

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

20, 22, 30, 32, 39

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 8, 9, 4

Evening picks: 0, 9, 2

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 5, California Classic

2nd Place: 8, Gorgeous George

3rd Place: 7, Eureka

Race Time: 1:43.04



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

In a 2003 issue of the American Journal of Roentgenology, two Seattle radiologists described a 35-year-old man with severe abdominal pain but normal vital signs, who was found to have "multiple" heads from Barbie dolls lodged in his small bowel, which he attributed to his pursuit of the pleasurable anal sensation he gets from excreting them. After a straight-laced description of how doll heads show up differently from other objects on X-rays, the authors advised radiologists to "keep in mind that human imagination may not follow clinical algorithms."



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Believe only half of what you see and nothing that you hear."

— Anonymous



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New leash on life



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Rupi Singh (left) and Brian Cody run their dogs at Joslyn Park on Tuesday. The city recently provided smaller dogs with a space all their own, separating the big dogs from the little ones.

Curtain closes on man posing as actor's son, cops plea to burglary

Down and out in Beverly Hills; gave hoteliers the shaft

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

A man captured last month by local police after going on a nationwide spending spree claiming he was the son of a famous actor has pleaded guilty to commercial burglary.

Samuel Jackson, 23, of Beverly Hills, stole more than \$250,000 from merchants on lavish stays at luxury hotels and expensive rental cars, authorities say.

The other charges against Jackson — defrauding an innkeeper, fraudulent use of an access card and auto theft — were dropped as part of his plea bargain, said Los Angeles District Attorney's Office Jane Robison. An access card is a

Jackson had traveled the country for three months prior to his arrest, using a fraudulent debit card to pay for hotel rooms, car rentals and other expenses.

term used for a debit card, which Jackson allegedly used fraudulently to rent a BMW, among other things.

He will serve three years in state prison to run concurrent with his five-year felony probation violation, Robison said. He is still wanted in Oklahoma on similar charges.

Jackson was caught by Santa

See POSER, page 6

Governor taps local educator for state board

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC — A prominent Latina educator who chairs the Santa Monica College board of trustees was appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger Tuesday to a governing board that oversees all of the state's 109 community colleges.

If confirmed by the state senate, Margaret Quiñones, 49, a resident of Sunset Park, will join the California Community College board of governors, which makes policy decisions that affect 2.8 million students.

Quiñones, a democrat, said she was honored by the appointment, adding that her primary concern was how the board will help individual campuses stabilize their finances.

"Even though Santa Monica is at the bottom of the funding, so are

a lot of other community colleges," Quiñones said. "Because I work for the community college and I'm a product of the community college, it's not just going to be about Santa Monica — it's going to be about all the community colleges in California."

"My perspective is very broad," she said. "I think much more broad than some of the other board of governors."

Despite the added commitment, Quiñones said she will run for reelection to the SMC board of trustees in November.

She expressed optimism that some of the academic programs cut at SMC last year will be reinstated. The programs were cut in a broader effort to fill a \$10 million-plus funding shortfall from Sacramento.

See QUIÑONES, page 6



Margaret Quiñones

Murder info reward may jump to \$25,000

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

POLICE HDQTRS. — Police are still working to resolve Santa Monica's only homicide of 2003, and residents with information could stand to pocket \$25,000 if they help out.

Jalonnie Carter, 19, was gunned down near his 20th Street apartment in the eastside Pico neighborhood last September. A suspect was arrested in connection with the crime, but was later released after prosecutors said there wasn't enough evidence to convict him.

Authorities will ask the City

Council on Tuesday to increase the reward for Carter's killer from \$1,000 to \$25,000, said Santa Monica Police Department Lt. Frank Fabrega. It's unknown from which City Hall budget the reward money would be taken.

Last month, a group of police officers distributed 1,000 fliers near the scene of the shooting, asking residents to call an anonymous tip line with any information related to the crime. If the information leads to an arrest, informants were promised a reward of up

See REWARD, page 7



Jalonnie Carter



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Go dancing tonight, Cancer



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)

★★★★ After yesterday, you might be so confused that you would prefer to lie back and listen to others. A meeting highlights the chaos that surrounds you. A partner or an associate thinks he or she has the answers. Let this person find out if he or she does. Tonight: Be a duo.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Others come to you, but you get mixed messages at best. A boss could be irascible, and confusing as well. Now is the time to be diplomatic. Just see where everything goes. Don't try to push anyone. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You might be confused about news, but know that you aren't the only one. Investigate rather than react, and you will draw positive results. In fact, information could change radically. What seems too good to be true is. Tonight: Choose a stress-buster.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ A friend might not be able to come through for you as you would like. There is little you can do but understand that the intent was there. Use extreme caution with risks and finances. Both areas could cause a problem. Tonight: Dance the night away.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Anchor in. If you can work from home, do so. How you see someone could change substantially in the next few weeks. Be careful with bosses and those in charge; they are most unpredictable right now. Someone you care about weaves quite a tale. Tonight: Stay close to home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Investigate what is going on. Do not push someone too hard to achieve your goals. Though you mean well, others could become confused and accident-prone. Also, think before you leap into action. Tonight: Wind down with a pal.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You might want to slow down some and handle a problem that comes forward at this point. Any radical action could backfire and cause you a problem. Cut risking, and think in terms of chilling out and letting hot situations sit. Tonight: Pay bills.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You mean well, but somehow the best of intentions backfire. How you see others might not be exactly as they are. You could be surprised by what comes out in the next few weeks. Avoid making any judgments, if possible. Tonight: Play away.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Take your time and make as few commitments as possible. Right now, your intuition and what you are hearing could be way off. Understand that others have good intentions, but they're not necessarily grounded. Tonight: Get some extra sleep.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Understand what your financial obligations are in a certain agreement that might be discussed. Do you want this? You might hate to be the one who rains on others' parades, but on the other hand, it might be absolutely necessary. Tonight: Where your friends are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You might not be as clear as you would like to be. Realize where someone is coming from. Imagine how he or she might be interpreting your words. Take special care with a boss or someone who is in charge. Tonight: Paint the town red.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Taking an overview demands an effort, but it's the best way to go. Others around you mean well but have their hands full. Don't push too hard to have things your way. Use more of your imagination in whatever you do. Tonight: Rent a movie.

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

1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • www.smdp.com

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com

EDITOR

Carolyn Sackarison sack@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER

John Wood wood@smdp.com

CHILD DEVELOPMENT COLUMNIST

Margie Altman margiealtman@yahoo.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

Rob Piubeni rob@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Steve Averill steve@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Rob Schwenker schwenker@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Del Pastrana del@smdp.com

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II alex@smdp.com

ADMINISTRATIVE TRAFFIC MANAGER

Heather Rich heather@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Mitch Troy mitch@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Kitty Seeger kitty@smdp.com

CIRCULATION MANAGER

Michael Aviles michael@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Keith Wyatt keith@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Glenn Bolan glenn@smdp.com

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com

MASCOT

Maya Furukawa maya@smdp.com

LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Word on the street: Fairview library needs tutors

By Daily Press staff

Fairview Branch Library is seeking volunteer tutors for its six-week summer reading program for children, held June 21 through July 31. The program offers children entering grades one through five a "dialogue between the tutor and the child." Activities might include pronouncing English words, alphabet review, vocabulary from a book the child is reading, discussing a story or writing about it.

Program director Sylvia Anderle hopes to attract tutors who are native English speakers, but teaching knowledge or experience is not needed. Starting with a one-session volunteer orientation, the library supplies tutors with books, worksheets, activities and ongoing support. With clear expectations and mandated homework for the students, teachers often report that the child's reading level has improved considerably.

The program originated nine years ago when Anderle perceived a need for free, community-based remediation for students who needed individual attention. Part of the continuing "outreach effort" at the branch, it primarily enrolls children whose parents are not native English speakers and who, therefore, may find it difficult to help with certain reading skills.

"Tutors have always felt that this was a very positive experience," Anderle said, with most students and tutors developing a "lovely relationship." She welcomes a variety of volunteers, including high school or college students, professionals and seniors.

Volunteers work with individual students at the library for one hour per week and need to commit to the full six-week session. A volunteer orientation is required, on Saturday, April 24, from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., or Monday, May 3, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Local athlete rises above the scrum

By Daily Press staff

A Santa Monica man has been inducted into a sports hall of fame, one that specifically honors Jewish athletes.

Shawn Lipman, an eight-time MVP of Santa Monica Rugby and the only Jewish player to ever play in the World Cup of Rugby, was honored last month at the Suffolk Y Jewish Community Center in Commack, NY. A captain of both the U.S. team in the Maccabiah Games and one of only two Jewish players in his native South Africa to play on the Transvaal Under-20 select — the highest level for the age group — Lipman resides in Santa Monica with his wife and three children.

"Our honorees truly exemplify what the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame is all about," said Cliff Bart, director of the hall of fame. "In their own way, each of them have overcome adversities, challenged stereotypes and blazed a trail for others to follow. We hope by honoring these Jewish men and women for their accomplishments we can show young Jews that there are no limitations for them."

Lipman joined six professional baseball players and four other athletes from different sports who were inducted last month into the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame at the 12th annual induction ceremony.

After honoring Jews in the NFL in 2002 and Jewish sportswomen last year, baseball got top billing this year as Brad Ausmus, Ron Blomberg, Mike Epstein, Sid Gordon, Elliott Maddox and Tiby Eisen, join the likes of Sandy Koufax, Ken Holtzman and Hank Greenberg in the hall of fame.

The honorees from the other sports include: Long Island lacrosse official Al Blau; former NFL great Benny Friedman; NBA player Dutch Garfinkel; and rower Aerial Gilbert. The Jewish Sports Hall of Fame also will honor "The Hockey Maven" Stan Fischler" with the annual Dick Steinberg Good Guy Award.

The Suffolk Y JCC is an agency of the UJA Federation and affiliated with the JCC Association. Additional funding is provided by the United Way of Long Island and the Townwide Fund of Huntington.

surf report

The mix of SW swell and leftover WNW energy continues to fade today. Look for most areas to drop into the knee- to waist-high range.

OUTLOOK: Thursday morning will start off on the slow side, but new WNW swell will be on the rise by the afternoon and will eventually peak on Friday. By Friday morning, many of the better exposed NW breaks in the South Bay see solid head-high waves.

Today the water is:

62°

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

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

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The Q-Line

The Santa Monica City Council recently passed a law forbidding the public from smoking on the beach. Add this to prohibitions against alcohol and dogs on the beach, and some citizens are beginning to feel as though an unreasonable amount of their freedoms are being taken.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Do you think it is OK for smoking to be prohibited on the beach in the

name of public health, or do you think this unfairly violates the freedom of Santa Monica's citizens?"

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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LETTERS

Cheap laughs make paper look foolish

Editor:

A daily paper is essential to Santa Monica and you are unfortunately the only one it has. You have an excellent news editor and staff. Why waste their talents on your cheap joke paper of April 1, 2004?

The unstable bluffs and the homeless problem in Santa Monica are serious problems, not jokes to Santa Monicans. And those who find your articles on those situations funny need to have their head examined. No wonder there are so many who still bemoan the Outlook's closing.

Jani O'Neill
West Hills, Calif.

Selective enforcement is irrational

Editor:

Thank you for publishing the story in the April 5 edition of the SMDP that brings to light the city of Santa Monica's irrational, if not illegal, enforcement of its spurious sign laws.

The same people who go apoplectic over the mere mention of John Ashcroft are abridging the right to free speech by business owners who wish to communicate to the public what brands of goods are available.

Some merchants are cited and some are not. This is a further constitutional violation by arbitrarily and capriciously enforcing this bogus law. At least some levity is provided by Councilman Ken Genser. He stated that "people might take their eyes off the road to read the signs."

It's not like there are Las Vegas-sized signs on Wilshire Boulevard. If it's too much for you Councilman Genser, please turn in your driver's license and let the Big Blue Bus do the driving for you.

Jason Meisler
Santa Monica

Council's priorities are a bad sign

Editor:

I'm not at all surprised that the city of Santa Monica would spend its limited resources harassing and persecuting small business owners over the use of signs rather than rid the city of the homeless and all of the problems they cause (SMDP, April 5, page 1).

Your photographs speak volumes about this issue, with one photograph showing tastefully installed signage being removed from a business by order of the city, while the other shows a homeless person sleeping soundly and undisturbed just outside a business.

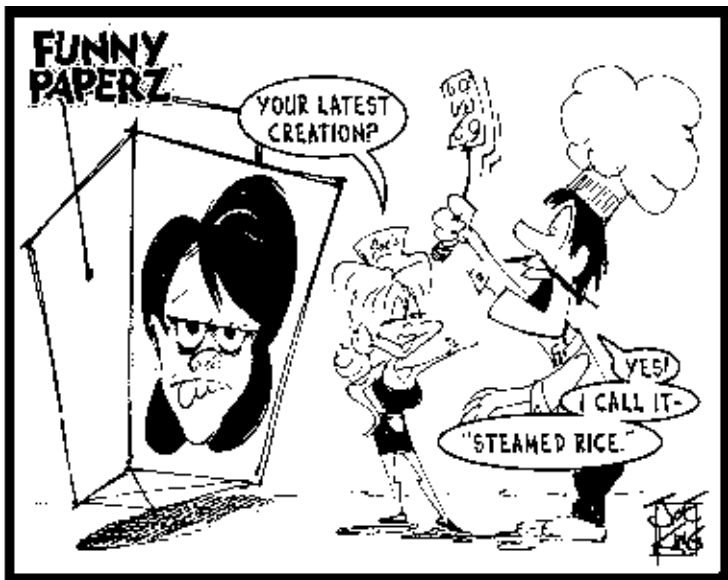
City councilman Ken Genser is quoted as saying he has been disappointed the city

hasn't pursued these small business owners over signage more doggedly, but that he is now happy it is.

But that's exactly what's wrong with Santa Monica, where anti-business, anti-resident, anti-children, but pro-homeless politicians like Genser continue to enable the homeless to sleep on our sidewalks and parks, and use our sidewalks and parks as their toilets, all the while making it near impossible for small business owners to survive.

It's time to run rascals like Genser and others who enable the homeless off of the City Council. Then we residents, our children, business owners and visitors can re-take our streets and parks, and feel safe again to walk those very streets, patronize local businesses and use our parks without encountering the mass of homeless and the human excrement the city council allows them to deposit.

Jeremy Bloomberg
Santa Monica



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United Nations' peace initiative: Sounds of silence



INCITES

By Ed Silverstein

Do you hear that? No?

That's the sound of the U.N. responding to the terrorist group Hamas announcing that they will continue to bomb Israel until it ceases to exist. It is the same deafening silence as when Yasser Arafat pulled out of the peace talks in 2000 after receiving nearly unthinkable concessions from Israel. And you better crank up your hearing aid if you want to hear the U.N.'s condemnation of dozens of suicide attacks against Israel.

Since September, 2000, there have been more than 900 Israelis killed in terrorist attacks. Aaron Breitbart, senior researcher for the Simon Wiesenthal Center, put that into perspective. Taking into account differences in population, this would be the American equivalent of an Oklahoma City bombing every two days for three years or 15 World Trade Center attacks.

But I'm sure the U.N.'s silence is just an oversight. And I'll bet there is a simple explanation why the U.N. Security Council just recently tried to pass a resolution to condemn Israel for slaying Hamas leader

Sheik Ahmed Yassin without once mentioning that Yassin is a terrorist who has continually preached deadly violence against the Israelis. Or maybe they can tell me why they have passed more than 200 resolutions condemning Israel, yet you can count on one hand all condemnations against the Palestinians, their suicide bombers and all other Arab countries combined.

But what can you expect from a world body that has to pander to 60 mostly hate-filled Islamic countries. Add to that the European Nations, such as France, that, according to Breitbart, have solved their zero population growth by importing — often radicalized — Islamic immigrants. Far more mystifying is the terrorist support by the far left who parrot the venomous propaganda spewed by the likes of Al Jazeera and other viciously anti-Semitic entities.

That is not to say that Israel has no friends. Christian fundamentalists support Israel 100 percent. Of course, this is not motivated by some altruistic love of Israel, but rather a biblical divination that claims the second coming of Jesus will be preceded by Jews returning to the promised land, which includes the West Bank. Of course, this is to be followed by nearly every Jew being wiped out with the few remaining converting to Christianity. For some reason, I don't see this becoming a long-term alliance.

Israel is not without sin. Certainly their continued expansion of settlements has greatly exacerbated tensions, as has

Sharon's militancy. And bulldozing homes, and inadvertently killing children and civilians when targeting terrorist leaders undercuts their credibility and diminishes their cause.

But let us imagine that it is reversed with 5 million Arabs surrounded by 500 million Jews. Try to picture Jewish leaders calling the extermination of every Arab. Now try to envision them paying a 14-year-old, mentally handicapped, Jewish boy \$25 to become a suicide bomber or sending an unwitting 10-year-old to a checkpoint with a bomb that he doesn't even know he is carrying. What about Israeli leaders using children as human shields?

Certainly the Bush Administration deserves some of the blame for this lasting conflict. Bush turned his back on the progress toward peace brokered by President Clinton. And his current efforts have been half-hearted at best. This is unforgivable when you consider that this conflict has fanned hatred against Israel and America, and is the main rallying cry for terrorists.

Yet, it is the U.N. that bears the lion's share of responsibility. There has been no darker stain on the relevancy of that organization than their mishandling of the Israeli/Palestinian struggle. They have failed to forcefully condemn suicide attacks going back dozens of years. They have maintained a love-fest with a discredited and corrupt Arafat. They have even

failed to act when it was disclosed that Palestinian militants were storing munitions in U.N. medical supply warehouses and were staging attacks from U.N. facilities. Instead, they have maintained policies that are so skewed, biased and dishonest that they are worthy of a Bush Administration spin.

But the dirty little secret is that many countries don't want this conflict to be over. Because once Israel ceases to be the focus of rabid Islamic hatred, then all that ire about being poor, mistreated and hungry might well be turned on the true culprits — their own governments.

Since Israel cannot trust the U.N. to be an honest broker they are left with only one solution: Build a wall. Make it big and make it strong. Use a moral compass to guide its path so that even the U.N. can't twist your motivations. Then, when the cycle of attack and retribution is ended, when deaths of children can no longer be used to fan the flames of hatred, will there be a real chance for peace.

It is time for the U.N. to embrace this proposal and regain its relevancy. To stay the course will only perpetuate this unholy conflict. And that truly would be a war crime.

(Ed Silverstein is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica. Comments can be sent to edsincites@aol.com?)

OPINION

Free your mind, the rest of the world may follow

POLITI-
GIRL

By Beth Solomon

I was thrilled when a friend invited me to her family's Passover seder last year in Beverly Hills. Not having been to one since I was a little girl (about 85 years ago), I could hardly wait to soak up the teachings about freedom, liberation and peace that I was sure would be at the heart of the ceremony.

Things started off well as the first prayers invoked God and blessed the wine. Hard-boiled eggs, parsley in salt water and unleavened bread symbolized various aspects of the plight of the enslaved Jews of Egypt, on the way to liberation.

But then I started to hear talk of Egyptians hating Jews, Syrians hating Jews, and others who hate. There were drops of blood symbolized in the meal. I thought, "Is it really helpful to remind our children of all the hatred that has existed in history? And by talking about all the groups who hate, aren't we indoctrinating our children to understand the world through a vocabulary of hate, suspicion and vengeance?"

I reached for the vino. Luckily, kosher wine has come a long way.

The Passover liberation story was then applied to Iraq, which had just been visited — well, bombed — by America. Iraq's "liberation" was compared to the American liberation of Nazi Germany.

(Nelson Mandela) said it was during his decades alone in prison "that my hunger for the freedom of my own people became a hunger for the freedom of all people, black and white.

I had two pieces of surprisingly good kosher unleavened chocolate cake and managed to keep my mouth shut.

It's easy to see now that the "liberation" of Iraq has not been viewed as such by the Iraqis. To them, it's enslavement.

But to what extent is the problem that we define life in these terms, and in doing so, trap ourselves in an enslavement-liberation cycle in our own minds? How often do our own past injuries govern our current behavior, enslaving us in patterns that harm us and those around us?

Consider what happened in our own country in early 2001. Newly appointed National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice asked her staff for memorandums describing the most urgent problems facing the country. The chief counterterrorism expert, Richard Clarke, responded with a lengthy e-mail. He called the memo (which is still classified) a thorough description of the threat posed by al-Qaeda, along with a full plan to combat its growing menace.

Rice and her deputy now say they didn't think much of the memo, characterizing it as a hodgepodge of ideas about how to make life miserable for Osama bin Laden.

Rice blocked Clarke from working directly with the secretaries of state and defense, as well as the CIA director —

which he considered a demotion.

Clarke started to skip National Security Council staff meetings, saying he was too busy to attend. Rice didn't take it well. According to the New York Times, she asked him to show up once. He didn't. "We continued to have a problem," she told the Times. "I asked him to come twice. We didn't have a problem after that."

Clearly, they did have a problem. And so did we. The result of their animosity — an enslavement in notions of disrespect — was a breakdown in communication that may have weakened our national security, and may well have been a key factor in the

breakdown of our defenses that led to 9-11.

South African leader Nelson Mandela had a different — and more useful — concept of enslavement and liberation. He said it was during his decades alone in prison "that my hunger for the freedom of my own people became a hunger for the freedom of all people, black and white. I knew as well as I knew anything that the oppressor must be liberated just as surely as the oppressed. A man who takes away a man's freedom is a prisoner of hatred, he is locked behind the bars of prejudice. Both are robbed of their humanity."

Mandela wrote that we are not yet free, but that we have achieved the freedom to be free. From the Passover table, to the White House, to the mosques in Fallujah, let us liberate ourselves from hatred, and pray that our brothers and sisters worldwide can do the same.

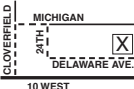
(Beth Solomon is a Left Coast writer reachable at bethsolomon@earthlink.net).

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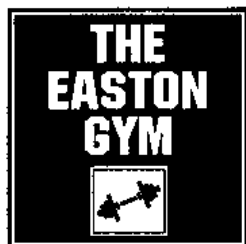
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LOCAL

Quiñones true to school, seeks reelection at SMC

QUIÑONES, from page 1

"There's no way — as a community in Santa Monica or any other community — you can be raising students without those opportunities," Quiñones said. "It was all about money, but the college has always had the intent, and it's my belief and I think some of the other board members at the college, there will be restoration of those programs. They may not look like how they were before, but they will be restored."

"Just economically, we have to restore auto technicians," she added. "I really do care a great deal about those programs. And now I think with the community college coming with a little bit of recovery, this is a direction I think we can go."

Quiñones was one of six state educators appointed to the board on Tuesday by Schwarzenegger. Also named were: Anthony Alvarado, 61, of Coronado; J. Steven Rhodes, 54, of Los Angeles; Sara Martinez Tucker, 48, of San Francisco; Catherine Unger, 57, of Los Angeles; and Leslie Wang, 56, of Gault.

"Each of these exceptional individuals shares my commitment to higher education and to creating more opportunities for Californians to utilize our excellent community college system," said Schwarzenegger, who studied at SMC in the early 1970s. "Every person brings a unique background and perspective which will be a tremendous benefit to such an important board."

Quiñones, a third-generation Californian, is a single mother with two children who both started at SMC before transferring to public universities. Her daughter, Sandra Franco, 26, studies at Cal State University at Northridge. Her son, Francisco Franco, 24, recently graduated from the University of California at Santa Cruz.

Quiñones, who in 2000 became the first Latina elected to the SMC board, first spent eight years on the board of education for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified

School District, where she was also the first Latina to serve. She's been a counselor at El Camino College in Torrance since 1988 and served two years as interim dean at Irvine Valley College.

Piedad F. Robertson, president of SMC, and Thomas M. Fallo, superintendent and president of El Camino College, described Quiñones as a dedicated, hard-working counselor.

"My perspective is very broad. I think much more broad than some of the other board of governors."

— MARGARET QUIÑONES
Chair, SMC board of trustees

"Dr. Margaret Quiñones will bring a wealth of experience as a counselor and elected trustee to the statewide community college system at a time that our two-year colleges are facing keen challenges," said Robertson.

Quiñones is a graduate of SMC who went on to earn a bachelor's degree in mental health research methods from California State University at Dominguez Hills, a master's in counseling psychology from the University of Southern California and a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of California at Los Angeles. She was also a fellow at the John F. Kennedy Harvard School of Government.

The 17-member California Community College board of governors sets policy and provides guidance for the 72 districts and 109 community colleges in California.

Pulp friction: Vacation over for Samuel Jackson

POSER, from page 1

Monica Police on March 5 after he allegedly tried to check into Loews Hotel on Ocean Avenue posing as actor Samuel L. Jackson's son. Since his arrest, several local businesses and hotels have alerted SMPD that they too were conned by Jackson. At one hotel, he allegedly charged more than \$40,000 in one stay.

Jackson had traveled the country for three months prior to his arrest, using a fraudulent debit card to pay for hotel rooms, car rentals and other expenses. Police said Jackson called Loews and made a room reservation using the fraudulent card. Around 11 a.m., Jackson arrived at the hotel and for unknown reasons ran out of the building, according to police. Santa Monica detectives, who were already in position at the hotel after being tipped off by hotel employees, saw Jackson running and gave chase.

Jackson was apprehended a few blocks away and arrested. Loews employees had

previously been warned about Jackson by a national association of hotels.

Jackson's alleged con was that once he arrived at the hotel to check in, he would tell the clerk that his father had just deposited a substantial amount of money into the account he was using with a debit card, even though it had a low balance. He would then give the merchant a phone number to call, claiming it was his father's bank, to verify that a deposit had been made. However, the person on the other end of the phone was not a bank representative, but Jackson's partner in crime, who has not been identified. Merchants oftentimes gave Jackson the benefit of the doubt, possibly intimidated by the notion that Jackson was the son of a famous actor who had checked into an expensive room.

Authorities warn all merchants to call the credit company directly via the phone number provided on a given card or on file to verify potential discrepancies.



High Court: Killing fetus is murder, plain and simple

BY DAVID KRAVETS
AP Legal Affairs Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — The state Supreme Court strengthened California's fetal-murder law Monday, declaring the killing of a pregnant woman counts as two homicides even if the perpetrator is unaware of the pregnancy.

The 6-1 decision overturns a 2002 lower court decision that said a killer must know the victim was pregnant to be guilty of murdering the unborn.

California's fetal-murder law was first passed by the California Legislature in 1970. The law is being used to prosecute Scott Peterson for double murder in the death of his pregnant wife, Laci.

President Bush signed similar legislation last Thursday to make it a crime to kill a fetus during the commission of a federal offense, and that bill does not require prior knowledge of the pregnancy. Both the federal bill and California's law exempts the killing of a fetus during an abortion.

California's Legislature adopted the fetal-murder law more than 30 years ago after the state Supreme Court had overturned the fetal-murder conviction of a Stockton man who, while beating his estranged wife, killed her unborn child. At the time, the court dismissed the conviction because California's murder law did not recognize a fetus.

California's justices reached Monday's conclusion two years after a state appeals court overturned the fetal-murder conviction of Harold Taylor, a Vietnam veteran found guilty of murdering his former Mendocino County lover who investigators said was at least 10 weeks pregnant.

In reinstating Taylor's fetal-murder conviction, Justice Janice Rogers Brown wrote Taylor "did not need to be specifically aware how many potential victims his conscious disregard for life endangered."

On appeal, Taylor claimed he didn't know victim Patty Fansler was pregnant, and he successfully argued that he could not be prosecuted for murdering her fetus, which died when Taylor, in a fit of rage, shot and killed the woman in her Ukiah apartment in 1999.

The lower court, in overturning Taylor's fetal-murder conviction, ruled in 2002 that murder in California requires "malice aforethought" — a willful intent to take the life of another — and a "conscious disregard" for life.

The lower court ruled it is not a conscious disregard for life if a fetus — unbeknownst to the killer — dies when its mother is murdered. Lawmakers have adopted various versions of the fetal-murder law in more than two dozen states.

SMPD, private investigator ask for help in solving murder case

REWARD, from page 1

to \$1,000 in cash.

"The person(s) responsible for Jalonnice's murder is still unidentified and free to roam the streets of our community," the flier reads. "The family of Jalonnice Carter needs justice. Our community wants justice. If you have any information regarding the murder of Jalonnice Carter or the person(s) involved, you are seriously urged to call WeTip at 1-800-78-CRIME."

So far, the WeTip flier hasn't produced any leads, Fabrega said.

Recently launched in Santa Monica, WeTip is an anonymous tip line first established by a retired police officer in Rancho Cucamonga. Callers are given a three-part code name and password. If their tip leads to a conviction, they can pick up a reward of up to \$1,000 in cash at any post office in the United States.

Jim Vuchsas, a private investigator retained by Carter's parents, said Tuesday his ongoing investigation into the homicide hadn't uncovered any leads in weeks.

"We're just turning stones — and turning up empty," he said, later adding he hopes the .22-caliber pistol used to shoot Carter still will turn up. "Gang bangers don't like to get rid of guns."

Vuchsas said he cut his bill in half and stopped charging for the ongoing investigation because the Carter family is on a fixed income. In exchange, the family recently fixed a dinner of short ribs, sausages, corn bread and peach cobbler for Vuchsas and his 10 staffers.

Carter's family recently announced their plan to take out a loan and offer their own \$25,000 reward, Vuchsas said, adding police responded by saying they planned to ask the City Council for money to offer an identical reward. Carter's family is now waiting to see what the City Council decides.

Kristine Johnson Fountain of Joy

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



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

Donations to the Kristine Johnson Fountain of Joy may be sent to:

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More million-dollar homes sell in first quarter of the year



DAYS ON THE MARKET

By Jodi Summers

In 2003, Los Angeles homeowners were gifted with a 17.9 percent price increase over 2002. On the Westside, we were even luckier — real estate prices rose about 20 percent. If you've owned for five years or more, it's likely that the value of your residence has doubled.

Ironically, according to the California Association of Realtors, real estate sales where the 10 Freeway hits the sea are not as extraordinary as other parts of the state. The cities that had the highest home prices in California during the fourth quarter of 2003 were: Los Altos, \$1,175,000; Laguna Beach, \$1,060,000; Malibu, \$1,060,000; Palos Verdes Estates, \$1,015,000; Manhattan Beach, \$1,014,500; Beverly Hills, \$1,005,000; Burlingame, \$938,000; Del Mar, \$920,000; Saratoga, \$905,000; and Carmel, \$890,000.

Forecasters say prices will continue to rise. According to DataQuick, in California in 2003, 19,080 homes sold for \$1 million or more, compared with 13,871 in 2002. To break it down further, million-dollar or more sales in Southern California jumped 48.7 percent to 11,316 last year — up from 7,611 in 2002. The San Francisco Bay area rose 21.1 percent to 6,598 in 2003 from 5,447 in 2002.

"Home sales overall were up last year by 7.6 percent," noted Marshall Prentice, DataQuick's president. "Additionally, the market as a whole saw a 16.2 percent rise in value and a lot of homes that were near the million-dollar price point have appreciated up past that threshold."

In 2003, the "average" million-dollar McMansion sold in California was 2,860 square feet with four bedrooms and three bathrooms. The median price per-square-foot for all million-dollar homes was \$464, up just \$1 a foot from 2002.

In Santa Monica during the first quarter of 2004, approximately 236 properties changed hands — 72 single-family residences, 23 income properties, 140 condos and one piece of land. Seventy-five of those

properties were in the million-plus range — 52 were single-family homes, nine were condos and 14 were multi-family dwellings. This is up from a total of 58 for the first quarter of 2003, 37 in 2002 and 22 in 2001.

"Only 75 properties, it seems like almost every house on sale in Santa Monica costs more than a million dollars," observed one local homeowner.

The nearly 30 percent rise in million-dollar sales mirrors the strength of California's housing market. Home prices have been on a steady rise in recent years due to population growth, a persistent lack of housing and record low mortgage interest rates.

In Santa Monica, the big seller in the first quarter was a 1926, five-bedroom, four-bath estate, which sits on more than an acre of property designed by renowned architect John Byers. This fabulous San Vicente Boulevard property features hand hewn wood beams and tiles produced on site, as well as a fabulous pool with a cabana bath and spa. Sale price was \$7,240,000 and the property sold in five days.

The big sale in condos was a two-bed-

room, three-bathroom 3,000-square-foot residence on Ocean Avenue. Highlights include spectacular ocean views, marble dining room and two fireplaces. The building is full-service with a concierge and 24-hour security. Amenities include a pool, spa, gym and social room with full kitchen. Just think, for \$2.7 million, it could have been yours.

Now on to more affordable housing. The home deal around town in the first quarter was a \$550,000 light and bright renovated two-bedroom, two-bathroom home on Ocean Park Boulevard, which boasts hardwood floors, a fenced yard and a detached two-car garage with automatic opener.

The condo deal was a \$225,000 studio on the east end of town, just south of Wilshire Boulevard. Nice wood floor, private entry with intercom, good exposure and only one common wall. Parking is by permit on the street.

Any guess as to how many million-dollar homes will sell in the first quarter of 2005?

(For your real estate needs, e-mail Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call (310) 309-4219).

SANTA MONICA RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

SOLD	608 14TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90402	SOLD	832 19TH ST #3	SANTA MONICA	90403	SOLD	1315 STANFORD ST #2	SANTA MONICA	90404
Sold Date	SqFt: N/A	List Price: \$2,195,000	Bed: 3	Sold Date	SqFt: 1,634	List Price: \$699,000	Bed: 4	Sold Date	SqFt: 1,172	List Price: \$485,000	Bed: 2
03/31/2004	Lot Size: 7,500	Sold Price: \$2,166,000	Bath: 3.5	03/31/2004	HOD: \$200	Sold Price: \$699,000	Bath: 2.5	03/30/2004	HOD: \$260	Sold Price: \$516	Bath: 1.75
SOLD	1248 18TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90404	SOLD	1127 9TH ST #104	SANTA MONICA	90403	SOLD	1327 EUCLID ST	SANTA MONICA	90404
Sold Date	SqFt: 2,017	List Price: \$899,000	Bed: 3	Sold Date	SqFt: 1,394	List Price: \$595,000	Bed: 2	Sold Date	SqFt: 911	List Price: \$750,000	#Units: 2
03/30/2004	Lot Size: 7,497	Sold Price: \$1,250,000	Bath: 1	03/30/2004	HOD: \$335	Sold Price: \$595,000	Bath: 2	03/29/2004	Lot Size: 7,496	Sold Price: \$10,100,000	GRM: 0.00
SOLD	3027 PROSPECT AVE	SANTA MONICA	90405	SOLD	2405 34TH ST #9	SANTA MONICA	90405	SOLD	753 OZONE AVE	SANTA MONICA	90405
Sold Date	SqFt: 972	List Price: \$750,000	Bed: 2	Sold Date	SqFt: 1,456	List Price: \$499,000	Bed: 3	Sold Date	SqFt: N/A	List Price: \$734,000	#Units: 2
03/31/2004	Lot Size: 7,500	Sold Price: \$700,000	Bath: 1	04/01/2004	HOD: \$265	Sold Price: \$580,561	Bath: 2.5	04/01/2004	Lot Size: 0	Sold Price: \$765,000	GRM: 0.00
SOLD	846 21ST ST #1	SANTA MONICA	90403	SOLD	1441 HARVARD ST #3	SANTA MONICA	90404	SOLD	2127 20TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90405
Sold Date	SqFt: 0	List Price: \$949,000	Bed: 3	Sold Date	SqFt: 900	List Price: \$425,000	Bed: 2	Santa Monica	SqFt: 1,536	List Price: \$759,000	#Units: 2
03/30/2004	HOD: \$300	Sold Price: \$997,000	Bath: 2.5	03/29/2004	HOD: \$192	Sold Price: \$430,000	Bath: 1.5	03/30/2004	Lot Size: 7,422	Sold Price: \$759,000	GRM: 0.00
SOLD	2922 MONTANA AVE #B	SANTA MONICA	90403	SOLD	1234 FRANKLIN ST #A	SANTA MONICA	90404	Jodi Summers at Boardwalk Realty 310.309.4219 jodis@boardwalkrealty.com Information received as per the MLS. Not all transactions may have been represented by Boardwalk Realty / Jodi Summers.			
Sold Date	SqFt: 1,800	List Price: \$969,000	Bed: 2	Sold Date	SqFt: 668	List Price: \$369,500	Bed: 1				
04/01/2004	HOD: \$395	Sold Price: \$925,000	Bath: 3	03/29/2004	HOD: \$165	Sold Price: \$402,500	Bath: 1				
SOLD	1008 9TH ST #C	SANTA MONICA	90403	SOLD	1843 10TH ST #7	SANTA MONICA	90404				
Sold Date	SqFt: 1,665	List Price: \$749,000	Bed: 2	Sold Date	SqFt: 789	List Price: \$399,000	Bed: 2	Century 21 CALL JOSH KAHN 310.968.1737 CENTURY 21 BETTER HOMES • 1626 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica			
03/31/2004	HOD: \$200	Sold Price: \$785,000	Bath: 2	03/31/2004	HOD: \$175	Sold Price: \$399,000	Bath: 1				
SOLD	1629 IDAHO AVE	SANTA MONICA	90403	SOLD	1950 N CLOVERFIELD BL #2	SANTA MONICA	90404				
Sold Date	SqFt: 1,669	List Price: \$775,000	Bed: 2	Sold Date	SqFt: 783	List Price: \$299,000	Bed: 2				
03/30/2004	HOD: \$285	Sold Price: \$769,000	Bath: 2.5	03/29/2004	HOD: \$182	Sold Price: \$305,000	Bath: 1				

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REAL ESTATE



Commercial real estate quandary: Security deposit or letter of credit?



IN YOUR SPACE

By Christina S. Porter

Being a landlord in today's office market has been more of a struggle than some signed on for. The tech boom of the fabulous '90s is behind us and the post Sept. 11 recession is gone. The economy is still "sluggish" but most would agree that it's gaining steam. After the flamboyant spending of the dot-com era, landlords have learned many lessons and one of the more important ones is the advantage of having a letter of credit as opposed to a cash security deposit as an instrument of lease securitization. This is especially important when a tenant bankruptcy comes into play.

From a bankruptcy court's standpoint, a cash security deposit is considered property of the debtor's bankruptcy estate, making it the responsibility of the landlord to obtain a court order to use the cash security deposit. On the other hand, courts view letters of

Even though a letter of credit is preferable to a cash security deposit, it's not a cure all. Banks follow the terms and conditions set forth in the letter of credit very strictly.

credit as enforceable third party agreements between landlords (beneficiary) and the issuing bank, not as property of the tenant's bankruptcy estate. A tenant's collateral may be subject to the jurisdiction of the bankruptcy courts, but the issuer of the credit assumes that risk, not the landlord.

Even though a letter of credit is preferable to a cash security deposit, it's not a cure all. Banks follow the terms and conditions set forth in the letter of credit very strictly. It's important that they are drawn precisely because obtaining the funds provided in a letter of credit also can be time consuming. One suggestion is to not make obtaining the funds contingent on any event or circumstance dependent on any third party's control. Also, make sure that there are precise instructions given to the issuer as to when to disburse funds or "draws." A letter of credit

should state that a "draw" can be made if the beneficiary delivers the original document and, at most, a note from the beneficiary stating that the tenant is in default of the lease. It shouldn't require that the tenant acknowledge the default occurred or that it received a written notice of such a default.

It's important to know that a letter of credit is a "negotiable instrument," meaning that if the original is lost or stolen, the issuing bank will not replace it. Each letter of credit is unique to each beneficiary. Banks have strict assignment rules and will usually charge a transfer or reissuance fee. A landlord might want to make it a condition of the letter of credit that there be no transfer or reissuance fee, especially if there is a possibility it may sell the building. A bank that has a local branch as the issuer of the letter of credit is important. Dealing face to face

with a banker is sure to facilitate a draw on a letter of credit. However it's not uncommon for an out-of-state or non-domestic bank to be "confirmed" by a local bank. The confirmation is reflected in an additional document from the confirming bank and basically amounts to a promise from the confirming bank to honor the letter of credit if the issuer does not do so.

Most letters of credit are for a term of one year and automatically renew annually. If there is a nonrenewal clause — many times there is — be sure to thoroughly understand the conditions upon which the letter of credit does not automatically renew. There are creative ways to use letters of credit, especially in relation to a lease requiring landlord financed tenant improvements. Finally, as with all legal issues, a consultation with expert legal counsel prior to constructing a letter of credit to insure you have the most up to date and accurate information is essential.

(Christina S. Porter specializes in the leasing and selling of office and industrial buildings on the Westside of Los Angeles and beyond. You can contact her at cporter@naicapital.com.)

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1828-1834 Broadway	Office	4/5/2004	1,600	\$1.75-\$2.00/fs
1821 Wilshire Blvd	Office	4/5/2004	1,270	\$2.95/fs
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1101 Olympic Blvd	Industrial	4/2/2004	7,260	\$1.30/ig

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NATIONAL

Go fish: New bill would test the lure of fishing life

BY CATHY BROWN

Associated Press Writer

JUNEAU, Alaska — Tourists pay dearly to ride on a dogsled or hike on a glacier. But will they put up cash for the experience of pulling sockeye salmon out of a commercial fishing net?

A bill that passed the House Special Committee on Fisheries on Monday assumes they will.

Currently, tourists cannot do any work on a commercial fishing operation without a crew member fishing license. For nonresidents, those cost \$180 a year. House Bill 458 would create one-day licenses costing \$30 and three-day licenses costing \$50.

Adam Berg, an aide to Rep. Carl Moses, D-Unalaska, said the change could make it affordable for fishermen to offer tours on Alaska commercial fishing trips.

"There's all sorts of extreme tourism options for them when they come up right now, and this is just another one," Berg said.

Moses is pitching the bill as a way to help commercial fishermen who have been hit hard by low salmon prices, and in some parts of the state, smaller catches.

"The whole idea of the bill is to give permit-holders the option of another possible avenue to raise money," Berg said.

"In essence, it seems like we're setting up dude fishing," said Rep. Dan Ogg, R-Kodiak. "Is that like dude ranching — dude fishing?"

The bill seems to have generated the most interest so far from the Kenai Peninsula, where representatives of two Cook Inlet

fishing groups testified in favor of it.

Paul Shadura, president of the setnet group Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association, said it could help fishermen diversify their income and provide a service to tourists.

"There's those thrill-seekers out there who just basically want to touch a fish," Shadura said.

Roland Maw, executive director of the United Cook Inlet Drift Association, said he believes there will be a demand for the trips.

Two years ago, he said, his son advertised a commercial fishing trip on the online auction site eBay, and had 1,200 hits within 12 hours.

The change could also help out a fisherman who needs to hire a temporary crew to fill in for an injured worker, Maw said.

Rep. Peggy Wilson, R-Wrangell, questioned whether the change could hurt the Fishermen's Fund, a fund that provides for medical care when fishermen are hurt on the job. Wilson said inexperienced crew members probably will be more prone to injury than seasoned workers.

Guy Bell of the state Department of Labor and Workforce Development said 39 percent of commercial fishing license fees go to the fund, so it would be unfair to deny coverage to some of those paying the fees. The fund is in good shape financially, Bell said.

Fisheries Committee members generally were enthusiastic about the bill. They voted to move up the effective date to this July 1, instead of Jan. 1, 2005. They also added the three-day license option for fishermen wanting to offer trips longer than a day.

Wasteful spending: Train whisks waste for \$880 million

BY KEN RITTER

Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — Radioactive waste bound for a planned national nuclear dump in Nevada would be transported by trains on a 319-mile rail line to be built across the state, the federal government announced this week.

Allen Benson, spokesman for the project, said the Energy Department believes the rail line starting near Caliente, 150 miles northeast of Las Vegas near the Utah line, will cost \$880 million and take four years to build.

"Of the alternatives, this is the most feasible route," Benson said.

The department has made no announcement about the routes it intends to use to transport the waste from 127 sites across the nation to the Caliente railroad.

Nevada officials and anti-dump activists have derided the Caliente-to-Yucca Mountain route — which loops around the vast Nevada Test Site and Nellis Air Force Base bombing range — as unrealistically expensive, circuitous and dangerous.

Bob Loux, state nuclear projects chief, predicted Monday that despite the announcement, the Energy Department eventually will decide to ship nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain almost exclusively by truck.

Nevada consultants say it will take nearly 10 years to acquire necessary land and build the rail line, at a cost of more than \$2 billion.

Shipping waste by truck would address some of the problems, he said. "But it won't be as safe."

Regardless, Loux said state officials will try to challenge the rail plan.

"When it comes out, we're going to look at it and meet with our lawyers about it," Loux said. "This is the most difficult to do, by far, of the options."

Making rail — rather than trucks — the preferred method for shipping nuclear waste to the Yucca Mountain dump 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas and choosing the Caliente corridor as the preferred route becomes official when the decision is published in the Federal Register, Benson said.

The Caliente-to-Yucca route was one of five originally considered and among two finalists announced in December. The department's backup route, the Carlin Corridor, would have cut 323 miles north-to-south from between Carlin and Battle Mountain in northern Nevada to Yucca Mountain.

Two of the other rejected routes skirted Las Vegas — home to 1.6 million residents — and the third traveled north-south through the vast Nellis Air Force Base bombing range and the Nevada Test Site.

The Bush administration and Congress in July 2002 approved Yucca Mountain as the site to store 77,000 tons of radioactive waste now held in 39 states. The Energy Department plans by the end of the year to submit to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission an application for licenses to build and operate the repository.



Bush loses ground on top issue: Fighting terrorism

BY WILL LESTER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush's high marks for waging war on terrorism have been the bedrock of his popularity and his re-election campaign. Traditionally, commander in chief is the cornerstone for any incumbent, and this president is no exception.

But recently, Bush's image as the wartime steward has taken a hit, from former counterterrorism adviser Richard Clarke's compelling testimony that the Bush administration ignored the terrorist threat for months to the president's insistence — then reversal — that national security adviser Condoleezza Rice won't testify before the Sept. 11 commission.

In that time, polls show Bush's strength on handling terrorism has eroded, although a majority of voters still believe he is better equipped to deal with the issue

than his Democratic rival, John Kerry.

And voters expressed similar sentiments. "I like the leadership Bush showed after 9-11 — being aggressive against al-Qaida, going after the Taliban, going into Iraq," said Robert Heinz, a 32-year-old political independent from Peoria Heights, Ill.

"I feel safe with him in there," said Daniel Blake, a Democratic-leaning independent from Southwest City, Mo.

But Bush's approval rating on handling terrorism dropped from 70 percent to 57 percent between January and March in a Newsweek poll released last weekend. Other polls have shown his approval dropping from the mid 60s to the high 50s during the winter.

Bush has lost little ground in the last two months among Republicans on the terrorism issue, but he lost 23 percentage points among Democrats and 13 points among independents in that poll.

Many voters agree with Clarke's principal complaints about Bush on terror, according to a Los Angeles Times poll released Thursday.

More than half of voters, particularly independents, say they agree with claims that Bush didn't pay enough attention to terrorism before the attacks and say he was more focused on invading Iraq than making terrorism his top priority.

Unclear is what impact the images of the grisly deaths of four Americans Wednesday in the Iraqi town of Fallujah will have on the president's standing. Bush has proclaimed Iraq as the central battleground in the war against terror.

But even though the public is expressing more doubts about Bush on terrorism, Kerry hasn't gained ground on the issue.

When asked in an Associated Press-Ipsos poll March 19-21 whom they would trust to do a better job of protecting the country, 58 percent said Bush and 35 per-

cent said Kerry. Other polls since then have shown a similar Bush advantage.

Those in the AP-Ipsos poll most likely to prefer Bush on terrorism were men, Republicans, married people and those who most wanted a candidate who stands up for what he believes. Even one-fourth of Democrats preferred Bush to handle terrorism.

Most voters see Bush as a decisive leader, while more see Kerry as someone who will change his positions for political purposes.

Even some likely Kerry voters say Bush is stronger on the terrorism issue.

Deanna Hubert, a 35-year-old independent from Bonney Lake, Wash., says she's considering voting for Kerry, but still has more confidence in Bush's ability to combat terrorism.

"Bush will take action," she said. "I don't know enough about Kerry to say that he would do as good a job or a better job as Bush on terrorism."



WORLD BRIEFLY

Floods ravage border town

By The Associated Press

PIEDRAS NEGRAS, Mexico — Emergency crews searched for survivors early Tuesday after downpours triggered flash floods that tore through this town on the U.S. border, killing 31 and leaving at least a dozen more missing.

President Vicente Fox declared a state of emergency in Piedras Negras, a town of 200,000 in Coahuila state, 150 miles southwest of San Antonio, Texas. Coahuila Gov. Enrique Martinez called the flooding some of the worst in the history of the U.S.-Mexico border region, saying "the magnitude of destruction is enormous."

Emergency crews had recovered the bodies of 31 victims, but said more than a dozen others had yet to be accounted for. About 100 homes were severely damaged or demolished completely and thousands of people were living in municipal buildings which authorities converted into makeshift shelters.

Fox ordered soldiers to the area to aid in search and

rescue efforts as well as begin the process of cleaning the destruction of flood waters, which carried away cars, light poles and the walls and roofs of homes and left the area littered with furniture and debris.

Jordan demands death for terrorists

By The Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan — Jordan's military court convicted eight Muslim militants and sentenced them to death for the 2002 killing of a U.S. aid official in a terror conspiracy linked to al-Qaida.

The court also handed down jail terms ranging from three to 15 years for two other men convicted in the conspiracy, which began with the killing of Laurence Foley, 60, an Amman-based administrator for the U.S. Agency for International Development. Foley was gunned down outside his Amman home on Oct. 28, 2002.

Col. Fawaz Buqour, the court's president, acquitted the 11th defendant, Numan al-Hirsh, saying there was no evidence to implicate him in the conspiracy.

The guilty verdicts can be appealed.

Bush man on campus

By The Associated Press

WACO, Texas — Visiting a southern Arkansas town with persistently high unemployment, President Bush is promoting his solutions for improving the economy and gaining the upper hand in the war in Iraq, two issues that form the foundation of his re-election campaign.

Bush on Tuesday was making his fourth trip to a college campus in less than two weeks, spelling out his plans to match job training programs with the needs of local employers in a changing economy.

The president was speaking at South Arkansas Community College in El Dorado, a town of 21,000 people in a region where plant closings and near double-digit unemployment plague the oil, timber and manufacturing economy. El Dorado's jobless rate was 9.1 percent in February. The latest national unemployment rate is 5.7 percent for March.

On Monday in Charlotte, N.C., Bush announced a new initiative meant to outflank his Democratic presidential rival, Sen. John Kerry, on job creation. Bush proposed to double the number of people receiving federal job-training assistance to 412,000 a year, from 206,000.



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Obituaries

DANIEL M. BENDIKSEN
Dan, a retired Santa Monica Fire Captain, lost a four-year battle with cancer on March 26, 2004, at Saint Johns Hospital, Santa Monica, California. Since 1985 Dan & his wife Rudi have resided in the Broadbeach area of Malibu, California. Dan was an avid surfer and surfboard shaper. He was born on February 15, 1941 and began surfing in 1953. He shaped his first board in 1954. With some technical advice from Dale Velzy, Dan followed a career as an un-renowned pioneer of long board shaping. In 1963, Dan began shaping, sanding and laminating surfboards for Bing Copeland and in 1964 he married Rudi. In 1974, Dan began a new career as a firefighter with the City of Santa Monica and was promoted to Fire Captain in 1979. Dan received the Medal of Valor award in 1992 from the California State Firefighters Association for his physical actions in the rescue of a distraught citizen. Throughout his career as a firefighter, Dan continued his love for the ocean, surfing, diving and fishing. Dan also continued making surfboards (over 4000) under his own trademark, "BENDIKSEN SURFBOARDS OF MALIBU". Dan was a true sports enthusiast who also enjoyed snow skiing with family and friends. Dan retired from the Santa Monica Fire Department after 27 years of service, on December 18, 2001. Dan will be missed by his mother Berneta (Granny), Rudi and hundreds of loving friends. A ceremony, honoring Dan, will be held on April 12, 2004 at 1:00pm at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, 1855 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be sent to the Malibu Chapter of the Surfriders Foundation, 715 Broadway Suite 320, Santa Monica CA 90401, or donations may be sent to the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation, 3600 Oceanview Bl., Glendale CA 91208

Obituaries

NASHNER-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 Karl Kreuter. She leaves her three children, her sisters Sylvia Lilley and Jeanne Perlman, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

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