

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

21 22 26 29 39

Meganumber: 16

Jackpot: \$7 Million

FANTASY 5

2 5 11 32 34

DAILY 3

Daytime: 4 6 2

Evening: 0 6 5

DAILY DERBY

1st: 06 Whirl Win

2nd: 02 Lucky Star

3rd: 08 Gorgeous George

RACE TIME: 1:49.28

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

On a July evening, two girls, ages 17 and 18, decided to bake cookies as a gesture of kindness for their neighbors and then to deliver them right away (with notes reading, "Have a great night!"). Their town of Durango, Colo., is small enough (population, 14,000) that nighttime visits can sometimes be made without creating anxiety, but apparently not at Wanda Renae Young's house. She was so traumatized by the 10:30 knocking at her door that she wound up in the hospital emergency room the next day, then sued the girls for that expense, and in January was awarded \$900 by a judge, sending the girls into tears. (However, townspeople chipped in to pay the \$900.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 97th day of 2005.
There are 268 days left in the year.

On April 7, 1862, Union forces led by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant defeated the Confederates at the Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee.

In 1948, the World Health Organization was founded.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day; teach that person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks.

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\$32M question: SMC sweetens its offer to city

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

SUNSET PARK — Santa Monica College has sweetened its offer to City Hall in its quest to build an underground parking garage near the airport — to the tune of \$32 million.

SMC has announced it would offer that amount in taxpayer-approved bond money to finance the city's new \$8.2 million airport park and other park capital improvement projects, in exchange for being able to build a permanent parking structure

below the airport park site.

The City Council, however, has put off any formal discussion of the college's proposal until at least May. That decision pushes SMC ever closer to a lease expiration in June for a surface parking site that has 1,700 spaces, which the college has been using since 1998 to shuttle students to SMC's main campus at 1900 Pico Blvd. from the future park site. SMC's lot will disappear once the park is built.

Meanwhile, city staff is ready to initiate the bidding process for

See **PARK PLACE**, page 8



Kim Calvert/Special to the Daily Press

Rev. Hartshorn Murphy has performed a pair of same-sex union ceremonies at the Saint Augustine By-The-Sea Episcopal Church on Fourth Street.

SM church uniting those the state won't recognize

BY KIM CALVERT

Special to the Daily Press

It was a surreal moment for Andre and Lewis, something they never dreamed possible.

The couple, together for more than two decades, last fall pledged their love and fidelity for each other before God, family and friends in a wedding-like ceremony at Santa Monica's Saint

Augustine By-The-Sea Episcopal Church on Fourth Street.

"I never thought we'd be able to do this," said Andre, 66, who grew up Catholic in New Orleans. "To be able to share with the people in our lives the love we have for each other — before God — it was just an incredible experience."

See **UNIONS**, page 6

A little soft shoe



Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II/Daily Press

More than 100 runners and walkers set the pace on the Third Street Promenade on Wednesday in preparation for the Nike Cinco de Mile, which will course through downtown Los Angeles on May 1.

Young stars to shine on pier this weekend

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

SM PIER — Santa Monicans can enjoy live music with ocean views this weekend as hundreds of local students perform on the pier.

More than a dozen student bands, choirs and orchestras will be showcased during the second annual Celebration For the Arts all weekend at the Santa Monica Pier. The groups represent elementary, middle and high school students from throughout Santa Monica and Malibu schools.

The fete is intended to exhibit student talents while raising money for art programs throughout the school district, said Linda Gross, executive director of the Education Foundation of Santa Monica-Malibu, whose arts' affiliate — For the Arts — serves as event organizer.

"This is a dazzling weekend of free performances," Gross said. "These students are remarkable musicians destined for great achievements."

For the Arts is a community-wide effort to raise \$15 million to ensure that every student in the

"What works so well ... is the combination of good weather and the beach, with all of this talent."

— **RICHARD MCKINNON**
For The Arts Spokesperson

Santa Monica-Malibu public schools, beginning in the earliest grades, receives a broad introduction to the arts — music, visual arts, dance and drama. To date, \$1.5 million has been raised through the effort.

"This year will be better than last, because we have a better understanding of what works," said Richard McKinnon, a spokesperson helping to promote the event. "What works so well about the celebration is the combination of good weather and the beach, with all of this talent."

See **FOR THE ARTS**, page 9

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Romp this weekend, Sag

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)
★★★★★ Don't question the quality of your ideas; just work with others and enhance what is already good. Sometimes getting a consensus is not possible. Today it is. Tonight: What would make you happy? Go to it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Much could be rattling around in your brain. Coming to a conclusion could be difficult. Explore and wander through the maze of others' ideas. Together, working as a team, you'll get way ahead. Tonight: Take your time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You need to be where the action is. Friends and associates bubble forth with news, gossip and information. It might take a while to sort the facts from fiction. Use your intellectual strengths. Tonight: Find your friends. You hear a lot more than you intended to.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Take charge and move forward. You need more information than you are getting. Work with a boss or someone you look up to. Together you come up with a near-fail-proof solution or concept. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Realize when you have overstepped your boundaries. Know when to seek out experts. You'll get way ahead through this simple process. You are no one's fool. How you handle yourself makes this fact more than apparent. Tonight: Wherever you are, surround yourself with music.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Trust a partner or associate to come up with the "goodies." With this person on your team, you cannot go wrong. Follow through on what counts. Think before you leap or commit. Not that there is a problem, but being careful is never a mistake. Tonight: Do the tango with a loved one.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Others run the gamut of ideas, solutions and tidbits. Work with others and be as direct as possible. A lot of new information heads in your direction. You have many choices. Understand that fact completely. Tonight: Sort through invitations.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Dance to a new tune. Move in a new direction. Jump through the needed hoops to gain the understanding you want. Wherever you go, discussions give you a new perspective. Why not find out more? Tonight: Take a walk.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Let your imagination rock and roll. You come up with amazing solutions quite quickly. Free association helps you come up with powerful answers and ideas. The more involved another person is, the better off you are. Tonight: Romp, pretending it is the weekend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Anchor in, understanding your limitations. Brainstorm away, getting to the basics of a situation. Home is where your focus lies, though you might be looking at real estate values or an investment. Tonight: Happy increasing your security.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ What you say makes a difference. How you phrase your words or the tone you take determines how well received your thoughts are. Make calls and initiate a long-overdue conversation. You will be happy once you clear the air. Tonight: Out and about.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Your finances grow because of your ideas and willingness to test them out. You make it past a hassle and clear up a money matter. Keep all agreements aboveboard. Confusion often emerges. Tonight: Your treat.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Next generation asked to look ahead

By Daily Press staff

City Hall is turning to Santa Monica's youth to shape the future. The entire Santa Monica community is invited to attend an open house and student presentations highlighting the visions of Santa Monica youth for the city's next 20 years on Thursday, April 21, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Santa Monica High School cafeteria. More than 500 students have been working on projects for this event since the project began in January. Class projects will be on display and students will make presentations to the community and city officials in Samohi's Barnum Hall at 7:30 p.m. The event will be covered by CityTV of Santa Monica.

The program is part of the city of Santa Monica Planning and Community Development Department's outreach efforts in what's known as "Shape the Future 2025," a project that will develop the community's vision for how people will live, work and play in Santa Monica during the next 20 years.

The following schools have a class or program participating: Crossroads Middle School, Edison Elementary, Franklin Elementary, Lincoln Middle School, McKinley Elementary, Olympic High School, Santa Monica High School, and SMASH. A group at the Police Activities League are preparing a project, too, and during spring break, children enrolled in the CREST camps at Grant, Roosevelt, Edison, John Muir/SMASH, and John Adams Middle School Teen Center worked on a variety of projects to be included in the open house. Even pre-school kids are getting some early planning education at the Growing Place, Hill & Dale and through programs of the school district's child development services. Altogether, more than 500 children will be participating citywide in shaping Santa Monica's future.

More information on Shape the Future 2025 is available at www.shapethefuture2025.net <<http://www.shapethefuture2025.net/>>. Contact Liz Bar-El at (310) 458-8341 or liz.bar-el@smgov.net for more information on the youth planning project.

Fifth grader a poster child for compassion

By Daily Press staff

Vincent Van Gogh would be proud of 10-year-old Jake Keller. With oil pastels, imagination and feelings of great compassion, the Santa Monica youth has created an award-winning piece for the ICAN Associates Annual Child Abuse Prevention Month poster contest.

Keller, a fifth grader at Summit View School in Santa Monica, was honored on Tuesday by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. On April 28, there will be a special reception. The contest was open to students in grades four through six throughout Los Angeles County's schools. Keller's poster was chosen from thousands of entries.

At the ceremony, Keller will be awarded a prize, half of which he says he will donate to the Grossman Burn Unit. This is the second time Keller has donated to the facility, which specializes in the treatment of burn victims. Several years ago, after a fire that destroyed his home and injured his little brother, Leo, Keller took half of his savings and donated it to the hospital.

"I entered the contest because I wanted to stop child abuse so kids can stop getting hurt badly," Keller said.

Keller's compassion for children stems from his own struggles. Diagnosed with learning disabilities, he struggled in school, said his father, Michael Keller. After moving to California from New York in 2002, Keller found a new confidence through sports, determination and Summit View School, which specializes in children with learning differences.

Keller now is getting great grades, serves as co-captain of his basketball team and is president of his school, according to Michael Keller.

Michael Keller encouraged his son by reading him a 2002 Fortune magazine article that featured famous people who had grown up with learning disabilities. Four of the featured people were billionaires such as Richard Branson and Charles Schwab, who talked about how difficult their childhood and school days were.



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SURF REPORT

On Thursday, we're in for some NW ground swell from a moderate system swinging through the Gulf of Alaska. Periods are ideal: 14-16 seconds, but conditions may get blown out early as a NW onshore flow is expected to develop, increasing onshore winds early on. As for size: Thursday is a building day, starting off waist- to chest-high, bigger come Friday.

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

Today the
water is:

58°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	10:48	-0.3	10:12	3.0	2:30	4.5	6:17	3.6
SUNDAY	12:45	-0.6	12:32	2.3	5:10	5.1	7:39	4.0
MONDAY	12:32	2.3	1:29	-0.8	6:25	5.3	8:04	4.5
TUESDAY	1:27	1.6	2:07	-0.8	7:23	5.6	8:31	4.5
WEDNESDAY	2:15	0.8	2:40	-0.6	8:14	5.6	8:58	5.4
THURSDAY	2:59	0.2	3:12	-0.3	9:01	5.4	9:26	5.7
FRIDAY	3:20	0.4	3:28	-0.1	9:43	5.2	9:54	5.3

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The Q Line

Santa Monica College has offered to pay \$8.2 million for the city's new park at the airport through bond money approved by taxpayers last November.

The catch is that SMC wants permission to build a parking garage underneath the park so it can shuttle students from its airport campus to its main campus on Pico Boulevard.

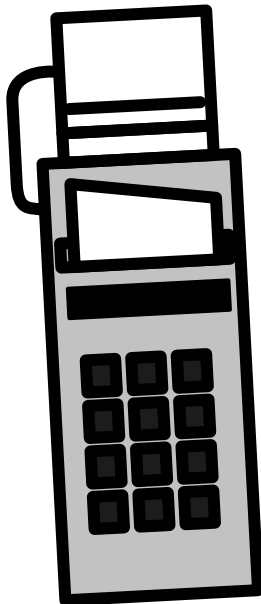
No matter what happens, SMC will lose its surface parking lot — where thousands of student park and get shuttled to the main campus — to make way for the new park.

It's up to the City Council to make a decision: Either

allow the underground parking garage and accept SMC's money, or continue on its own plan and potentially leave students finding other places to park in Santa Monica, which could exacerbate an already serious problem in the minds of many nearby residents.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "What should the City Council do?"

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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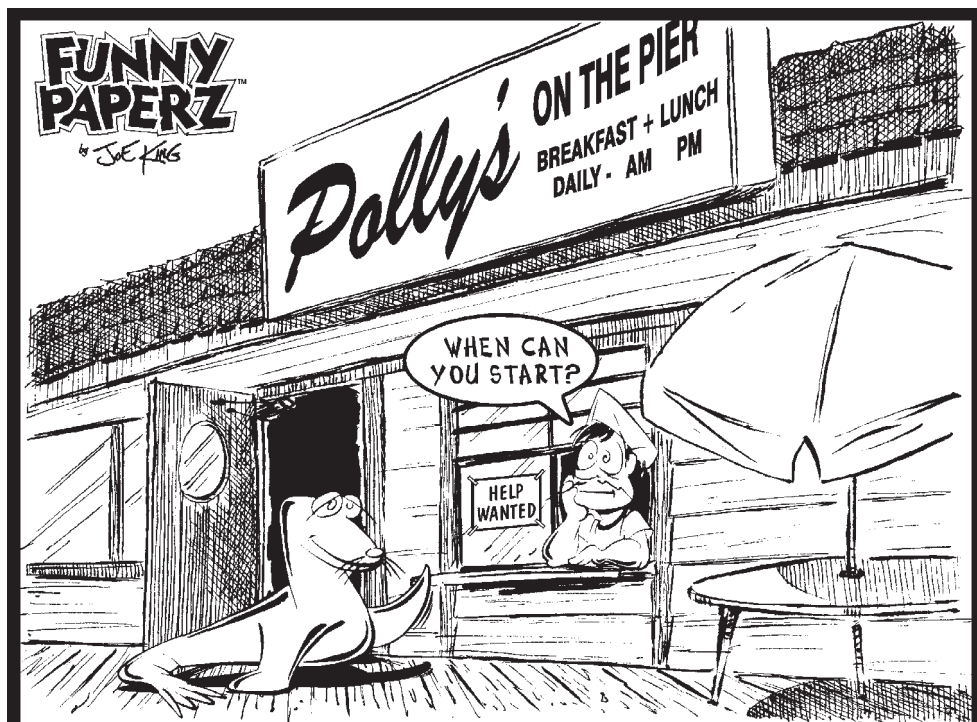
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OPINION



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sex shop has some nervous

Editor:

I read with interest last week about the new business that will be selling sexually explicit items soon on Lincoln Boulevard near Pearl Street. I have not yet seen any response from the city of Santa Monica regarding this business and why it is being allowed to operate across the street from a pre-school, one block from Olympic High School and five blocks from two elementary schools. It amazes me that a few years ago this was the same city that was raging a ridiculous fight over a Hooter's Restaurant opening near the Promenade. Well, where are the questions now about the appropriateness of this new business and its affects on the surrounding neighborhoods?

Carla Barrett
Santa Monica

Thanks for letting the kids sing

Editor:

I would like to respond to Mr. Krok's letter to the editor regarding Santa Monica High School's Choir trip to Hawaii (SMDP, April 4, page 4.)

As a parent of one of those students who is on this trip, I would like to personally thank the residents of Santa Monica along with the Santa Monica City Council for helping those students currently enrolled in the Samohi Chorale, Chamber Singers and Madrigal Ensemble go to Hawaii last week and who returned Tuesday evening. I was there last Thursday when these excited and talented students, along with their dedicated and talented director, Mr. Rhodes and all the chaperones departed to LAX. These teens were ready and looking forward to participating in competitions being held at Brigham Young University — Hawaii. I have heard from one of my children that all three groups represented Santa Monica High School really well. All three groups received very high marks, especially the Chamber Singers. In a time when we hear about what is wrong with our youth, these teens have given us reason and the opportunity to applaud them and to show what the city of Santa Monica is willing to help them accomplish. This is not to mention showing off what a great music department we have at Samohi.

The student's parents, along with the students, were asked to participate in fundraising activities to help offset the cost of this trip which came to \$1,600 per student. The money raised though fundraising along with the generous donation made possible through the residents of Santa Monica via the Santa Monica City Council truly helped out so much and made it possibly for many of them to go who might not have gone otherwise. Thanks again, Santa Monica.

Barbara McDonough
Santa Monica

Media is the message in Pope news coverage

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



What's the story?

How about having your blood pressure readings crawling across the bottom of television screens all around the world every 20 minutes as you lay there dying? "It's enough," as we used to say growing up angry in Pennsylvania, "to piss off the Pope."

Has it really come down to this? For what seemed like an eternity with the wall-to-wall, 24/7 coverage and those ubiquitous news tickers, the 84-year old holy father of Catholicism whiled away his final days, eyeball-to-eyeball with the Reaper (surely for him, not the Grim one most of us must face), as an entire planet was told to hold its breath and brace for the inevitable.

Not skilled in the subtle art of obituary writing, I went searching for a take on the passing of one of the world's most revered religious leaders while picking my way through the frenzied media onslaught. The temptation to reopen old issues like that of the some 11,000 sexual abuse charges brought forth against his American workforce of priests and bishops had to be respectfully resisted at this time. The buck never did fully stop at the Pope on that, but that's not the story.

Nor is the story that of the American President rushing off to pay respects to the pontiff, who sent his highest personal emissary to Washington on the eve of the attack on Iraq to try to convince Bush, hell-bent on war, to see the error and perhaps the evil, of his ways. The President has been lavishing praise on the dead John Paul, perhaps spotting political gain, something in which he appears to be fully blessed with 20-20 vision, and has ordered American flags to be flown at half-staff for starters.

His compassion for the fallen holy leader is on full display on the world stage, as he jets into Vatican City with Condie, Clinton and Bush the senior, despite the fact that John Paul's overriding message for those like Bush was to use that compassion where it's needed for the living, as in avoiding handing out death in unnecessary wars.

The President said this before he left for Rome: "The Pope reminded us all of our obligation to build a culture of life in which the strong protect the weak." His "culture-of-life" thing is starting to really roll now, first through Terry Schiavo, and now the Pope. They're pulling that term out all over the place to galvanize the new red-state American majority, as the secret that lies beneath it all, the movement to ban a woman's right to choose how to run her own body, steadily gains steam.

Of course, the "culture of life" for a couple hundred thousand Iraqis turned into a clutter of death in the rubble left by innocently enough named Bunker Busters, Daisy Cutters and the like — ungodly powerful bombs dropped from high flying, state-of-the-art aircraft to hand out freedom in mighty explosions to the fortunate masses below.

That the Pope reportedly had the option to plug into life-support systems that could have prolonged his life, perhaps indefinitely, is not the story either. The decision was made to bow out with courage, grace and dignity, and there was none of the howling that surrounded the Schiavo ordeal, the howling of a right wing activated to the bone, a right wing that seems to choose its targets for compassion based on hidden political gain. Where was Tom DeLay's powerful voice of protest on the matter of keeping the Pope alive through a feeding tube? But then, Tom DeLay's right-to-life cherry-picking is not the story either.

The story is that of a media gone wild. Cable news channels and talk radio sleaze artists have suddenly found themselves with power unimagined — the power to not just report and comment on the news, but to create and blow up the news, giving any chosen story life, stature and political sway way above and beyond its due. While this powerful new permutation of the media gives might and weight to stories like Schiavo and steroids, while they pull Jane Fonda out of the cobwebs of history to once again attempt to cut her into little pieces for having had the courage to stand up against another ill-begotten war some 40 years ago, they simultaneously bash what they call the dominant media — the network news, the New York and LA Times, CNN, and other "biased" institutions.

But if you happen to pick up the New York Times today, take note of the restrained news reporting that looks to be almost straining to maintain an objective view of events, all in stark contrast to the shrill, blatantly slanted exclamations coming forth from Fox News, Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity and the rest. Hannity was camped out in Tampa on the street in front of Ms. Schiavo's hospice for two weeks, as he counted down to her death as though it were a new year coming in. You almost wondered where the dropping ball was.

With all due respect, whether he is your holy father or not, may John Paul rest in peace, away from the shrieking, far from the madding crowd, along with the 1,500 American soldiers and the hundreds of thousands of Iraqis — "culture of life" notwithstanding — whose spirits were forced to rise way too soon.

(To reach Ron Scott Smith, e-mail to edgeofthewest@aol.com.)



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By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica Citywide Reads is a program that encourages people to read the same book and come together to discuss it in public book clubs and related events held citywide, which takes place April 12 to May 21.

The selected book, “The Kite Runner” is set in Afghanistan and California over a period of three decades. The novel is a story of the relationship between two boys of different social statuses and the complicated relationship between a father and son. The first Afghan novel to be written in English, “The Kite Runner” provides insights into the turbulent, recent history of Afghanistan and the rich cultures of the people of Afghanistan and Afghan-Americans. The author, Khaled Hosseini, was born in Kabul in 1965, and immigrated with his family to northern California in 1980, where he has been a practicing physician since 1996. Dr. Hosseini is making a special appearance at Santa Monica College on May 21.

Those who already belong to a book club are encouraged to participate by reading “The Kite Runner” and discuss it with their group using a Citywide Reads Resource Guide, available at all Santa Monica Public Library locations and on the Citywide Reads Web site: www.smpl.org/cwr.

The Santa Monica Daily Press will print a chapter of the book each day from April 4 through April 9.

The Kite Runner

by Khaled Hosseini

Chapter four:

The living room downstairs had a curved wall with custom-built cabinets. Inside sat framed family pictures: an old, grainy, photo of my grandfather and King Nadir Shah taken in 1931, two years before the king’s assassination; they are standing over a dead deer, dressed in knee-high boots, rifles slung over their shoulders. There was a picture of my parents’ wedding night, Baba dashing in his black suit and my mother a smiling young princess in white. Here was Baba and his best friend and business partner, Rahim Khan, standing outside our house, neither one smiling — I am a baby in that photograph and Baba is holding me, looking tired and grim. I’m in his arms, but it’s Rahim Khan’s pinky my fingers are curled around.

The curved wall led into the dining room, at the center of which was a mahogany table that could easily sit thirty guests — and, given my father’s taste for extravagant parties, it did just that almost every week. On the other end of the dining room was a tall marble fireplace, always lit by the orange glow of a fire in the wintertime.

A large sliding glass door opened into a semicircular terrace that overlooked two acres of backyard and rows of cherry trees. Baba and Ali had planted a small vegetable garden along the eastern wall: tomatoes, mint, peppers, and a row of corn that never really took. Hassan and I used to call it “the Wall of Ailing Corn.”

On the south end of the garden, in the shadows of a loquat tree, was the servants’ home, a modest little mud hut where Hassan lived with his father.

It was there, in that little shack, that Hassan was born in the winter of 1964, just one year after my mother died giving birth to me.

Continued on Friday.

(Excerpted from THE KITE RUNNER by Khaled Hosseini Copyright © 2003 by Khaled Hosseini. Excerpted by permission of Riverhead Books, a division of Penguin Group Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this excerpt may be reproduced or reprinted without permission in writing from the publisher. Brought to you in cooperation with DearReader.com.)

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Santa Monica Daily Press



Same-sex union debate touching all churches

UNIONS, from page 1

Lewis, 64, who grew up Baptist in Salt Lake City, said he was deeply moved by the experience.

"My family, who are still Baptists, came to the ceremony and since that day, they've accepted Andre as a brother."

The couple's vows included an exchange of rings. A reception followed, complete with a wedding cake with two groom figurines and champagne toasts.

Lewis and Andre, who asked that their last names not be published, said the ceremony was the perfect way to honor their 20th anniversary as a couple.

Rev. Hartshorn Murphy, 56, the rector of Saint Augustine's, at 1227 Fourth St., conducted the couple's same-sex coven-

ant ceremony. It was the second time he officiated over a gay union at the church — the first time was for two women, one of them a deacon.

A CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE FOR ALL CHURCHES

"Same-sex covenants are still very controversial in the Episcopal Church," Murphy said. "Many priests won't do it, either because it goes against their own conscience or because it would be unacceptable to their congregation."

According to Murphy, all churches, regardless of their respective denominations, are debating the issue of homosexuality, but the Episcopal Church had moved to the frontlines of the controversy in August of 2003 when it voted to ordain

Gene Robinson, an openly gay man living in a committed relationship, to the position of Bishop of New Hampshire. It was a move that shocked churches around the world.

"There's still an international disagreement over the ordination of Robinson," Murphy said. "It never would have happened 10 years ago."

Murphy said the Episcopal Church did, however, recognize homosexuals as full and equal members of the body of Christ and beloved by God — but noted that, traditionally, the church did not endorse homosexuality as an acceptable means of human expression.

"There are dioceses, like in Los Angeles, where gay people are ordained and welcomed into the priesthood," Murphy said. "And other places where they are not, and some places where they practice a 'don't ask, don't tell policy.'"

"I think one of the biggest struggles we have today is to move beyond the hypocrisy of that and be honest about it."

Murphy doesn't consider himself a maverick for performing same-sex unions.

"Saint Augustine's has a long tradition of welcoming diversity in its membership," Murphy said, regarding the 125-year-old parish. "This is not a 'gay church,' but we've had openly gay clergy since the '70s, so the idea of performing same-sex unions isn't such a tremendous stretch."

Murphy said all churches should be motivated to perform same-sex unions because maintaining faithfulness to one person is difficult in any relationship — gay or straight — and by taking vows of fidelity before a church community, a couple increases their chances of success.

"It's my hope that at some point, maybe in my grandchild's lifetime, the majority of churches will see it that way," Murphy said. "There's great value in encouraging people to be in relationships of mutual fidelity — regardless of their sexual orientation — and to acknowledge God as a part of that."

SAME-SEX UNIONS NOT ON MOST CHURCH CALENDARS

Pastor Keith Magee, the senior pastor at Trinity Baptist Church, 1015 California Ave., said same-sex unions won't take place at his church.

"I have a different perspective about what the Bible teaches," Magee said. "We agree that we should love and care for people, but the Bible is very clear about no sex outside of marriage — and that goes for straight people, too."

Magee said homosexuals are welcome as members of his church, but are asked to be celibate — as are unmarried heterosexuals.

"We're not a judgmental church. We love people very much, but we hold on to what is written in the Bible, and the Bible is very clear that marriage is between a man and a woman, and sexual activity outside of marriage is a sin," he said.

St. Monica's Catholic Church, 725 California Ave., has a gay and lesbian support group, but according to Delis Alejandro, who coordinates the program, the Roman Catholic Church doesn't perform same-sex unions.

"A priest who tried to perform such a ceremony would lose their position," Alejandro said. "It would be considered a 'point of censure.'"

Alejandro said St. Monica's has a goal

to include as many people as possible into its parish, but at the same time, people need to be aware of the church's stance.

"There are basic church laws," Alejandro said. "And those laws state that marriage is a sacrament that exists exclusively between a man and woman."

FINDING ACCEPTANCE

When Lewis and Andre first came to Saint Augustine's more than 15 years ago they had been living together for several years. Although they attended other churches, they didn't have a church to call home.

"We heard through the grapevine that Saint Augustine's was accepting," Andre said, referring to the church's long-standing attitude of encouraging diversity in its congregation.

"Other churches only tolerated us," Lewis added. "Saint Augustine's accepted us."

Andre said he was disturbed so many Christian churches refused to accept homosexuals as full members of their congregations.

"Over the years, I've been exposed to a lot of different churches and a lot of different interpretations of scriptures," he said. "What I've found is that the greatest contributor to division is ignorance, and that ignorance comes out of fear."

Andre likened it to racial discrimination.

"People used to think if a black family came to their church it would only be a matter of time before it became an all-black church," he said. "A lot of people have the same idea about gay people."

Rev. Murphy, who is African-American, can relate to the analogy.

"When I was married in 1973, my wife and I were living in Maryland," he said. "We were the only interracial couple to be married in the county. People were staring at us like we were doing something immoral. It seems unthinkable today, but it wasn't that long ago that marrying outside of your race was against the law."

MAKING IT MORE LIKE MARRIAGE

The same-sex unions Rev. Murphy performs at Saint Augustine's By-The-Sea Episcopal Church are not binding by law, nor do they provide the civil responsibilities and rights granted in California's domestic partnership agreements.

According to the Partners Task Force for Gay & Lesbian Couples, between 150 and 350 rights and responsibilities come with a legal marriage on a state level, and more than 1,000 rights are built into federal laws.

On March 14, San Francisco Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer ruled that California's ban on same-sex marriage was unconstitutional. If upheld on appeal, California could follow Massachusetts in allowing same-sex couples to marry.

Judge Kramer's decision follows a ruling by the California Supreme Court that halted a four-week rush of same-sex marriages resulting when San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom directed city officials to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, even though it was against state law.

While the debate rages on in the courts, Rev. Murphy said the purpose of the church ceremony is to address the spiritual element of marriage, while also providing same-sex partners an opportunity to consider the

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Business

Seniors need to keep lining multiple pockets



GUEST COMMENTARY

BY JASON VANCLEF

Remember your first piggybank? You kept adding and adding money, knowing that one day all those pennies, nickels and dimes would pay for something really important — like a new bike. As you grew up, the reality of life set in, and that piggybank soon turned into savings accounts and college funds. Now that you're a senior, it's even trickier. You have to save for retirement, the grandkids and the unexpected — all at once. Regardless of those savings, no person over the age of 55 should be without "safe" pockets of money.

In fact, you need three such pockets.

You should have one pocket for emergency money, one for intermediate money and one for long-term money. Unfortunately, most people find it difficult to think about any other pocket other

than the one their wallet is in.

Emergency money pocket is liquid cash, accessible and ready when you need it. People are always thankful for this "pocket" when the unexpected happens. Think about the last time your car needed a major repair or a family emergency had you flying around the country. Did you have cash available to pay the mechanic or to buy your plane ticket and rent a car? If your answer is no, you already have a good idea of how important a pocket of emergency money is.

The intermediate money pocket represents assets that are available to you within one to three years. This could be an investment CD or money market account. These assets don't usually earn a high rate of return, but they are "safe," meaning they should guarantee a return of principle.

Any assets available to you from three to five years or more belong in the long-term money pocket. Some investment CDs and most bonds fall in this category. Long-term assets usually earn a slightly higher return than intermediate assets do. The catch is there are usually fees associ-

ated with early withdrawal. So when making long-term investments, make sure it's with money you won't need anytime soon.

While the availability of your assets is important, so is the risk. According to Vanclef, "safe money" investments are those that guarantee the principle and offer a reasonable rate of return.

In the past, banks were the safe money alternative. However, with today's interest rates at a 40-year low and the average CD yielding at 2 percent, investors have been flocking to more modern alternatives.

One of today's options is the fixed annuity. This build-up investment accumulates a fixed rate of return, typically around 4 percent. The fixed annuity is essentially a contract issued by a life insurance company. By giving a fixed amount of money you earn interest over time. Sales of fixed annuities grew by about 40 percent in both 2001 and 2002, according to the Financial Services Fact Book.

Regardless of which "safe money" investment you choose, follow the Rule of

100, which says that the percentage of safe money investments should be equal to your age, with the remaining balance available for more risky investments.

If you are 30 years old, you should then have 30 percent of your assets in safe money and 70 percent in more risky vehicles. The ratio changes as you age, by the time you are 60, you should have 60 percent in safe money and the other 40 percent in more risky ventures.

As seniors grow older, the preservation of assets should be their number one priority. If you are unsure of your financial portfolio or how to start filling those safe pockets of money, talk with an expert. A qualified financial advisor can help protect your assets and make the investments that are right for you.

(Jason Vanclef, president of Senior Estate Solutions, is a certified senior advisor and registered financial consultant in the Santa Monica community. To contact Vanclef, mail to: Senior Estate Solutions, 2800 28th St., Suite 323, Santa Monica, CA 90405, or call 1-800-737-8552.)

Mixing it up is the key in both good times and bad times



MARKET MATTERS

BY BRIAN HEPP

The topic of asset allocation has received more attention from investors over the last couple years. Regrettably, this idea usually garners more attention in difficult markets, but is often overlooked when times are good. To make the most of your investments, asset allocation is a philosophy that should be adhered to in both good times and bad. Sticking to this principle can help to ease your pain in times of a bear market, and it can also help you from getting carried away when times are good.

Once you have decided on a plan for your investments, implementing asset allocation involves combining asset classes in varying proportions. In general, investors who are more aggressive with their money will tend to have portfolios

that are more heavily weighted in stocks. More conservative investors who still want the opportunity for growth in their portfolios will likely own some mix of stocks and bonds with a little cash set aside as well. For investors looking for stable income, a portfolio composed primarily of bonds may be appropriate, while investors who want to protect principal more than anything else may weight their portfolios more heavily with cash.

Just as individual investors vary greatly in their personal preferences, there are a myriad of possibilities when looking for an asset allocation to match each one. So, to implement this philosophy in your personal investing, let's take a look at some of the asset classes you will choose from to make up your own portfolio.

Cash: In addition to the cash you probably have in your bank savings account, you may also own cash equivalents such as certificates of deposit, money market investments and government treasury bills. Knowing you won't lose your cash to market fluctuations provides a certain sense of security. However, if you want

your portfolio to have the opportunity to grow, or even if you just want to keep up with the cost of living, cash tends to be a less appropriate investment vehicle.

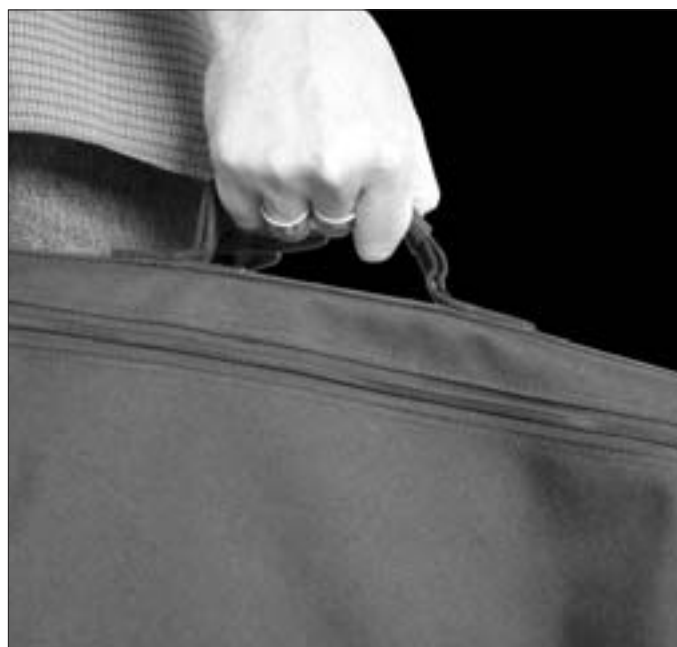
Bonds: By purchasing a bond, you are in effect lending your money to a company or a government entity for a specific purpose. The company or the entity, known as the "issuer," pays you interest in exchange for the loan represented by your bond purchase. While they usually have lower total returns than stocks, bonds tend to offer a stable income stream and generally have less volatility. However, bond prices do fluctuate as interest rates rise and fall. If you buy a bond and hold it until maturity, you won't have to worry about price changes, but you should still be aware that the bond market is subject to fluctuations. If you sell your bond prior to maturity, you may receive more or less than the original investment.

Stocks: When you buy stocks, you literally own a portion of the company whose stock you buy. Therefore, any risks the company takes on are yours too. On the other hand, any rewards — mean-

ing profit — may be paid to you in dividends or put back in the company to help it grow. While they do typically involve more risk than other types of investments, stocks have tended to provide a higher return than bonds or cash. But remember that past performance is no guarantee of what may happen in the future.

Given the amount of risk you're willing to assume with your investments, and the amount of time you have to work with, asset allocation helps you establish goals for what you hope to accomplish and then divide your investment dollars among appropriate investment vehicles to reach those goals. The main thing allocation does for you is it keeps you grounded and provides a steady course to follow, despite the ups and downs that will invariably affect the market.

(Brian Hepp is a financial consultant at A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc., Member SIPC and can be reached at (310) 453-0077 or at brian.hepp@agedwards.com. A.G. Edwards is a full-service retail brokerage firm in Santa Monica.)



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Time running out on SMC's parking lease

PARK PLACE, from page 1

airport park construction, to begin this summer. The park is scheduled to be completed in 2006.

"I'm not sure allowing the parking to go back to the main campus is what the city wanted to happen when we signed the lease," said Don Girard, SMC executive assistant. "Under no circumstances does the college wish to stop the park from happening, but ours is a big offer and it's probably still worth discussing."

Some councilmen, however, said the proposal comes too late for a park that has been demanded by the public for years.

"I have heard that if we go through with this proposal we're looking at least at a two-year delay, and that delay is unac-

ceptable," said Councilman Richard Bloom. "The college took the site to use temporarily and the people of Sunset Park have borne the brunt. I'm very interested in working with the college, but that kind of cooperative movement has not been forthcoming."

If SMC and City Hall can't come to an agreement for a parking structure on the airport site, college officials said they will have to consider parking alternatives — such as building underground parking on the new Bundy campus site, or purchasing land near the Santa Monica Freeway to build parking structures — both of which would be last resorts, officials said.

SMC also is welcoming public comment on its new Bundy campus, a 10.4-acre site at 3171 S. Bundy Dr. to open this

summer, which college officials said will be implemented in designing the facilities for its students. Officials said the public comment also is intended to address resident traffic and parking concerns.

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

Some councilmen said they look forward to discussing the parking proposal.

"We ought to hear the formal proposal before making any formal decisions about it," said Councilman Bobby Shriver. "Thirty-two million dollars is a lot of money."

Rob Rader, an SMC trustee, said City officials have made a valid point that the

proposal should have come sooner, but it will still free up city funds.

"I only wish we made the offer in a more timely fashion," Rader said. "However, I hope we can make similar offers with upcoming parks."

Rader said he is disappointed City Hall seems more willing to open up to private developers and private foundations also willing to pay for capital improvement projects than it is with the college, which he described as a "jewel" for Santa Monica.

Kathy Larson, a Sunset Park resident, said she does not support the airport parking proposal as it stands.

"The bottom line is, SMC is bursting at the seams and does not have a location that can accommodate the growth it wants," Larson said.

Episcopal reverend says single-sex unions will be commonplace

UNIONS, from page 6

responsibilities inherent in marriage.

Gay couples go through the same six-month premarital preparation as straight couples, Murphy said. That includes premarital counseling sessions, and in the case of gay couples, negotiating documents with an attorney to reflect as nearly as possible the legal partnership that comes with marriage.

Murphy said although he may be one of the few clergy performing same-sex union ceremonies in the Episcopal Church, other clergy would be willing to do them if it wouldn't cause a "hornet's nest" in their congregations.

"In more conservative areas, I think you could find clergy that would perform same-sex ceremonies in homes or at the beach," he said. "But they know if they crossed the threshold of their church, it

would cause a huge problem."

Murphy said he was grateful to be involved with a church that has been historically progressive on the issue of homosexuality.

"When people come here, they tell me they are looking for diversity," Murphy said. "They want a congregation with kids, gay people, straight people, people from different economic backgrounds. They want to be part of a congregation that is

reflective of the larger community."

Murphy said he thinks it's only a matter of time before same-sex union ceremonies become commonplace in churches.

"People who are trying to prevent gay marriage with a Constitutional amendment are trying to nail down today what will be inevitable in the future," he said. "In 30 years, people will look back on this and wonder why we made such a big deal about it."



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LOCAL



The show must go on for school arts' sake

FOR THE ARTS, from page 1

On two stages at the eastern end of the pier, more than 800 students will present a range of vocal, instrumental, jazz, classical, chorale, operetta, dramatic and other performances, according to Gross.

Teen celebrities — such as Jeremy Sumpter (Peter Pan), Steven Anthony Lawrence (Even Stevens), Cole Evan Weiss (Sandlot 2) and Rose Bloomfield (Disney Movie Surfers) — who have joined the celebration, will introduce student and community performers and sign autographs at the VIP guest booth.

'Venice' comes to SM Pier

The weekend lineup includes two benefit shows hosted by Venice, the locally-based and high-profile music group who are looking to raise money for the Education Foundation and For the Arts campaign.

Venice is a band comprised of two sets of brothers — Michael and Mark Lennon, and Pat and Kipp Lennon. The cousins, born and raised in Venice, have been a staple on the California club scene for several years, renowned for their four-part harmonies and live performances. Venice has toured or recorded with rock stars such as Jackson Browne, David Crosby, Stevie Nicks and Phil Collins.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to give something back to the community where we grew up,” said Michael Lennon. “Venice is part of the local landscape here in Santa Monica and Malibu.

“Our kids go to school here. This community is our community.”

Venice will perform a VIP Benefit on Friday. The \$150 ticket will include a cocktail reception at 6:30 p.m. at the carousel, followed by Venice’s performance at 8:30 p.m. at the Arcadia Nightclub, also on the pier. Venice will also appear live at 7 p.m. on Saturday, during a community concert at Arcadia. Tickets for that show are \$35.

For the Arts playbill

Schedule Key

Names in parenthesis are of teachers organizing the musical groups. John Adams Middle School is JAMS; Malibu High School is MHS; Lincoln Middle School is Lincoln; Santa Monica High School is SAMOHI; and Santa Monica Alternate School is SMASH.

Celebration For the Arts schedule:

Saturday, April 9	
TIME	LARGE STAGE
11:00-11:30 a.m.	Elementary Music
11:30-12:00 p.m.	SM Playhouse
12:00-12:30 p.m.	JAMS Choir (Blanchard)
12:30-1:00 p.m.	Chance to Dance
1:00-1:30 p.m.	JAMS Band (Woo)
1:30-2:00 p.m.	Creative Playground
2:00-2:30 p.m.	JAMS Orchestra (Woo)
2:30-3:00 p.m.	Kids on Stage
3:00-3:30 p.m.	SAMOHI Jazz (Whaley)
3:30-4:00 p.m.	SM HS & SM Civic Light Opera
4:00-4:30 p.m.	SAMOHI Orchestra (Swenson)
4:30-5:00 p.m.	Lisa Foiles
5:00-5:30 p.m.	SAMOHI Choral Program (Rhodes)
5:30-6:00 p.m.	SAMOHI Wind Ensemble (Sakow)
Sunday, April 10	
11:00-11:30 a.m.	Lincoln Choir (Degroff)
11:30-12:00 p.m.	Dream Winds & SMASH recorder
12:00-12:30 p.m.	Lincoln Band (Hunt)
12:30-1:00 p.m.	Dream Winds & SMASH recorder
1:00-1:30 p.m.	Lincoln Orchestra (Park)
1:30-2:00 p.m.	SM-M poetry
2:00-2:30 p.m.	Elementary Music
2:30-3:00 p.m.	Music in Motion
3:00-3:30 p.m.	MHS Choir (Messoloras)
3:30-3:45 p.m.	
3:45-4:30 p.m.	MHS Music (Bixler)
4:30-5:00 p.m.	MHS Drama — "Beauty & the Beast"
5:00-5:15 p.m.	
5:15-6:00 p.m.	Celebration Jam

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STATE

Study: Majority of
 Californians too heavy

BY JIM WASSERMAN
 Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California, the
 land of body worshippers and vegetarians,
 is getting alarmingly fat, with more than
 half of all adults overweight, according to
 a study released Tuesday.

The study estimates that overweight
 and inactive Californians cost \$21.7 bil-
 lion a year in medical bills, injuries and
 lost productivity.

It noted that a decade of overeating and
 sitting in front of the television has given
 California “one of the fastest rates of
 increase in adult obesity of any state in the
 nation,” and there is no sign the rise is
 slowing. State health officials cited a 109
 percent increase in overweight
 Californians between 1991 and 2001.

Nearly 53 percent of Californians over
 25 are overweight, and more than 17 per-
 cent are obese, or extremely overweight,
 the study found.

The rates among Hispanics, blacks and

adults with less than a high school educa-
 tion are even higher and exceed 60 per-
 cent, said the study, which was prepared
 for the California Department of Health
 Services. State health officials said
 California slipped from the sixth most-fit
 state nationally in 1991 to 27th in 2001,
 and represented the third-fastest growing
 state for obesity behind New Mexico and
 Georgia

Last year, the federal Centers for Disease
 Control and Prevention ranked Alabama as
 the nation’s most overweight state.

The California findings come in a state
 led by former bodybuilder Gov. Arnold
 Schwarzenegger, who crusades against
 junk food in schools and wants vending
 machines stocked with fresh vegetables,
 milk and other healthy products.
 California grows half the nation’s fresh
 fruits, nuts and vegetables.

Schwarzenegger, even while trying to
 tame California’s budget deficits, has pro-
 posed a new \$6 million “obesity initia-
 tive” for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

Surgery proving to be best medicine

By Daily Press staff

Weight loss surgery helps severely
 obese people lose more weight than diet-
 ing and exercise alone, according to a
 RAND Corp. study issued this week.

Severely obese people who undergo
 weight loss surgery typically lose about
 45 to 65 pounds and maintain their lower
 weight for 10 years or longer, according to
 the study in the April 5 edition of the
 Annals of Internal Medicine.

The weight loss caused by surgery is
 accompanied by significant improvement
 in illnesses related to obesity such as dia-
 betes, high blood pressure, sleep apnea
 and elevated cholesterol — even eliminat-
 ing the problems in many patients, said
 Dr. Melinda Maggard, a UCLA surgeon
 and lead author of the study.

The study team — comprised primari-
 ly of researchers from RAND Health, the
 Greater Los Angeles VA Healthcare
 System and the David Geffen School of
 Medicine at UCLA — said its findings
 suggest that weight loss surgery also may
 provide benefits to people who are less
 severely overweight. But there is not yet
 enough evidence to conclude that surgery
 is superior to other weight loss methods
 for those patients.

In a related study in the same edition of
 the journal, the same study team reported that
 weight loss drugs promote moderate weight
 loss when prescribed along with recommen-
 dations for dieting and exercise among
 patients who are less severely overweight.

Patients who take prescription weight
 loss drugs lose an average of 10 pounds or
 less, with some evidence that people
 maintain the weight loss for at least a six-
 to 12-month period, said Dr. Zhaoping Li,
 lead author of the diet drug study and
 director of clinical research at the UCLA
 Center for Human Nutrition. Patients in
 the diet drug study weighed less at the
 start of their treatment than those who
 underwent weight loss surgery.

“These studies should aid consumers
 by helping them make informed choices
 about weight loss treatment,” said Dr.
 Paul Shekelle of RAND and the Greater
 Los Angeles Veterans Affairs Healthcare

System, who is the senior author of the
 two reports. “Surgery leads to more
 weight loss, but many of the surgeries are
 non-reversible. Drugs and dieting trigger
 less weight loss, but you can go off a drug
 if you don’t like the side effects.”

To be classified as severely obese, a
 person must have a body mass index (a
 ratio of weight to height) of 40 or higher.
 A person who is 5 feet 10 inches and
 weighs 280 pounds has a BMI of 40.
 People are deemed obese if their BMI is
 30 or higher.

Roughly one third of adults in the
 United States are obese, including about 9
 million people who are severely obese.
 Only a small fraction of these people —
 about 140,000 — undergo weight-loss
 surgery each year.

Researchers from the Southern
 California Evidence-Based Practice
 Center examined the effectiveness and
 risks of weight loss surgery by analyzing
 nearly 150 published studies on the
 surgery, focusing on the most commonly
 performed procedures.

“This study presents the best evidence
 yet that weight loss surgery can be superi-
 or to other methods to help severely obese
 people lose weight,” Maggard said.
 “Weight loss surgery poses some risks and,
 for most procedures, will dramatically
 change the quantity and types of food
 patients will want to eat. But surgery, when
 combined with a healthy diet and regular
 exercise, can provide significant medical
 benefits to people who are severely obese.”

The research was sponsored by the
 U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and
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NATIONAL



Boise Police: Strippers aren't artful display

BY REBECCA BOONE
Associated Press Writer

BOISE, Idaho — Art night at Erotic City apparently wasn't artistic enough.

Police raided the Boise bar Monday night for violating the city's nudity ordinance, which requires that dancers wear at least pasties and a thong unless they are engaging in a performance with "serious artistic merit."

The club had tried to beat the ordinance by distributing pencils and sketch pads to patrons during special twice-weekly "art nights," when dancers performed nude.

"It's actually pretty clear in the city ordinance that there are exemptions for dance and theater and artistic merits, but the law also clearly states that the exemption does not apply to adult businesses," said police spokeswoman Lynn Hightower. "If it were an art studio and models were actually posing, that would be one thing. But these women weren't posing. They were dancing."

Three dancers were given misde-

meanor citations Monday but were not arrested.

Erotic City is not the only club to take a creative approach to taking it all off.

"There have been cases where ladies temporarily tattooed the word, 'vote' on themselves and that was upheld in court as political speech," said Angelina Spencer in Naples, Fla., national director of the North Carolina-based Association of Club Executives.

"There have been cases in Atlanta where they quoted Shakespeare, and that was upheld as art. Any time they can raise their artistic value, I say two thumbs up."

Erotic City owner Chris Teague has vowed to fight the citations in court. He maintains that not only does the nightclub turn into an art studio on Monday and Tuesday art nights, but that it also is a private club and thus exempt from city rules.

"The only thing we're going to be paying is our attorney," Teague said. "We're here to protect our Constitutional right. It's nothing less than Communism — when are they going to say you can't get

naked in your own home?"

Teague got the idea for art nights from a student at Boise State University, who asked for permission to sketch the models nude because he could not afford the \$25 per hour charge for nude models typically used in school art classes.

Indeed, Teague charges significantly less — \$15 for all the sketching a patron can handle from 7 p.m. until 2 a.m. Tips for the dancer are optional. And the seedy strip-club ambiance — complete with tiger-print carpet, black-curtained private rooms and a brass pole — is free.

Teague's favorite sketches are tacked on the club's walls.

"They can draw stick figures or they can draw the most exotic theme that they

want to draw. As good or as bad as it can be, it's still art," he said.

Still, art night is going on hold until the matter is settled in court, Teague said.

Nationally, the line between high art, low art and nude non-art isn't so clear, said Michelle Freridge, executive director of the Free Speech Coalition, the Chashworth, Calif.-based trade association for the adult entertainment industry.

"Basically, obscenity laws historically have been determined by a three-pronged test: Is it patently offensive, is it outside the community standard and does it have no socially redeeming value. It seems to me that the sketch pads were an attempt to create socially redeeming value," Freridge said.

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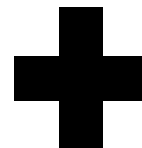
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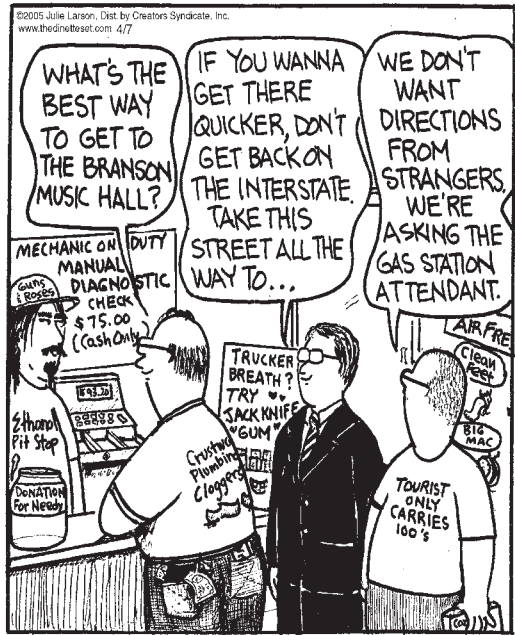
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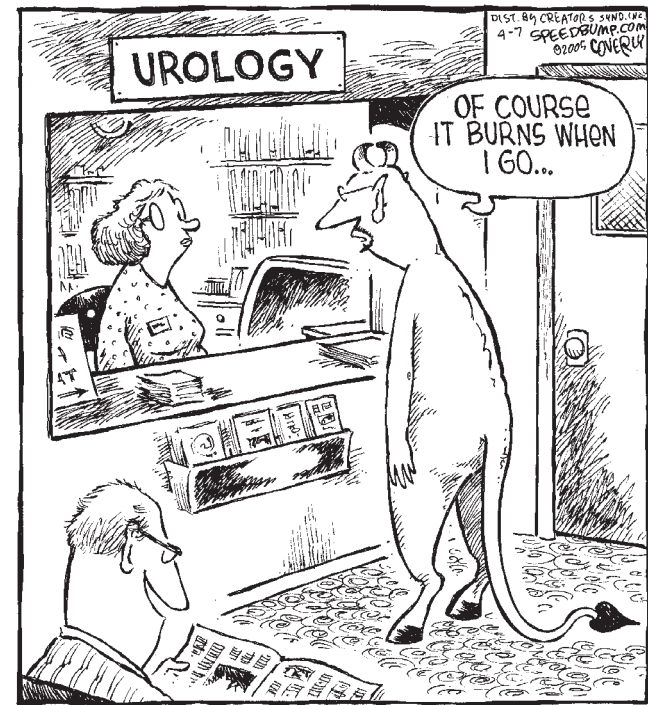
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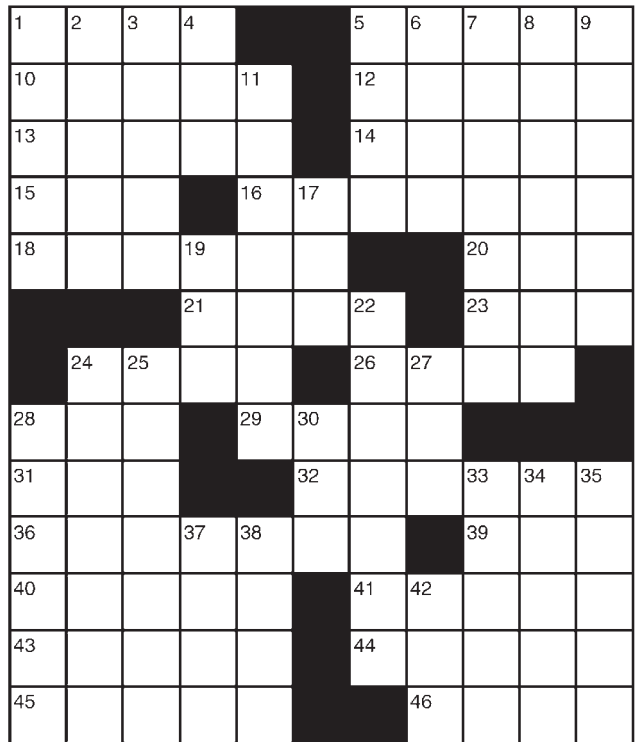
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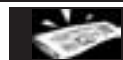
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

C-Murder no more: Convict rapper changes name

By The Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — C-Murder is no more.

The rapper, whose real name is Corey Miller, will now go by C Miller, his publicist, Giovanni Melchiorre of Koch Records, said Tuesday.

Miller, brother of Master P, is being held in the Jefferson Parish jail on a second-degree murder conviction.

"People hear the name C-Murder and they don't realize that the name simply means that I have seen many murders in my native Caliope projects neighborhood," he said in a statement.

Miller was convicted of second-degree murder Sept. 30, 2003, in the death of Steve Thomas, 16, who was shot to death inside a nightclub in the New Orleans suburb of Harvey. He faces a mandatory life sentence without parole.

"From the beginning, I have been a target because of who I am, my stage name and for my success as an entertainer and the success of my siblings," Miller said.

"I am not a murderer," he said. But his new album, "The Truest — I Ever Said," includes the requisite claims of crimes big and small.

Percy and Vyshonn Miller, Miller's brothers, were arrested in Los Angeles in January, accused of felony firearms charges. They have both pleaded innocent.

MIAMI — A man accused of stalking Anna Kournikova was ruled mentally incompetent to stand trial by a judge, who removed him from a hearing because of repeated disruptions.

William Lepeska will be treated at a restrictive mental facility in Florida for the next six months under the order by Circuit Judge Diane Ward. If he shows sufficient improvement, Lepeska could then be tried on

charges stemming from his alleged attempts to contact Kournikova in person, by mail and the Internet.

"His illness is very legitimate," Ward said.

Lepeska was arrested Jan. 30 after swimming nude across Biscayne Bay in an attempt to reach Kournikova's home on Sunset Island. He wound up on the pool deck of the wrong house and was yelling "Anna! Save me!" when officers took him into custody.

At a previous court hearing, Kournikova said she had hired bodyguards and added security to her home. She also said Lepeska had sent her sexually explicit e-mails and letters.

The 23-year-old tennis star didn't attend Wednesday's hearing.

TOKYO — Tokyo's nationalist governor had one request for Clint Eastwood before he starts shooting his next film, about the World War II battle at Iwo Jima: Respect the fallen soldiers.

Eastwood, who is expected to begin shooting an adaptation of James Bradley's "Flags of Our Fathers: Heroes of Iwo Jima" later this year, met Wednesday with Shintaro Ishihara.

Ishihara told Eastwood that thousands of Japanese soldiers who died on the island in one of the war's bloodiest battles remain unaccounted for more than a half-century later.

He asked the actor-director to avoid "sacred" sites of the dead if he films on the island, Tokyo metropolitan government spokesman Katsumi Kumagai said. Eastwood replied that he would "absolutely not" trample on Japanese feelings, he said.

Earlier, Eastwood had visited Iwo Jima, 700 miles south of Japan's capital, which is governed by Tokyo. He has yet to ask Tokyo's permission to shoot on the island, Kumagai said.

Nearly 7,000 American troops and more than 20,000 Japanese died in the battle from February to March 1945.

Eastwood, 74, has won two best-director Oscars, for "Million Dollar Baby" and "Unforgiven."

LONDON — Police escorted Grace Jones off a Eurostar train after she allegedly grabbed a ticket inspector's arm in a row about her fare.

Jones, 52, also verbally abused the female inspector after being asked to pay for a seat upgrade on the Tuesday evening service from Paris to London, Eurostar spokesman Paul Charles said.

"We are not pressing charges but we will not tolerate any verbal or physical abuse from anyone against passengers or staff on Eurostar," Charles said.

No one was immediately available for comment Wednesday at the office of Jones' lawyer in New York.

The singer-actress was traveling with a first-class ticket but sat in the premium-class area, Charles said. When the ticket inspector asked her to pay for an upgrade, Jones said she had no money and refused to move, he said.

"She was arguing and verbally abusing the train manager. She then attacked the manager, grabbing her arm," he said. "A male catering assistant managed to separate the two women and tried to calm Ms. Jones down."

Jones would have paid around \$564 for a first-class return ticket, Charles said. A one-way premium upgrade would have cost her an additional \$132.

British Transport Police said they were called to the train when it made a scheduled stop at Ashford, south of London. A spokesman said Jones left the train there at the request of officers and added that no further action was being taken.

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