of the Santa Monica Pier, told the gathering that

See **PIER PRESSURE**, page 8

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Santa Monica Daily Press

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You hear news that helps you revise your thinking. Be willing to explore a different approach. Your keen perspective and understanding help create a more successful lifestyle. Be willing to put yourself on the line. Tonight: Opt for some intellectual fun.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Work with individuals, and you'll see situations in a very different light. Everything is not always as you see it. Learn to walk in others' shoes and understand what might be going on in their minds. Sometimes an innate rigidity gets in your way. Tonight: Opt for togetherness.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Others will reveal their true colors if you do and say less. You might be amazed at what comes out. Sometimes you see matters differently. Know that there is no right or wrong. A friend or associate could be reinventing him- or herself. Tonight: Roll with the punches.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ You might accomplish a lion's share of work or errands. Find shortcuts wherever you can. You discover that many people will pitch in once they understand how they can help. Grow past a restriction. Find other paths. Tonight: Relax first.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Dance to a different tune. Be spontaneous, and explain more of what you are doing with a child or loved one. Laughter earmarks your interactions. A flirtation or playful person in your life changes his or her tune. Tonight: Pretend it is Friday night.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Anchor in on basics. You might be a bit surprised by what others think and feel. Perhaps you aren't in touch with their feelings. Start by trying to walk in someone else's shoes. Somehow you feel that a muse touched you, as you open up. Tonight: Nap first, then consider romping.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You say what you feel, but unfortunately don't always understand the implications of your words. Think before you speak. Feelings run much higher than you realize. Yes, you have backed someone into a corner. Tonight: Join a friend for munchies and head home early.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Investigate a changeable investment or financial situation. No, you might not always be comfortable. Understanding takes you in a new direction. Restructure by seeking out your personal set of advisers. Tonight: Out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ What you say resonates with others. Understand that your belief system is constantly being updated. Be willing to go with the flow, but also let others know that the status quo doesn't exist with you right now. Tonight: Burst right out the door. Join a pal or loved one.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★ Knowing when to put a halt to your imaginative meanderings could make a big difference. Paranoia could mark some of you. Others will clearly make moves to open doors. Tonight: Nap and feel renewed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Follow through on a long-term desire that could involve a friendship. You might want to update your thinking because of what happens and information you receive. Much will change if you remain open. Tonight: Slow down. Take some time to yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Assuming control gives you a whole different sense of what will work. You might revise your thinking about being "the boss." Talk about a money-related matter that could be close to your heart. Tonight: Out on the town.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

St. Monica's cruising for some cash

By Daily Press staff

A week-long luxury cruise for a party of 10 on a custom-built yacht is the highlight of St. Monica Catholic Church's annual charity dinner auction on Saturday, April 16.

Proceeds from the annual "S.M.A.S.H. (for St. Monica's Academic and Spiritual Heritage) by the Shore" event, to be held at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica, will help provide tuition assistance for students at St. Monica Elementary and High schools and benefit the education endowment for lay leaders in the church's community.

Last year's S.M.A.S.H. drew 350 people and raised \$160,000. Organizers are hoping this year's event, moved to a larger venue, will attract up to 500 people.

"The S.M.A.S.H. dinner auction is a marvelous event supporting a tremendous cause, providing youth with an excellent education that will benefit them for life," said Monsignor Torgerson of St. Monica Parish.

Also to be offered in the live auction are ticket packages including four tickets to the "American Idol" finals, four Dodgers dugout club seats for Aug. 12 when they play the New York Mets, and eight tickets to the USC-Notre Dame football game in South Bend, Ind. The evening's live and silent auctions will total more than 200 items, including weekends in Mammoth, Big Bear, Carmel, Lake La Quinta, Cabo San Lucas as well as spa/salon packages, dinners at leading restaurants, theater and opera tickets, design services, gift baskets and more.

Tickets for the dinner and auction are \$125 per person, of which \$50 is tax-deductible. Offered separately will be tickets — limited to 300 at \$100 each — for a \$10,000 drawing. The event will begin at 6 p.m. with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and the silent auction. The live auction will follow the dinner, Black tie is optional, and there will be valet parking at the hotel, located at Wilshire Boulevard and Ocean Avenue. To make reservations, call Diane Techam at (310) 393-9287, ext. 326.

Youth has national honors in his sights

By Daily Press staff

Jordan Hurd, a seven-year member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica, was selected to compete for the title of California Youth of the Year for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Sponsored by Reader's Digest Foundation and administered by Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the national Youth of the Year program recognizes superior leadership skills, academic achievement, obstacles overcome and outstanding service to Boys & Girls Clubs and the community.

Hurd, along with 12 other Boys & Girls Clubs teens from the Southern California region, competed for three coveted Southern California Youth of the Year spots on March 28 at the Sheraton Delfina Hotel. The youth were judged on oratory skills and personal interviews. Each had been selected by their individual clubs. The regional office received 37 applications from clubs across Southern California. Of those, 13 were selected to compete.

At the club, Hurd participates in all areas of programs and has worked as a junior staff member for almost two years. He has won the AT&T Leadership Award, Male Intermediate Youth of the Year, Leaders in Training Youth of the Year, and multiple Youth of the Month Awards. In 2003, Hurd was hand-picked by club staff to travel to London and Wales on a cultural exchange program through the Spirit of Youth Foundation. Hurd currently holds a 4.0 grade point average and has scored a 1460 on his SATs. Hurd plans to attend SMC and then USC where he wants to study political science. He hopes to inspire future youth by teaching government to high school students and become a politician because he wants to know that he "did something good for the country and the world."

Hurd will compete for the California state Youth of the Year title on April 19 in Sacramento. Five regional winners selected from among the state winners will compete for the national honor in Washington, D.C., where the president will install the National Youth of the Year officially in a White House ceremony in September.

For more information, call (310) 393-9629.



SURF REPORT

Today, we are expecting a small mix of NW wind swell and SW ground swell should keep most all breaks in knee to waist high surf.

Into Thursday, look for a light burst of SW from the southern hemisphere, and the NW wind swell will be backing down. The SW isn't looking like much above waist high or so, and the NW should diminish to waist high as well.

Today the water is:

59°

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

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	3:14	0.3	3:14	0.4	9:16	4.9	9:27	5.5
SUNDAY	3:52	0.1	3:36	0.9	9:55	4.5	9:52	5.6
MONDAY	4:34	0.0	3:58	1.3	10:38	4.0	10:20	5.7
TUESDAY	5:23	0.0	4:20	1.8	11:33	3.4	10:54	5.6
WEDNESDAY	6:26	0.1	4:40	2.3	12:54	2.9	11:39	5.4
THURSDAY	7:51	0.2	4:24	2.7	4:06	2.7	N/A	N/A
FRIDAY	8:17	0.3	5:02	2.4	1:22	2.6	1:47	5.8

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The Q Line

Terri Schiavo's parents last week asked the same federal appeals court to order the reinsertion of their brain-damaged daughter's feeding tube. Their move came hours after a federal judge refused the same request. Bob and Mary Schindler argue that their daughter's due process and religious rights were being violated.

Schiavo's husband, Michael, said she has no hope for recovery and wouldn't want to be kept alive artificially. Meanwhile, the Republican Congress has intervened and opined on the issue, and Florida Gov. Jeb Bush last week

ordered his legal team to scour state laws for a way to reconnect Schiavo's feeding tube.

So this week, Q-line wants to know, "Is it the government's place to intervene in families' private matters, or on moral issues? Why or why not?"

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

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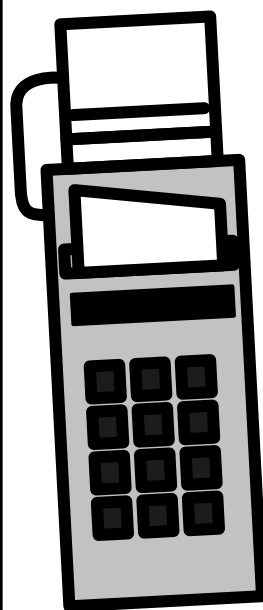
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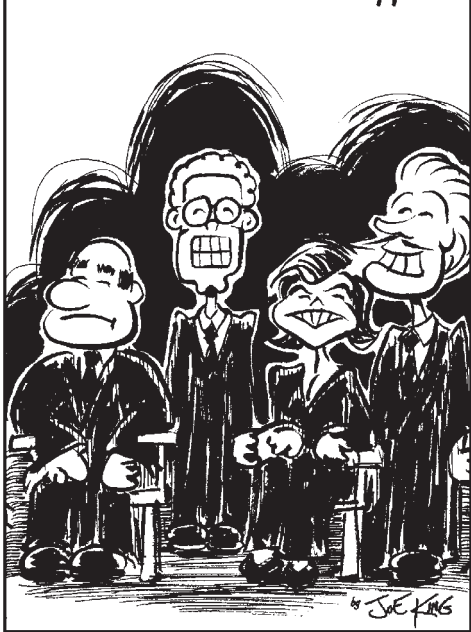
OPINION

Brain Damaged: Terri Shiavo



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Brain Dead: The Court of Appeals



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We're all paying price for Bush's isolationism



**GUEST
COMMENTARY**
BY HENRY WAXMAN

With pressing challenges to confront across the globe, the United States needs the support of the international community. Unfortunately, the Bush Administration's unilateral approach to foreign policy has left the United States largely isolated and has undermined international cooperation to promote security, health and environmental protection.

This administration's aversion to international efforts was evident soon after President Bush took office. The president abandoned the Kyoto Protocol on global warming, announced his plan to abrogate the Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty and opposed a strong Biological Weapons Convention. After a period of cooperation following 9/11, the administration's heavy handed approach to Iraq has left us virtually alone, bearing a heavy burden of lives and expense.

At the start of his second term, the president has signaled he would like the U.S. relationship with the world to improve. But he is off to a poor start.

Earlier this month, the world's first public health treaty went into effect. Ratified by more than 50 nations, the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control will enhance international efforts to counter tobacco advertising and marketing, combat cigarette smuggling, and promote smoking cessation. Such global cooperation is urgently needed to address a spreading epidemic that claims nearly 5 million lives a year.

Unfortunately, United States is again watching from the sidelines. Instead of supporting this landmark international agreement, the Bush Administration has spent much of the past four years seeking to weaken and undermine it.

The negotiations on the tobacco treaty began in 1999 with the full backing of the Clinton Administration. The United States advocated for strong measures to limit tobacco marketing and exposure to secondhand smoke. After the 2000 presidential election, however, the U.S. role changed dramatically.

Negotiators appointed by the Bush Administration opposed mandatory tobacco taxes, binding protections against secondhand smoke, and efforts to get rid of misleading cigarette descriptors such as "light" and "mild." At one point, U.S. representatives even objected to a requirement that warning labels be printed in languages that foreign consumers could read. In November 2001, an executive at tobacco

giant Philip Morris wrote in an internal company e-mail that his company's positions on the treaty were "if anything ... to the left of the Bush Administration."

The Bush Administration managed to weaken, but not eviscerate, the treaty's language. On the eve of the final negotiating session in February 2003, the State Department cabled foreign ministries urging that trade agreements should override the tobacco treaty, but was rebuffed by other delegations. While more than 160 national delegations backed the final language, the United States complained that the deal required warning labels to be too prominent and demanded that countries be allowed to pick and choose which provisions to enforce.

Unable to convince the international community to accept the weakened language, the administration finally acquiesced. Just prior to a meeting of the World Health Assembly in May 2003, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced his support of the treaty without any changes. One year later, in May 2004, Secretary Thompson signed the agreement on behalf of the United States.

But there has been little progress since then. The president has yet to send the treaty to the Senate for ratification — a necessary step for participation in the Framework Convention. The administration also has failed to support legislation needed to bring the United States into compliance with the new standards. As a result, the world is implementing the agreement without the United States.

The administration's on-again, off-again approach to the treaty has generated doubts about its intentions. That the Republican party continues to accept millions of dollars from major tobacco companies only fans suspicions. Other nations are justified in asking what is more important to the Bush Administration: tobacco money or the health of millions of youth across the globe?

These nations have already been asking whether the administration values energy company profits over progress against global warming, and pharmaceutical interests over efforts to contain biological weapons. More doubts about the intentions of the United States can only harm our ability to obtain assistance from our friends and allies.

The president is now attempting to convince other nations that the U.S. interest in the Middle East is democracy and not oil. Unless he revisits his administration's go-it-alone attitude on these other matters, however, this will be a hard case to make.

(Henry Waxman (D-Santa Monica) is a United States Congressman who represents the 30th District of California.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

City Hall bureaucracy alive and well

Editor:

What those of us who watched or listened to the March 22 meeting of the City Council experienced was nothing more than an attempt of some councilpersons to speak to an issue that has been waiting for a solution long enough. They've had long enough to deal with the fact that lot sizes are different in north and south Santa Monica and "one size does not fit all" when it comes to codes and variances, etc.

Residents of the southern part of our city want a resolution sooner rather than later and letting the Planning Department continue on its two-year track does not resolve the issue. If the Planning Department cannot come up with a solution by August — the agreement finally honed by our City Council — then it is a situation far worse than we all imagined. Brinkmanship had nothing to do with it. Responding sincerely to a needless dilemma was the issue.

Councilman Ken Genser, who has worked so well with the Planning Department because he and his cohorts on the council conveniently used the bureaucracy as a tool in the attempt to control growth, whatever the size of the lot, just did not want to respond to the issue brought forth by some Sunset Park residents. Not fair ... and on top of that the "overworked" Planning Department is in that condition because of the handy work of Genser and those on the council who vote his way.

What to do? Well, just continue to worship at the altar of ordinances and council directives intended primarily to intimidate, frustrate and delay home remodeling and improvement. Thank God Councilman Shriver just wants to do the right thing.

Mary Saenz
Santa Monica

Abortion is a fundamental right

Editor:

I am a student who is concerned about how people are viewing abortion throughout the United States. I am a sophomore at Santa Monica High and very concerned about the views on abortion. I feel as though people should not be judged on how they choose to live their life, especially concerning abortion.

Abortion is a major issue in California. We need to give awareness about this situation. I feel as if people threaten or put stress on a young mother for choosing to abort her baby, which is her choice. I feel as though everyone needs to be pro-choice. Nineteen percent of abortions are from teen-agers around the ages of 18 and 19. Twenty-one percent of people are not able to afford a baby. If these mothers had these children, bringing a child into the world when the parent is not able to care for them could cause many issues for the child.

I want to bring awareness towards people, not just in Santa Monica, as it is legal here, but throughout the world, where only 40 percent of abortions are legal. I do see that people see it as a "sin" because it is killing an unborn child, which is quite true. Yet, just think how its life will turn out and how it will affect the life of the mother. Their lives will be torn apart, first with the mother's life being destroyed because she has to stop her career or education to take care of the baby, or she may not be able to not even afford to take care of the baby. This will lead to horrible childhoods and depression which could cause an abusive personality. Abortion makes it so people have a choice in how they lead their lives. I think if people want to reduce the rate it would not be by calling them sinners, but it would be by causing more awareness about safe sex. People should not be scared to discuss this topic. We need to take a stand, we need to show people that there's always a positive outlook on things, and that we need to show ways to prevent pregnancies, because abstinence is not always the way that will teach kids how to take care.

Brooks McCall
Santa Monica



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Business

Architect cooks up something new at Chinois

By Daily Press staff

Architect Stephen Francis Jones has designed a new private 1,700-square-foot dining room for longtime client Wolfgang Puck's landmark Chinois on Main.

The freestanding independent restaurant space has its own exhibition kitchen, brick wall, leopard wood floors and 3,000-bottle wine cellar. The structure, to be used for private parties, is adjacent to the original Chinois.

"The design was meant to capture the feeling of the original but to have its own identity," Jones said.

Jones was presented with the opportunity to define the long-awaited space adjacent to Chinois and said he was intrigued by the challenge of updating the design scheme first initiated by Barbara Lazaroff more than 20 years ago.

Along with the continued color scheme of the original restaurant, many of the same signature materials were incorporated in the stand-alone space such as artisan hammered copper, touches of celadon hued ceramic tiles, exposed brick walls and distinctively Asian bamboo accents. However, many new features are what make the private dining space unique such as inset high-relief stone carvings, bamboo-infused laminated glass, and the showcased cedar-wood wine cabinet. Featuring the wine selection for both "Chinois on Main" and the private dining room, the expansive temperature-controlled compartment guarantees aficionados the highest level of quality.

As Jones began to design the space, he realized that because of code requirements, the new facility would have to be designed intrinsically, with no physical connections between the old and new spaces. So, a completely self-sustained cook-line and generous space for Wolfgang's pastry production provided exceptional capacity for the patrons. The new facility can hold up to 60 diners which almost doubles the capacity of the original restaurant yet can accommodate any size party.



Face up to it: It's never too early for workers to plan for golden years



GUEST COMMENTARY BY MARTIN RUBIN

It's no secret now: 77 million Baby Boomers are heading into their 50s and 60s, and are planning for the next phase of life — retirement. Just as the Boomers have transformed every other life stage, they are now revolutionizing and re-visioning retirement as well.

According to Dr. Ken Dychtwald, the nation's foremost expert on aging and retirement, two-thirds of people that have lived past 65 years old in the history of the world are alive right now. Humans have long searched for that fountain of youth, but there was no breakthrough until the 20th century. Healthcare advanced and before we knew it, we were inundated with "old" people. We have fully embarked on the longevity revolution.

We're an aging society. The only difference now is we're not growing old. Our parents did in the past and didn't have to worry about what to do after retirement because they weren't going to experience 20 or 30 years of it. Some may wonder now, "How long will people live when I get old?"

Have you ever realized that in one generation, 65 has gone from being "old" to being middle-aged? Here's a quick history lesson for you: Otto Von Bismarck developed Europe's first pension plan in the 1880s. He picked 65 as the age when people were "too old" to work — this age has remained a marker today to begin receiving benefits, such as Social Security. The only problem? During this time, life expectancy was only 45 years old and the average retirement was only 1.2 year. A far cry from where we are today.

Many wonder now, "What if I outlive my money, purpose, etc.?" What to do after retirement is a question Boomers are beginning to toy with. The linear life plan many used to go by (education, work, leisure) is being replaced with something

much more cyclic — education, work, leisure, work, leisure, education, etc. But there is an entire generation who might not be able to retire unless they start thinking about and planning financially for it now.

It's up to you to determine what kind of retiree you already are or who you plan to be. The following "faces" of retirement were compiled by Dychtwald, Harris Interactive and AIG SunAmerica and appeared in Time Magazine.

FOUR FACES OF RETIREMENT

1) The Ageless Explorers (27 percent). Youthful, empowered, optimistic, very happy, loves retirement freedom, high net worth, wants work to be part of lives, seeks involvement, personal growth, etc.

2) The Comfortably Contents (19 percent). Want to be free of obligation, living their "golden years," want to relax, content to enjoy the fruits of their labor, high net worth.

3) Live for Todays (22 percent). Fun and adventurous, pursue active life and personal growth, financially unprepared, anxious about retirement and has many regrets, modest net worth, not very happy because they have to work.

4) Sick and Tireds (32 percent). Inactive, unfulfilled, worried about everything, the least happy, low net worth, given up/little interest in anything, living a retirement nightmare.

As you can see, most retirees still fall in the "Sick and Tireds" category — perhaps considered the "old" way to retire — but more are beginning to move into the "Ageless Explorers" face.

Preparing for retirement is taking on a whole new face so it's never too early, or too late, to start with a strategy that will last. Today, it's important for you to make sure your financial professional is planning your finances thoroughly. As you can see, you could be getting short changed if the plan lasts for only 15 to 20 years.

(Jason Vanclef, president of Senior Estate Solutions, is a certified senior advisor and graduate estate planning consultant in Santa Monica. To contact Vanclef, call 1-800-737-8552.)

Chamber invites one and all

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce has several public events planned for April that all Santa Monicans are invited to attend. All of the events are offered at no charge to the public.

Boards and Commissions Academy

The city of Santa Monica has 24 boards and commissions. The groups oversee everything from the arts to the organizations that manage the pier. The requirements to serve on a city board or commission vary — sometimes being a resident is required. If you have an interest in serving the community, come to the chamber's "Boards and Commissions Academy" on Thursday, April 6. A panel of experts will speak on what it takes. The event will be held at the chamber offices, 1234 Sixth Street from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Westside Business Expo Trade Show

The chamber will hold an open-to-the-public trade show on April 12 from 5 p.m.

to 7:30 p.m. The event will be held at the newly renovated Sheraton Delphina Hotel, formerly the Four Points, at 530 West Pico Blvd. Come see displays from more than 50 area businesses. Each person at the event will have the chance to win one of five weekend packages that include hotel stays, meals and activities. There also will be light appetizers and a cash bar. The event is sponsored by LACarGuy.

Community Health Festival

For more than 20 years, the chamber has hosted the Health Festival. This year, the event is moving from the Promenade to the Santa Monica Pier's carousel deck. Saint John's Health Care Center and Santa Monica-UCLA Hospital, along with Dougherty Laser Vision and Spectrum Clubs, are hosting this year's event. More than 60 health related businesses will be on hand offering free screenings, product demonstrations and health care advice. The community event will be held on Saturday, April 30 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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LOCAL

Police have arrested 17 in parlors since '02

PARLORS, from page 1

show up for an arraignment at the LAX Courthouse on March 23 to enter a plea, said Haviland, who handles criminal prosecutions for City Hall. A bench warrant was issued on March 29.

Neither Davenport nor Pak could be reached for comment. The owner of Tokyo Health Studio also couldn't be reached for comment. An employee of the parlor, which charges \$100 an hour for a massage, on Wednesday said she didn't know the owner's full name and didn't know Pak or Davenport, though most employees use nicknames.

Many Asian massage parlors in Santa Monica for years have been known for being houses of ill repute, said Edward Tabash, a Beverly Hills attorney whose clients are mostly accused of prostitution. But that doesn't mean they should be a focus of police scrutiny, he said.

"These places, whatever goes on in them, doesn't hurt anybody," Tabash said. "It's a diversion of police resources and I think the Santa Monica Police Department has to get its priorities straight ... It's more important to focus on violent crime and to stop pickpockets on the Promenade than it is to crack down on people who aren't hurting you."

Still, prostitution remains against city and state law and police are sworn to uphold the law. SMPD Sgt. Bob Almada,

who is in charge of the vice and narcotics division, said his department routinely conducts prostitution stings in Santa Monica.

However, in massage parlors, vice detectives usually investigate after receiving a citizen complaint or a tip, Almada said.

"Street prostitution is easy to observe. During the scope of patrolling, it's easy to observe illegal activities," he said, adding that's not always the case inside massage parlors. "In parlors, we get information from an informant or a complaint from a citizen, then we can act on it."

"Whenever we get a citizen complaint we check it out."

Since 2002, there have been 17 arrests for prostitution in Santa Monica massage parlors. Another 20 arrests have been made since 2002 that are related to violations of the municipal code, which include a variety of illegal activities such as doors to massage rooms being locked; massage technicians being unclothed and clients' genitals exposed during the massage, to name a few. Only two or three of the city's parlors are repeat offenders, Almada said.

Although the number of arrests for street prostitution in Santa Monica weren't readily available, it seems to be subsiding.

Almada said in the 14 years he's been with the SMPD, he's seen prostitution drop significantly in Santa Monica, partic-

ularly along the Lincoln Boulevard corridor from Interstate 10 to Rose Avenue, also known as "Pleasure Palace Boulevard," according to Tabash.

"Street prostitution was much more prevalent in the early '90s," Almada said.

Tabash agreed, saying prostitution's heyday on Lincoln Boulevard was between 1991 and 1998. Tabash represents many women who are arrested for prostitution along Lincoln Boulevard, as well as in the San Fernando Valley and throughout Los Angeles.

Because it is a state highway and serves as a main thoroughfare, hookers find Lincoln Boulevard a profitable place to set up shop.

The SMPD regularly conducts sting operations on Lincoln Boulevard, with the most recent being last fall, Almada said. The operation usually involves male and female officers who conduct a "Reverse John Sting." Female officers use themselves as bait to lure "Johns" to a street corner on Lincoln Boulevard where they are propositioned and brought to a nearby hotel room. Once the men solicit sex, they are arrested for prostitution, which is a misdemeanor offense. Undercover officers wear a wire underneath their clothing so vice detectives waiting in the hotel room can hear their conversations with the men.

On average, SMPD arrests between three and eight "Johns" during an opera-

tion, police said.

"We conduct continual enforcement along the Lincoln corridor throughout the year," Almada said.

Tabash, who came in second for a run against State Sen. Sheila Kuehl for State Assembly in 1994, said he thinks that prostitution shouldn't be criminalized, admitting that that argument doesn't get very far in the courtroom when defending his clients.

He also said in a city as liberal as Santa Monica, cracking down on prostitution goes against its live-and-let-live nature.

"I don't want Santa Monica to stray from its civil liberties moorings and it's not in keeping with an enlightened Santa Monica," he said. "I would issue a plea to an otherwise very good police department to get its priorities straight."

Tabash characterized residents who complain about the alleged activity in massage parlors as living in "hoity toity" neighborhoods and are busybodies who should mind their own business. He added that most of the parlors' clientele are middle-aged businessmen and not "violent low lifes."

"Whatever hanky panky is going on is a service that hurts no one," he said. "No one can say they are legitimately hurt by what goes on in that little room ..."

"Live with it."

Anyone who sees suspicious activity can call the SMPD's narcotics and vice division tipline at (310) 458-2292.



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LOCAL



Workshop not what expected

AIRPORT PARK, from page 1

spokesman Bruce Smith.

Smith said SMC had been involved in more than a dozen meetings in the past year to address issues related to the college's two satellite campuses — at the airport and at 11th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard.

"We realized we needed to get some expertise to plan this carefully, because that is what the residents wanted," Smith said. "We took it to the trustees so we could do it right."

Tuesday's workshop began with an overview of SMC and the current airport campus site, which includes two buildings and 239 parking spaces.

In addition to nursing- and teacher-training programs, SMC plans to move its continuing and community education program to the airport campus. Several general education classes also will be offered.

The consultants suggested possible development scenarios for the site, including moving a building in order to enhance the campus' aesthetics and develop an underground parking structure. The consultants emphasized that Tuesday's workshop was the first in a public input process that will last for months. SMC officials said they would only provide a few design suggestions for participants to keep in mind during the "visioning" process.

Some who attended the workshop, however, thought the process lacked the focus they wanted.

"I wasn't sure what was going to be discussed," said Michael Wirst, an architect whose office is next to the airport campus. "But the college threw a curve ball by discussing non-issues in order to get public support, but you can't get public support without a plan. And right now the plan is so generalized. The college should have come forward with valid plans for the campus, along with parking and traffic plans, then take it from there."

As a result, some citizens refused to take part in the workshop, feeling their interests were not being represented. About one-third of those on hand left the workshop 20 minutes after it began.

"They're letting us decide what's going to be green, when they should let us decide what to do about traffic," said Eileen Turnick, who attended the workshop.

SMC sent out a mailer last week to local residents inviting them to participate in the workshop. The mailer also

informed residents that SMC wants to pay for a new park planned by City Hall near the airport in exchange for permission to build a parking structure underneath.

SMC officials said they would be willing to pay between \$6 million and \$26 million for their proposed joint Airport Park project, which would come from taxpayer-approved bond money. In the proposal, SMC would cover \$8.2 million for the park's construction costs, as long as SMC could have the parking access.

SMC has a lease with City Hall at the Airport Park site which will soon expire. The lease allows the college to use surface parking at the site to shuttle students to and from SMC's main campus at 1900 Pico Blvd. Meanwhile, City Hall already has budgeted for the park using tax money from capital improvement funds.

City staff said the joint proposal will be discussed at an upcoming City Council meeting, possibly in April.

SMC purchased the airport site for \$30 million in December 2001 from BAE Systems, a military defense contractor. The four-story west building is currently undergoing a major renovation and will be open for classes in mid-June, when the summer session begins.

Unless other plans are agreed upon with City Hall, SMC would have to find another source of parking once construction begins for the Airport Park in August and ends next summer.

A March 25 Santa Monica city staff report suggests it would be simpler for the City Council to move forward with its own park plan. The report also suggested SMC's airport campus could be designed to integrate parking for students who attend both the airport and main campus sites — an option consultants will consider in its development plans.

Greg Brown, SMC's director of facilities planning, said many participants who broke out into groups and voiced their concerns came back at the end of the session seemingly more comfortable with the process. He said the consultants still received a share of angry comments, but residents in general seemed more engaged than they were at the beginning of the session.

"The purpose of this meeting was simply to get some consensus on what we want to do, then go back and analyze what effect it might have on traffic," he said. "Some people came here jumping ahead on topics we will be discussing later."

LAPD: Son likely runaway

MISSING, from page 1

who agreed to take Nick under his wing," Javier Segovia said. "They were supposed to leave Wednesday for northern California."

Javier Segovia said he was joined by one of his friends, and two of his son's friends, as they passed out some 200 flyers along the Third Street Promenade and throughout Santa Monica on Wednesday in the hopes that someone would recognize Nick or know of his whereabouts. Javier Segovia said he talked to many of the city's homeless residents in the downtown area and along the Santa Monica Pier, who offered some tips. Still, the father said it had not been confirmed whether his son had left Santa Monica.

Javier Segovia said he contacted the Los Angeles Police Department, which informed him that his son was likely a voluntary runaway. Because his son disappeared at LAX, it is LAPD's jurisdic-

tion and not that of the Santa Monica Police Department.

Javier Segovia, who remarried six years ago, said his son had trouble in school, had difficulty paying attention and as a result, failed the 10th grade last year. That's when he moved to Miami to live with his mother.

Nick Segovia is supposed to be on medication, called Adderall, for his attention disorder. It's not known if he is still taking his medication.

Despite the unfortunate turn of events, Javier Segovia said it had been a great week for him and his son.

"He learned to drive stick, not an easy thing to do," Javier Segovia said. "Everything was great. I don't understand what happened."

"We gave him everything emotionally and materially."

Anyone with information on Nick Segovia's whereabouts is asked to contact Javier Segovia at (323) 397-4840.

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Lessons learned in water rescue

PIER PRESSURE, from page 1

one of the most daunting problems they faced were people who attempted to jump off the pier.

“Most of the time they’re showing off, but once they’re in that cold, deep water they have second thoughts,” he said. “They usually try to hang on to the pilings and end up getting cut up by the barnacles and the mussels.”

Heineman said the Harbor Patrol consists of six permanent officers and 11 “as needed” officers trained to respond to fires and medical emergencies; maintain the buoys along the breakwater; gather marine evidence and weather information. The patrol works hand-in-hand with the Coast Guard and the city’s other emergency response agencies.

Senior Harbor Service Officer Wayne Salkowski, who has been on the Harbor Patrol for 28 years, said in order to become a harbor patrol officer, applicants must have a lifeguard certificate, scuba certification, an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification that includes training on an auto-defibrillator, and significant boating experience.

Once hired, new officers are on a 12-month probationary period and must complete 40 hours of rescue boat training and 40 hours of marine fire-fighting school. The officers also need to attain an advanced scuba diving certification and learn how to safely make arrests.

“Even after that, we still have to consistently train and practice our skills,” Salkowski said. “We’re the first line of defense for any problems that come up in this area.”



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Spending a lot for a little time

BY PAUL ELIAS
AP Biotechnology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — In the two weeks since Genentech’s expensive new drug Avastin was found to help the sickest lung cancer patients live a few months longer than expected, investors have pumped nearly \$17 billion into the company.

But what’s good for the patients, the company and its investors is also heavily stressing the ailing U.S. health care system, raising uncomfortable questions about the cost of end-of-life care.

“We are spending huge sums of money on treatments that are offering only modest benefits,” says Dr. Richard Deyo, a University of Washington professor who recently wrote a book on the subject.

The average annual premium for employer-sponsored family coverage will be \$14,565 in 2006, more than double what it was in 2001, forecasts the National Coalition on Health Care, a Washington D.C.-based alliance of business, labor, religious and civic groups.

The ranks of the uninsured are rising as well, and lawmakers are looking for cuts to bring Medicare spending under control.

Much of the blame is being laid on prescription drug costs, which have spiraled from \$12 billion annually in 1980 to \$179 billion in 2003, according to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Pricey new cancer drugs such as Avastin that help patients stay alive a few months more as well as dozens of other biotechnology drugs are more expensive to produce than traditional drugs because they are made from living cells, a new and radical departure from decades of manufacturing and regulatory practices that relied on well-known chemicals.

Deyo says these drugs contribute mightily “to the malaise in health care. It’s why health insurance costs are rising.”

Some of the most costly drugs, like Avastin, are called “targeted therapies,” because they attack cancerous cells while leaving healthy ones alone.

The hope was that they would eliminate chemotherapy. But that hasn’t happened. All are still given to cancer patients in combination with standard chemotherapy.

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Dozens of such biotechnology-created cancer drugs are in advanced stages of development and Avastin, priced at \$4,400 a month to treat colon cancer, is not nearly the most expensive. Erbitux, the drug at the center of the ImClone Systems Inc. stock scandal that sent Martha Stewart to prison, costs each patient \$17,000 a month.

“Avastin and Erbitux and all the target therapies have initially disappointed,” said Dr. Leonard Saltz, a leading cancer researcher at Memorial-Sloan Kettering in New York who works with Avastin and Erbitux. “We hoped they would replace chemotherapy, but they haven’t.”

Genentech and other industry supporters argue that when it comes to cancer, success is measured in the smallest of increments, and that the high cost of developing new treatments — about \$850 million per drug on average — warrant the high price tags.

Doctors and their well-insured patients, meanwhile, are willing to try anything — and everything — for even a few extra days of life.

For the patients whose health insurance plans pay these astronomical costs, the drugs can seem heaven-sent. Who wouldn’t want two more months with loved ones before they die?

“The longer we can go increases the chances that more drugs will become available,” said colon cancer patient Richard Lewis.

Lewis is 45, a father of four and a high school counselor in Colstrip, Mont., 120 miles south of Billings. In August, doctors found that his colon cancer had spread to his lungs. He’s not expected to live much past 47. Still, the tumors in his lungs haven’t grown much since his diagnosis and he senses that he may yet live a little longer than expected.

He credits Avastin, which is covered by insurance.

“Avastin is pricey, but for me well worth it,” Lewis said. “For someone who does not have good insurance ... I do not know how they would manage.”

Avastin, which is designed to choke the blood supply that feeds tumors, was the first drug of its kind to be approved by the Food and Drug Administration last year, after Genentech Inc. showed it extends the life of the sickest colon cancer patients by an average of about five months, with chemotherapy.

Dr. Susan Desmond-Hellmann, a former oncologist and now a Genentech president in charge of product development, says the results of the Avastin-and-chemotherapy lung cancer study were important because it was the first time that a drug regimen extended the life of the sickest cancer patients beyond a year.

Analysts expect the latest results will lead to a similar approval for lung cancer, and the company is already experimenting with Avastin’s effects on kidney and lung cancers.

Avastin should soon surpass \$2 billion in annual sales, and that helped push Genentech stock up 30 percent in the last two weeks.

The rosy financial forecast is easy to see when investors do the math: Nearly 100,000 people are diagnosed each year with the kind of lung cancer that Avastin could potentially treat, at a cost of \$8,800 a month per patient. That would be in addition to the \$555 million Avastin made last year alone treating colon cancer.

And even without more government approvals, doctors are free to administer the drug for any cancer patient in the hope that Avastin just might help. After all, while Avastin has been shown to have little or no effect on some patients, for others it appears to have extended their lives significantly.

“I did about five months of Avastin and I think it helped a lot with shrinking my tumors,” said Phil Gagler, a 47-year-old Monroe, N.Y., book publisher who is today free of his colon cancer. “I’m doing OK now.”

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STATE



Congress: Love thy neighbor, but fortify fence

BY SETH HETTENA
Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO — Two powerful Republican House committee chairmen on Tuesday called on the Senate to pass legislation that would allow the U.S. Border Patrol to fortify the westernmost stretch of the U.S.-Mexico border despite opposition from environmentalists.

House Armed Services Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter and James Sensenbrenner, the House Judiciary Committee chairman, said a \$58 million plan to beef up the final 3 1/2-mile stretch of border with triple-layer fencing is needed to protect the United States from terrorist attack.

"If we have another 9-11, people are going to ask why we did not act," said Hunter, a San Diego area Republican who has long pushed for a crackdown on illegal border crossers.

Sensenbrenner of Wisconsin added: "It is very plain that we will never have homeland security if we don't have border security."

The committee chairmen, joined by Southern California Republican Reps. Randy "Duke" Cunningham and Ed Royce, pleaded their case along a rugged half-mile long border canyon known as "Smuggler's Gulch," which the Border Patrol would like to see filled in in order to build a road across it. The California Coastal Commission objected and last year denied the Border Patrol permission to proceed.

Royce, who represents part of Orange County, said he had heard from FBI Director Robert Mueller that Middle Eastern nationals have changed their identities, taken on Hispanic surnames and "have been directed to come over the border." He did not say who had directed them.

Later, a dozen protesters criticized U.S. immigration policies and shouted "Make friends not fences" Other protesters spoke against the project as environmentally damaging. Yards away on the Mexican side of the bor-

der, several men stood watching the press event, waving to photographers through the single-layer corrugated metal fence that separates Tijuana from San Diego.

Language authorizing the Homeland Security secretary to waive all laws and proceed with the project passed the House in February as part of an \$81.4 billion spending bill for military operations in Iraq and tsunami relief for Asian countries. Also included in the spending package was Sensenbrenner's bill to force states to ensure they're not granting driver's licenses to illegal aliens.

The Senate initially said it would not consider the language authorizing the fence if it were attached to the spending bill, said Joe Kasper, Hunter's spokesman. The Senate is set to take up the issue next month.

Peter Douglas, the coastal commission's executive director, said Hunter was "playing the politics of fear" to see the fence built his way.

"If this were really a national security issue, if this were really an issue of terrorism, the president could

have overridden the coastal commission's objection a year ago," Douglas said.

The commission objects in particular to the Border Patrol's plans to fill in part of Smuggler's Gulch with 2 million cubic yards of dirt — enough to fill 300,000 dump trucks — in order to build a road across it. Steep, unimproved roads were responsible for the deaths of three San Diego-based Border Patrol agents in recent years.

The commission said the canyon fill would erode soil near a federally-protected estuary that is a refuge for threatened and endangered birds.

"By setting up this fence and basically doing this backfill you're having a dramatic effect on a very important watershed and wetland," said Aaron Quintanar, wildlands conservation program manager with WildCoast, a San Diego area environmental group. "That in turn has these dramatic impacts on migratory birds and endemic species."

Ain't no denying: Bill to withhold student aid nixed

BY PAUL DAVENPORT
Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — Arizona state senators rejected a bill Wednesday to deny state financial aid benefits to illegal immigrants attending a state university or community college.

The Senate Higher Education Committee rejected the House-approved bill on a 3-3 tie. It was one of several pending pieces of legislation seeking to build on Arizona's Proposition 200, a voter-approved law that denies some welfare benefits to illegal immigrants.

Proponents said the restrictions are needed because the state shoulders costs for services for migrants and their families.

"Taxpayers are already being forced against our will" to pay for educating illegal immigrants, said Kathy McKee, a Proposition 200 supporter who spoke on the bill's behalf.

But an Arizona Civil Liberties Union representative said the state is better off educating immigrants. "We have no way of knowing, among other things, who is going to discover the cure for cancer," Eleanor Eisenberg said.

Sen. Victor Soltero, D-Tucson, said he can't condone illegal immigration but that it provides a net benefit to the state through the work migrants do and taxes they pay.

Sen. Jake Flake, R-Snowflake, acknowledged that illegal immigrants are "very important" to the economies of both the state and the nation.

But they use government services that burden the state without enough help from the federal government, he said.

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NATIONAL

Qwest hires proxy in its pricey pursuit of MCI

BY SANDY SHORE
AP Business Writer

DENVER — Qwest Communications International Inc. has hired a proxy consulting firm, a clear signal that it isn't giving up the multibillion-dollar tug-of-war for MCI Inc. with Verizon Communications Inc.

The Altman Group was hired to augment Qwest's investor relations staff, its president, Ken Altman, said Wednesday. He declined to discuss details of the tasks his firm is handling for Qwest.

The Qwest board was scheduled to meet Wednesday to "consider its options in the continued pursuit of MCI," a source close to the negotiations who requested anonymity said late Tuesday. A company spokesman did not return messages seeking comment Wednesday.

The Denver-based company, with local phone service in 14 Midwestern and Western states and a nationwide fiber-optics network, will probably submit a sweetened offer to MCI's board or perhaps try a hostile takeover, several analysts said Tuesday.

The six-week, very public bidding war for MCI took another twist Tuesday when the Virginia-based long-distance carrier accepted a \$7.64 billion takeover proposal from Verizon Communications Inc. It was nearly \$1 billion less than the most recent Qwest bid.

Qwest declined comment, but chief financial officer Oren Shaffer provided some hints of what's to come. Speaking to analysts on Tuesday before MCI's decision was announced, Shaffer said that Qwest would consult with MCI stockholders if its bid was rejected.

"Right now, we think that the shareholders' interests and our interests are aligned," he said.

MCI's board has been concerned about partnering with Qwest, which is financially weaker than Verizon, the dominant local phone company in the Northeast and a top player in the cellular phone industry. Qwest is weighed down by \$17 billion in debt, lacks a wireless division and faces growing competition from cable and high-speed data companies.

Still, analysts believe Qwest will press its bid for MCI.

"We do not expect that Qwest will completely abandon its pursuit of MCI and is likely to revise _ increase _ its offer and officially launch a hostile offer for MCI," Lehman Brothers analysts Andrew Whittaker and Blake Bath wrote in a research note published Tuesday.

Banc of America Securities analyst David Barden believes Qwest will take its bid straight to MCI shareholders.

"We expect any further bid from Qwest to emerge from a consultative process with MCI stockholders that still see a Qwest bid as the best option for maximizing their stock value," he wrote.

Analyst Donna Jaegers of Janco Partners Inc. said the process has been time-consuming for Qwest executives who should be focused on operations.

"I'm hoping Qwest gets the message and doesn't up its bid any further," she said.

Qwest said in a statement its proposal creates superior shareholder value. "We are going to assess the situation and determine what is in the best interests of shareholders, customers and employees," the company said.

A spokesman declined additional com-

ment, but Shaffer said the only reason Qwest has pushed this much is because of MCI shareholders who believed the Qwest offer was better.

"The idea that maximization of value is a nice easy thing to understand and it's clear our views are aligned in that matter," he told analysts.

Qwest sees an MCI acquisition as a way to boost its bottom line. Analysts have said the combined companies would increase Qwest's free cash flow, allowing it to pay down some of its debt.

After MCI rebuffed its initial bid in mid-February, Qwest led by chief executive officer Richard Notebaert continued its dogged pursuit, sweetening its offer several times as it was bolstered by MCI shareholder opposition to the Verizon bid. MCI reopened talks with Qwest, but ultimately chose Verizon.

In all, Qwest has raised its bid by \$500 million and Verizon's stock has declined since the battle began. Notebaert and Verizon CEO Ivan Seidenberg have also waged the battle publicly through letters, at times sharply worded, to the MCI board and a flurry of news releases.

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INTERNATIONAL



Beef, it's what the Japanese want for dinner

BY MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press Writer

TOKYO — More than a million people and restaurants have signed a petition urging the government to drop a ban on U.S. beef imports prompted by mad cow disease, organizers said Wednesday.

Nearly 1.2 million people nationwide signed the petition, which was submitted to the Agriculture Ministry on Tuesday to urge the early resumption of U.S. beef imports, campaign spokesman Yasuharu Tagaya said.

"We want U.S. beef back so we can enjoy dishes such as 'gyu-don' (beef and rice) and barbecued tongue," Tagaya said. "American beef tastes good, almost like homegrown beef."

U.S. beef is crucial for restaurants serving such cheap dishes, because they use cow parts that are unpopular in the United States and are inexpensive to import.

Car bomb in western Baghdad kills one

BY ANTONIO CASTANEDA

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Gunmen opened fire on a military checkpoint in northern Mosul, killing six Iraqis on Wednesday, while attackers in the south ambushed a group of Shiite pilgrims heading to a major religious festival.

In Mosul, four insurgents jumped out of a car near the checkpoint and began shooting, killing six Iraqis and wounding eight others before being shot dead by return fire, police official Ahmed Mohamed Khalaf Al-Jibori said. U.S. military officials said they did not immediately have information on the attack.

Also Wednesday, a car bomb exploded near a U.S. convoy in Baghdad's Abu Ghraib neighborhood, police Lt. Akram Al-Zawobaie said. U.S. military officials said coalition soldiers were not injured.

Near Mahaweel, about 35 miles south of Baghdad, gunmen opened fire on Shiite pilgrims, killing one and injuring two, police Capt. Muthana al-Furati said.

The pilgrims were among thousands of Shiites filling roads across Iraq as they headed to Karbala to celebrate the al-Arbacae religious festival Thursday. The holiday marks the end of a 40-day mourning period for one of the Shiite religion's most important saints, the grandson of Islam's Prophet Muhammad, Imam Hussein, who was killed in a seventh-century battle.

Officials have feared violence during the gathering, with two attacks against pilgrims reported Monday.

During one, in Musayyib, 40 miles south of Baghdad, a suicide bomber on a bicycle blew himself up near a police patrol protecting pilgrims, killing two policemen.

The other bombing took place at the Imam al-Khedher shrine compound in Khalis, 50 miles north of Baghdad. That attack killed a pilgrim and wounded two other people.

Also Wednesday, gunmen attacked one of the leading Kurdish party buildings, injuring two guards in Mosul. An attacker was killed by return fire, said Abdul Al-Ghani Botani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

Iraqi police reported the arrest of a leading member of the feared militant group Ansar al-Sunnah Army. Police captured Mohammed Abed, also known as Mohammed al-Hawijy, during a late Tuesday raid near Hawija, 150 miles north of Baghdad, said Col. Sarhad Qader.

In the northern city of Tal Afar, the U.S. military said, soldiers attacked an insurgent vehicle Tuesday, killing one militant and injuring another. Numerous weapons were found, the military said.

Negotiators facing an impasse over who will lead the country's new parliament worked to try to reach an agreement Wednesday, a day after a chaotic session of the National Assembly in which lawmakers shouted at each other and kicked out the media.

The Shiite-led United Iraqi Alliance party, along with the Kurdish coalition, want a Sunni Arab to take the parliament speaker post to heal rifts with the minority Sunnis dominant under former dictator Saddam Hussein. Many Sunnis boycotted the Jan. 30 elections or simply stayed home because they feared attacks at the polls.

Japan banned U.S. beef imports in December 2003 after the discovery of America's first case of mad cow disease.

The issue has caused discord between the two countries, with some U.S. lawmakers threatening sanctions against Japan if the ban is prolonged.

Japan has insisted on keeping the ban unless the United States adopts Japan's practice of testing all cattle for human consumption — including young animals usually considered low-risk — for mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

Japan has tested all cattle for the disease since discovering its first case in 2001. Sixteen infected cows have been found so far.

Last month, a Japanese government panel agreed to

accept a U.S. proposal to exempt younger cows from testing. However, the Food Safety Commission, which makes the final decision, still has to review the matter — a process that could take several months.

Many Japanese restaurants that sell the cheap, extremely popular gyudon beef bowls have run out of stock.

Low-cost eateries like Yoshinoya D&C Co., which relies heavily on U.S. suppliers, have been unable to find a satisfactory alternative.

"Most Americans are eating U.S.-grown beef with confidence about its safety — then why can't we?" said Tagaya, who is also a Yoshinoya official.

Consumer groups in Japan have demanded that the government keep U.S. beef banned to ensure safety.

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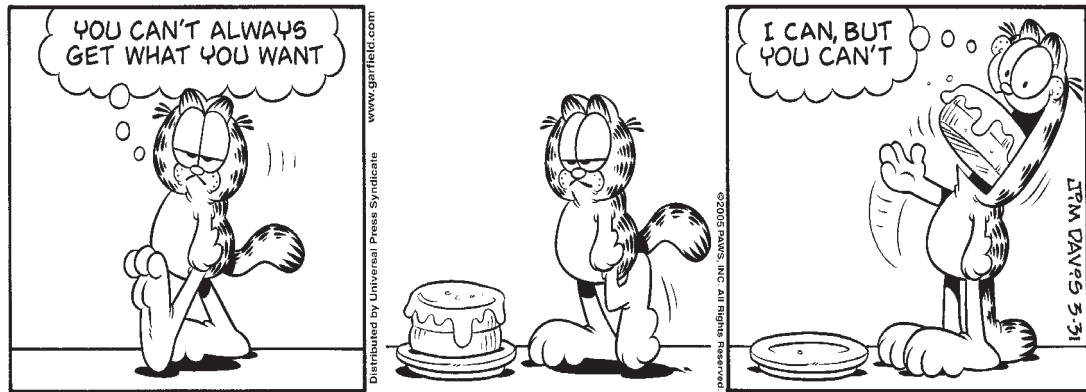


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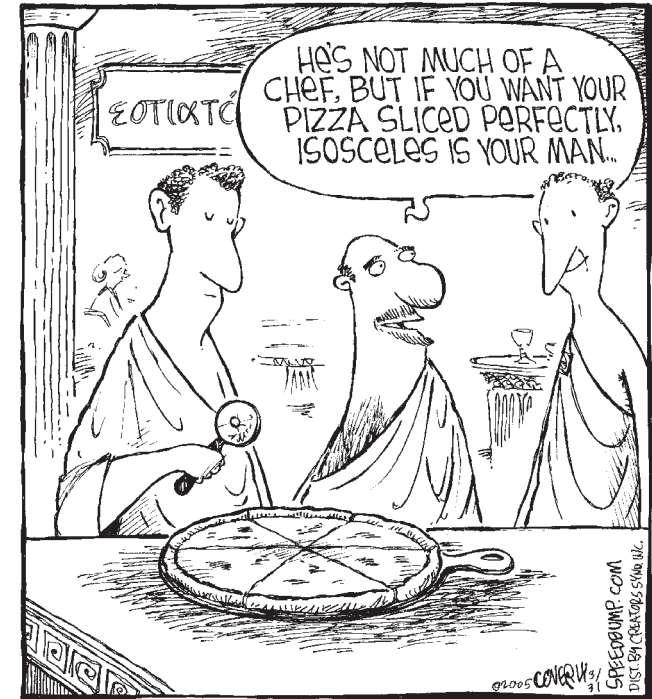
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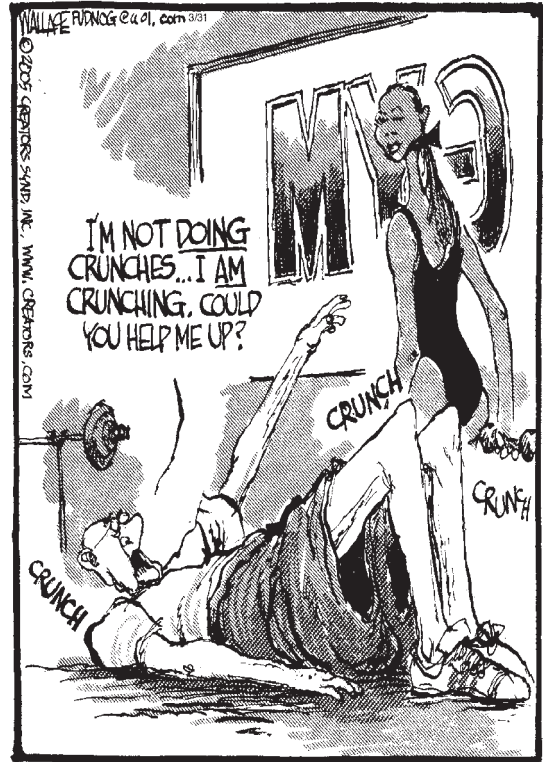


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- 24 Layers
- 25 Elk's cousin
- 27 Table scrap
- 28 Sneeze causer
- 29 Dolt
- 32 Bongo players
- 36 Busy
- 39 Writer Ferber
- 40 Fern parts
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- 42 Small fry
- 43 Cutting tools

DOWN

- 1 Spill over
- 2 Baseball's Boggs

- 3 La Scala song
- 4 Black cat
- 5 Belt setting
- 6 Accumulate
- 7 Little lie
- 8 Pipe bend
- 9 Deli choice
- 11 Parade sight
- 15 Disorder
- 17 Pedestal occupant
- 18 Snowman's carrot
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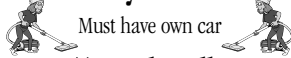
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Murder C wrote: Court of Appeals denies plea

By The Associated Press

GRETNA, La. — C-Murder lost his latest attempt to get his second-degree murder conviction thrown out when a state court of appeal refused to reconsider the case.

The rapper, whose real name is Corey Miller, was convicted Sept. 30, 2003, in the death of Steve Thomas, 16, at a nightclub in the New Orleans suburb of Harvey. He faces a mandatory life sentence without parole.

In April 2004, State District Judge Martha Sassone ordered a new trial on grounds that prosecutors withheld information on the criminal history of their key witnesses.

Prosecutors appealed the ruling, and earlier this month, two of the three judges on a panel of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeal ruled that even without the witnesses' testimony, "there was an abundance of other evidence which fully established Miller's guilt."

C-Murder asked for a rehearing before the entire court, but the request was denied Tuesday. He is being held in the Jefferson Parish Correctional Center in Gretna.

Ron Rakosky, C-Murder's lawyer, said he would appeal to the state Supreme Court.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Hilary Swank has been fined \$163 for bringing fruit into New Zealand, after getting thumbs down from judges in an appeal.

Swank was issued notice of a fine for breaching New Zealand's strict quarantine laws when she failed to declare an apple and an orange when she arrived at Auckland International Airport Jan. 15 on a flight from Los Angeles. She appealed the penalty to a court.

On Wednesday, the Manukau District Court advised the country's Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry that Swank's appeal had been rejected and that she had been fined \$142 plus costs of \$21.

Swank had written to the ministry seeking a court

hearing to have her fine expunged.

"After my 20-hour flight I simply forgot I had one orange and one apple. I do apologize sincerely," the Oscar-winning actress said in her handwritten letter.

Thousands of visitors arriving in New Zealand each year are fined on the spot for not declaring agricultural products such as fruit. Few contest the fines.

New Zealand is largely free of insect pests that cause billions of dollars in damage to crops and livestock in other parts of the world. The country has extremely strict quarantine guidelines to keep such pests from entering the country.

KINGSTON, Jamaica — Sinead O'Connor is in Jamaica recording a reggae album with some of the country's leading musicians.

The Irish pop singer has been in Kingston since last week working on tracks for the album, co-producer Sly Dunbar said Wednesday.

He said the album, set for release this summer by British-based Sanctuary Records, will include covers of some of reggae's most famous protest songs — Bob Marley's "War," Peter Tosh's "Downpressor Man" and Burning Spear's "Marcus Garvey."

Dunbar, a drummer, and Robbie Shakespeare, a bass player, are co-producing the album. They are believed to be one of the world's best rhythm sections. In 1980, they founded the Taxi record label, which has promoted the careers of stars such as Black Uhuru, Ini Kamoze, Beenie Man and Red Dragon.

O'Connor, 38, is best known for her 1991 hit, "Nothing Compares 2 U."

She famously tore up a photo of Pope John Paul II during a 1992 appearance on "Saturday Night Live."

NEW YORK — Supermodel Kate Moss will receive an award for her fashion influence at the Council of Fashion Designers of America's 2005 awards ceremony.

The awards will be presented June 6 at a gala at The New York Public Library.

Nominees for best womenswear designer are Marc Jacobs (for his signature collection), Ralph Rucci for Chado Ralph Rucci and Vera Wang. The nominees for menswear designer of the year are John Bartlett, Ralph Lauren and John Varvatos.

The nominees and honorees, chosen by more than 450 fashion designers, press, retailers and stylists, were announced Wednesday.

"The 2005 CFDA Fashion Awards nominees and honorees represent an impressive cross-section of creative talents in the American fashion industry," Peter Arnold, CFDA executive director, said in a statement.

Other honorees include Diane von Furstenberg, for lifetime achievement, and Norma Kamali, who will receive a special tribute from the CFDA's board of directors.

Gilles Bensimon, publication director of Elle magazine, and Alber Elbaz, artistic director for Lanvin, also will be honored.

NEW YORK — VH1 has selected seven new has-beens to stop being polite and start trying to revive their careers on "The Surreal Life."

The fifth season of the reality show, now in production, will premiere Sept. 4, the cable channel announced Tuesday.

In the show, a group of not A-list celebs are taped 24 hours a day while living and playing together in a mansion in the Hollywood Hills.

The new cast includes "America's Next Top Model" judge Janice Dickinson, former slugger Jose Canseco, Sandi "Pepa" Denton of Salt-N-Pepa, Bronson Pinchot from "Perfect Strangers," Omarosa Manigault-Stallworth from the first season of "The Apprentice," British model Caprice and motorcrossover Carey Hart.



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