

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

21 22 26 29 39
Meganumber: 16
Jackpot: \$10 Million

FANTASY 5

3 4 10 26 27

DAILY 3

Daytime: 8 7 9
Evening: 5 9 8

DAILY DERBY

1st: 07 Eureka!
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George

RACE TIME: 1:40.82

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In January, Felipe Rose, a member of the Village People musical group and who is part Lakota Sioux, said he felt so remorseful at missing the opening last year of the National Museum of the American Indian that he donated his gold record the group received for the 1978 song "Y.M.C.A.," which is ostensibly about gay men looking for sex in the big city.

■ In late 2004, officials of the Pere Lachaise cemetery in Paris said they were forced to cordon off the statue of 19th-century journalist Victor Noir (who was reputed to be quite a ladies' man) because too many visitors were rubbing Noir's clothed crotch for good luck.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 98th day of 2005.
There are 267 days left in the year.

On April 8, 1974, Hank Aaron of the Atlanta Braves hit his 715th career home run in a game against the Los Angeles Dodgers, breaking Babe Ruth's record. The round-tripper was off pitcher Al Downing.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Some people are like Slinkies
... not really good for anything,
but you still can't help but smile when
you see one tumble down the stairs.

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Youth gang member arrested for murder

**Matthew Vargas, 17, accused of killing 19-year-old
Jalonn Carter in September of 2003**

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM JAIL — A 17-year-old alleged Santa Monica gang member was arrested Thursday for the murder of Jalonn Carter, who was gunned down in September 2003 in an eastside neighborhood.

Santa Monica Police arrested Matthew Felix Vargas after the Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney's Office issued an arrest warrant and charged him with

first-degree murder; one count of personal use of a firearm causing bodily injury; two counts of the intentional discharge of a firearm and one count of gang enhancement that contributed to the furtherance of gang activity.

"The above offense was committed for the benefit of, at the direction of, and in association with a criminal street gang with the specific intent to promote, further and assist in criminal conduct by gang members," reads the DA's complaint against Vargas.

Vargas, who's also known as "Lil Rooster," was picked up on Thursday by SMPD officers at a juvenile detention facility in Sylmar. Because he's a minor, authorities couldn't discuss what crime Vargas was serving time for.

At 11:30 a.m., Vargas was booked into Santa Monica Jail on \$2 million bail, said SMPD Chief James T. Butts Jr.

Vargas, who will be tried as an adult, faces life imprisonment if convicted. He is scheduled to be arraigned today at the LAX Courthouse.

Vargas, who is Hispanic and lives in the Pico neighborhood, is allegedly a member of the Santa Monica 17th Street Gang, Butts said. The 17th Street gang is frequently is at odds with the city's other gang, the Graveyard Crips. One gang is black, the other Latino.

Carter, 19, was shot in the back with a .22-caliber gun in the 1800 block of 20th Street, while he was walking through an alley on Sept. 2, 2003. The bullet pierced his heart and he died a few hours later at a local hospital.

Shortly after, police arrested a neighbor in connection with the murder but the DA's office dropped the charges due to a lack of evidence.

Butts said on Thursday that he believes the evidence discovered thus far in the 19-month-long investigation is solid and Vargas will be brought to justice.

"We believe we have the firearm that was used," said Butts, who declined to discuss specifics of the case or the evidence that will be presented at trial. "This investigation is ongoing and is in

the hands of the district attorney."

Police believe that Carter was not involved in gang activity and was a random victim of violence.

"We believe he's an innocent victim of a brutal murder," Butts said, adding on Thursday he visited Carter's parents' home, which is located on 20th Street, less than a block from where their son was shot. "They are elated that there will be justice brought for Jalonn."

Carter's mother and stepfather, Shirley and Larry Joseph, were unavailable for comment on

See **ARREST**, page 6

Hubba Bubba



Seth Kotok/Special to the Daily Press

Construction workers continue erecting the new Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. restaurant, a 9,000-square-foot, \$4 million building that's expected to open mid-July at the Santa Monica Pier.

SM citizens mobilizing against gang violence

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

The second part of a gang violence workshop will resume this weekend with as much vigor as the first session in February — especially in light of last month's double homicide that remains unsolved.

The first gang violence workshop held Feb. 26 was sponsored by the city of Santa Monica and State Sen. Sheila Kuehl. The goal was to pool ideas from community mem-

See **GANG WORKSHOP**, page 6

California justices debate Coastal Commission future

BY DAVID KRAVETS

AP Legal Affairs Writer

LOS ANGELES — The California Supreme Court stopped short Wednesday of agreeing with Coastal Commission opponents that the powerful body was an illegal agency requiring the reopening of four decades of land-use decisions along the 1,100-mile coastline.

During an hour of oral arguments here, the seven justices

were reviewing two lower-court decisions that said the 12-member commission was unlawfully formed by the Legislature in 1976. Those courts ruled that because the agency carries out the will of the Legislature, lawmakers have too much power over the agency because the Legislature appoints eight commissioners.

Opponents and the lower courts

See **COAST**, page 5

Jacquie Banks

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Santa Monica Daily Press



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

 **ARIES (March 21-April 19)**
★★★★★ A decision you make could lead to a new beginning. You have strength, enthusiasm and intelligence; use it for yourself right now. If you feel that you need to rein in some habits, do just that. You have the self-discipline you need. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

 **TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
★★ You might decide that it's time to head in a new direction with a different person. Your ability to clear the path and gain greater success will only come through your strength. Check out someone you meet today with care. Tonight: Get some extra sleep.

 **GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
★★★★★ New beginnings are possible. Listen to a friend who really cares about you. You finally see a financial situation from a different perspective. The issue of money pushes you overboard. Accept another's efforts. Tonight: Follow your friends.

 **CANCER (June 21–July 22)**
★★★★ Unintentionally, you toss ice water on someone else's great idea. Knowing when to say little could be important. You will be in the public eye for the next few weeks. Expect high visibility. Tonight: A must appearance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ An eye-opening experience is about to occur. Though you might feel intimidated, risk becomes you. Take a leap of faith. The untrodden path proves to be the right and more exciting direction. Tonight: Take off if you can.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★ An associate or partner decides to make a late New Year's resolution. Whether you support this decision or not, this person will do what he or she decides to do. Don't get into particulars or worry. Everything will work out. Tonight: Team up with a favorite person.

 **LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
★★★★★ Don't wonder; ask. Refuse to give in to speculation, which could be far more troublesome than you realize. Steer a clear course, and you will be much happier. Ultimately, relationships will change for the better. Tonight: "Yes" is the only answer.

 **SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** ★★ Accept the fact that everyone needs a diet or health regimen, even you. Start planning to feel better, which also might mean a vacation. Don't fight the inevitable. Schedule checkups and doctor's appointments. Tonight: Take a brisk walk before deciding.

 **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
★★★★★ You're up for fun and games. If you let everyone know what is on your mind, strong reactions will greet you. Be selective when choosing your confidants. Be more childlike and in touch with your feelings. Cover-ups don't work. Tonight: Jump into weekend mode.

♈ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Though you might not always agree with family, you can go along with a new purchase or beginning. How you deal with a personal matter could change drastically as a result. Someone who might be negative will sing another song soon enough. Tonight: Happy at home.

 **AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
★★★★ If you are fed up with a situation, it might be wise to express your dismay. Your words will make a difference. You christen a new beginning through a talk. You will see the end results soon enough. Tonight: Follow through on your favorite Friday-night activity.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★ Expenses can come up out of nowhere. If you like something right now, you are likely to buy it. Establishing your limits might be important in the long run. Someone you love might push you to extravagance. Be strong. Tonight: Conform to your budget.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Pilgrim Lutheran to throw community party

By Daily Press staff

Seventy-five years of education in Santa Monica is cause for celebration. Pilgrim Lutheran School invites the community to a celebration festival on Saturday, April 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The festivities will include a book fair, craft fair, art show, bake sale, school open house, fish fry, and a burger and hot dog barbecue. Children are expected to have a great time with carnival games and a bounce room, organizers say. Pilgrim Lutheran welcomes the community in celebrating 75 years of Christian education in Santa Monica and its future. Pilgrim Lutheran is located at the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and 18th Street.

Wise up and plan your estate

By Daily press staff

Need help planning your estate? WISE senior services is offering free private estate planning consultations. Fred Marcus, chairman of the WISE Senior Services Endowment committee, will advise in all areas of estate planning including setting up a plan, reviewing already existing plans, estate and probate taxes, beneficiary designations, and assistance in philanthropic planning. WISE Senior Services is a non-profit organization offering support services for the elderly, as well as volunteer opportunities for active seniors. Dates for half-hour sessions are available by appointment. Initially, appointments will be offered on April 12, May 10 and June 7, from 1 to 3 p.m. For more information, call (310) 394-9871, ext. 431.

Marijuana Policy Project Anniversary gala lights up

By Daily press staff

For symptoms of painful debilitating diseases, pass the grass. The Marijuana Policy Project (MPP) is celebrating its 10th anniversary of fighting for marijuana policy reform by hosting a gala at the Sheraton Delfina Hotel on Pico Boulevard in Santa Monica. Talk show host Montel Williams will serve as the honorary chair of the event. Williams, who uses medical marijuana to treat symptoms of multiple sclerosis, has advocated for protection of patient use on his television show, and on Capitol Hill. Activists Angel Raich and Diane Monson also will be honored at the gala. Raich and Monson filed a joint lawsuit against the federal government. Raich began using marijuana after she was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. She had seizures, nausea, several chronic pain disorders, and was partly paralyzed. Raich is now legally allowed to use, possess and grow her own marijuana under state and federal law. MPP has more than 17,000 members and 150,00 e-mail subscribers nationwide. The organization works to minimize harm associated with marijuana — both the consumption of marijuana and the laws that prohibit its use. MPP believes that the greatest harm associated with marijuana is imprisonment. The gala will take place on Saturday, May 9. For more information, log onto: MarijuanaPolicy.org Tickets are available at www.mpp.org/galas or through Blue Room Events at (310) 491-1401.

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SURF REPORT

The NW swell that's filling in right now is expected to peak with size increasing towards chest- to shoulder-high. Conditions are questionable, however as winds were expected to blow for much of Thursday evening, at least in the outer waters, which could leave the morning surface textured and/or lumped up. Onshore winds are expected to pick up early, as well. **OUTLOOK:** On Saturday we're expecting the last, shorter, lagging periods to arrive with size potential dropping to chest-high or so. A small SW swells is due on Sunday.

Today the water is:

56°

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

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	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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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Church no place for gay marriages

Editor:

I am writing in response to the article, "SM church uniting those the state won't recognize," (SMDP, April 7, page 1).

I found the article very disturbing. Not because it deals with homosexuals — they are trapped in a way of life and don't know there's an escape yet, but my concern deals with the pastor, who is supposed to be the one leading them to the light of truth and conviction, which leads to repentance and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Although the Bible warns repeatedly that these people will arise, those who are the "hireling" and not the true shepherd, we as Christians who preach being a "light on a hill" tend to stand by and do nothing. Well, today I am going to do something — something that I pray will have an impact on someone, whoever God chooses that to be.

Here's the problem. Not only is this pastor leading the people astray, which is a grave concern to us who truly are the children of God and are not ashamed to be called so, but he is also directly violating the law which is also commanded in the Bible to not do. Romans 13:1 states very clearly that we are to obey the laws of the land. Jesus himself said to "Render unto Caesar the things that be Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." Well, in this situation, that pastor is supposed to be God's ambassador to the weak and afflicted — to the saved and the unsaved. There has to be a distinction, but because he has compromised and chosen to suit the scripture to what he wants it to say rather than what it does say, he is not only violating God's law, but the law of the land and the law should intervene.

All this is not to say that this pastor is somehow less saved than I am. He is human. I am human and I do not say that I am perfect and somehow deserving of casting the first stone. However, I am not a pastor and in a position of leading people to the pasture of God's word. I am a concerned citizen and Christian who is tired of watching people interpret the scriptures as they want to in order to remain politically correct. This pastor is very deceived and he is straight-up wrong. He must, in order to grow spiritually, come back to Christ who sent him out in the first place. He must repent, and show his congregation that he was wrong and ask them to forgive him for leading them astray, and then he must (and this all biblical, by the way) accept that forgiveness, both from Christ and his flock, and lead them in the way they should be going.

As John the Baptist said when Jesus was on his way to coming into the ministry, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near ..." Jesus is coming back — will he find us sleeping or will he find us watching for him? We must decide.

Heidi Olinger
Santa Monica

No child goes unwanted

Editor:

I read with interest a letter from a Brooks McCall who said he is a student at the high school (SMDP, March 31, page 4). I would like to comment on something that would give him and all of us "food for thought." I was at Santa Monica-UCLA Hospital a few years ago visiting two friends. One was married and had just delivered her newborn son and the other was a very young girl in her teens who was in the midst of delivering her baby and who had decided to keep the baby. As I walked by the nursery window to visit my friends, my eye got a glimpse of these parents who were ecstatically taking pictures of a newborn baby. I remember thinking that the mother sure seemed in great shape after delivery to be jumping up and down like she was doing. They were both dressed in hospital gowns as if they had been in surgery. After visiting with my friends, these parents were still taking pictures and a doctor was shaking their hands and getting hugs from them. He happened to get in the elevator with me and I asked him if they were by any chance the adoptive parents and he answered in the affirmative. I will never forget their faces as they were beaming and crying as they looked at their newborn child. Since that time, I have known many a couple who have adopted who could not have a child of their own and who were so grateful that the birth mother and/or father, allowed them to adopt their child. Abortion stops this from occurring. Like I said, this is food for thought.

Nancy Navarro
Santa Monica

Nude beach funny, Cochran not

Editor:

Congratulation on producing a very witty, amusing and (definitely in my case, in as much as I have a helpless regard and appreciation of feminine pulchritude and sped at once to the "nude beach" where I had hoped to be fulfilled with eye-candy at the sight of au naturel beach sanes; indeed, I was quite out of breath after running to my destination, God save me, where a geezer verily more of an erogenous propensity than myself who had arrived moments before me apprised me "It must all be a joke on us") truly April-fooling April 1 Santa Monica Daily Press edition.

I must add, alas, that your parody of Johnnie Cochran did not comport applicably and worthily with the overall good nature of your otherwise fine edition. Controversial however he was, he left a family, a widow, and other loved ones and admirers who deserve no such foolery. And think of God, as scripture deigns on mercy Sunday, forgives everything except speaking or writing ill of death.

William Cook
Santa Monica

Careful, the 'thought police' might get you

HERE'S
THE THING

BY LARA M. BROWN, Ph.D

On the heels of Sept. 11, 2001, a unified and bipartisan Congress passed the USA Patriot Act. Ever since, libertarians of all partisan stripes have been fighting it, arguing that numerous provisions go too far and erode individual civil liberties. Earlier this week, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee, saying that while he would be willing to alter some of the provisions, it has been an important tool in combating terrorism.

From my perspective, the Patriot Act — and the ensuing debate — has been a textbook case of American government. Congress reacted quickly — not deliberately — to a national crisis. Over time, the initial dissenters became a larger interest group, and now because of some of the checks and balances in the system, a tempering of the first response is more likely than not.

I wish all of our national dialogue were this rational.

In the past few months, Harvard University president Lawrence Summers was given a vote of "no confidence" for suggesting that women may not possess the same innate abilities in math and science as men; University of Colorado professor Ward Churchill's tenure is under review for arguing in a paper that the 9/11 victims in the World Trade Center were the equivalent of "little Eichmanns;" and masters student Scott McConnell was expelled from LeMoyne College for writing a paper advocating the use of corporal punishment.

On top of this, conservative commentators have been leveled with food: William Kristol was hit with a pie, Ann Coulter artfully dodged a pie aimed at her, and salad dressing was tossed at Pat Buchanan.

What is going on? I thought we believed in freedom of speech?

Neither the stupidity of the argument, nor the ignorance of the person, is supposed to matter. Period. If any one of the above individuals were in my class, I'm not certain they would earn a passing grade because their analytical abilities seem to be seriously in question, but they would certainly enjoy the right to make their arguments.

The Supreme Court made it perfectly clear in Texas vs. Johnson (1989): "If there is a bedrock principle underlying the

First Amendment, it is that the government may not prohibit the expression of an idea simply because society finds the idea itself offensive or disagreeable."

But maybe this is the problem. It's not the government we have to worry about. It's the people. The politically correct thought police — on both the left and the right.

As my friend, John, said, "It isn't that you can't speak, it's that there are consequences for what you say."

That terrified me. And while maybe it's always been true, it seems like it's gotten worse as our technology has gotten better — as though the ability to monitor speech and to persecute someone with their own poorly chosen words or ill-defined thoughts are inversely related.

I don't want to live in a country where we all say the same things because everyone has stopped thinking out of fear of repercussion.

And who exactly are all of these people who have decided that they possess such infinite wisdom that they should have the power to dismiss academics and/or engage in physical violence?

Some are pundits, some are students, and some are other academics. All of which scares me more because it seems that now, even those who are educated have lost the ability to think.

Here's The Thing:

Stop worrying about government power, and start worrying about group think. If you want to know who the "they" are, then I'll let you in on a secret. "They" are not the government. "They" are the marketing people.

"They" are all the people who tell you how to feel about yourself (bad), about the world (not good), and about others (worse relative to), so that you buy more of their products. They have become so incredibly powerful over the past 60 years (since the adoption of television) that it seems that nearly everyone in this society has forgotten how to actually think. Even people who believe themselves rebels are often just spewing off packaged rebellion rhetoric designed to induce a contribution.

Probably the best thing you can do for yourself, if you can't stop watching television, is watch Bill Maher — the most thinking person on television whose show on ABC got canceled because he dared to utter a controversial thought. Aside from that, read. It does a brain good.

(Lara M. Brown, Ph.D., is a political scientist from Los Angeles, and is teaching this semester at California State University, Channel Islands. She can be reached at larambrown@aol.com)

Tell Santa Monica what you think!

...write a letter to the editor

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Santa Monica Daily Press

LOCAL



CRIME WATCH

By Daily Press staff

At 1:55 p.m. on March 24, Santa Monica Police responded to the 2000 block of 10th Street regarding a residential burglary. When officers arrived they spoke to the reporting party, who said they heard glass breaking and thought the suspect entered the residence. While officers checked the location, the suspect was found inside the residence. Marcelino Palomera, a 28 year-old transient, was arrested for burglary and parole violation. No bail was set.

At 1:50 a.m. on March 26, Santa Monica Police responded to the 2100 block of Wilshire Boulevard regarding a fight. When officers arrived at the scene, they saw two people in the sidewalk who were bleeding. Officers spoke to the individuals who said they were involved in a fight with two people who fled the scene. Officers checked the area and located one suspect on the 1200 block of Second Street. Victims identified the suspect, who is David Charles Fish, 24, of Northridge. Bail was set at \$30,000. The second suspect was described as a 20- to 25- year-old white male, about five feet and seven inches tall, 170 pounds, wearing a black polo shirt. The second suspect was not located. The victims were taken to a local hospital, treated for their injuries and later released.

At 11:42 a.m. on March 28, Santa Monica Police responded to the 1300 block of Berkeley Street regarding a possible burglary. When officers arrived to the scene, they were directed to an apartment where they located a male and female inside the apartment. It was determined the individuals were evicted from the residence and had returned. Managers in the building were desirous of prosecution. Yeshayahoo Pomeranetz, a 22 year-old transient, and Dora Carolina Larson, a 32 year-old transient, were arrested for trespassing. Pomeranetz bail was set at \$50,00 and Larson's bail was set at \$45,000.

At 5:05 p.m. on March 31, Santa Monica Police responded to the 2000 block of Mina regarding a traffic accident. When officers arrived to the scene, they spoke to a person who said they had been rear ended by another person while stopped. Officers contacted the second driver and during their interview detected an odor of alcohol on the person and conducted a field sobriety test. At the conclusion of the test, Launi Sue Jocsing, a 42, of Westchester, was placed her under arrest for driving under the influence. Because two passengers in vehicle complained of pain, the charge was a felony and no bail was set.

Developers hope high court rules in their favor

COAST, from page 1

said the commission was usurping power of the executive office of the governor because the chief executive only gets four appointments. Yet it is the executive branch of government's duty to carry out legislation, in this case planning along the California coast.

But many of the seven justices did not appear to agree there was an abuse of the so-called separation of powers doctrine, the theory that the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government must not tread outside their areas.

Chief Justice Ronald George said the California Constitution, unlike the U.S. Constitution, gives the Legislature complete authority over appointments, and any appointment power of the governor is at the blessing of lawmakers.

"The appointment power is basically limited by the Legislature," George said. Justice Joyce Kennard added that "This court has consistently upheld the existence of that power."

Some of the high court's cases on the topic date to 1889, when the court upheld legislation allowing lawmakers to appoint all five members of the state library agency.

The court must rule on this challenge



Seth Kotok/Special to the Daily Press
Strict rules governing development along the coast of California haven't prevented developers from building large luxury hotels along Santa Monica's shoreline.

within 90 days.

The commission, established by ballot measure in 1972 and made permanent by the California Coastal Act in 1976, makes key decisions on coastal development, public access, offshore drilling and marine habitat protection.

Established by a voter ballot measure, the commission has made its share of enemies, especially among seaside residents and real estate developers who say the panel routinely tramples on private

See COAST, page 7

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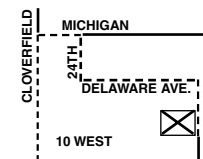
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LOCAL

Murder suspect grew up in Pico neighborhood

ARREST, from page 1

Thursday. But a relative who was at their Santa Monica home said the family was very happy with the arrest.

"It's been a long time coming," she said.

Carter, who was known by friends and family as "Little Bear" and "Pooh Bear," was described as a hard-working young man who was studying for a career in computers while working two jobs. He is buried at the Woodlawn Cemetery, which is located in the Pico neighborhood.

For the past decade, most of the gang activity in Santa Monica has been in a relatively small section of the Pico neighbor-

hood — 17th Street and Michigan Avenue. And many of the gang members are youth and young adults who are on parole or probation, police said. The Pico neighborhood runs north of the Santa Monica Freeway to Santa Monica Boulevard, south to Pico Boulevard and east from Lincoln Boulevard to Centinela Boulevard.

Sources said as a youth, Vargas used to frequent the Pico Youth & Family Center, a City Hall-funded nonprofit organization intended to promote peace, unity and social justice in the troubled neighborhood. The center is designed to serve as a place of empowerment and education for young men and women.

Sources said Vargas is the son of a member of Mothers For Justice, a group based in the Pico neighborhood with the mission of ending unfair discipline treatment and racial profiling in the local school district.

Carter's death was the only homicide in Santa Monica in 2003 and had been one of the few unsolved murders for the SMPD. Less than two months after the murder, the Josephs hired retired Los Angeles Police Department detective supervisor Jim Vuchsas to work on the case as a private investigator.

And in April of 2004, the City Council authorized a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person who killed Carter.



JALONNIE CARTER

Gang workshop designed to put ideas into action

GANG WORKSHOP, from page 1

bers, leaders and experts to reduce gang violence in Santa Monica.

The second session, originally scheduled in March, was postponed due to the murders of Hector Bonilla, 25, and Jonathan Hernandez, 19, who were shot multiple times on March 5 at a birthday party held at the Moose Lodge at 16th Street and Ocean Park Boulevard. The killings took place in front of between 50 and 70 witnesses, according to police, who said witnesses have provided detectives with little information, making the investigation difficult.

More than 400 people attended the first gang violence workshop. During the second workshop — to be held on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon at John Adams Middle School, 2425 16th St. — work will focus on turning ideas into action.

"The murders in Santa Monica really pointed up the great need for this community response," said Sen. Kuehl. "We postponed the second workshop so members of the community could grieve and heal a little bit in order to come roll up our sleeves and find some real programmatic solutions to this violence."

Santa Monica Mayor Pam O'Connor said the second workshop will recognize the loss of Bonilla and Hernandez.

"Father Mike Gutierrez from St. Anne's Church will be there for a recap and offer a moment of silence," O'Connor said.

She added that the majority of the second workshop will be spent putting together an "action plan" to recap outcomes and themes that were developed at the first meeting.

Participants can sign up to take part in one of three workshop groups, "Bring It Home," "Make It Work" and "Keep It Safe."

"Bring It Home" will develop on the idea of how parent, home and family support can reduce gang violence. Also included in that is youth support counsel-

ing services, mentoring activities, re-entry support from the Department of Corrections, educational support, and neighborhood connections and cohesion.

"Make It Work" will focus on how job development, employment preparation, skills training and rehabilitation also might reduce gang violence.

"Keep It Safe" will focus on how community-police relations, neighborhood improvements, private property clean-up, parks and community centers, as well as school buildings and other neighborhood gathering places can become more secure to reduce gang threats.

Much of the first workshop was spent in small groups of 20 to 40 participants, where parents, students, ex-gang members and an array of experts began to fashion a solution for ending the ongoing cycle of violence.

In a group only for youths, about 30 students, mostly from Santa Monica and Olympic high schools, offered their views on how best to deal with violence in Santa Monica and particularly in the eastside Pico neighborhood, where gangs are most entrenched and gunshots are frequent.

Asked by a facilitator who among the students was directly affected by gang violence, only one boy put up his hand. Asked who was affected through their family or neighborhood, every youth in the room raised a hand.

Registration for the second workshop is not required, but is encouraged by organizers. Breakfast, child care (age 5 and up), Spanish translation, and free parking will be available. John Adams Middle School is accessible to persons with disabilities and is served by Big Blue Bus lines 8 and 11.

To request a disability-related accommodation, call (310) 458-8701 or TTY (310) 458-8696.

To RSVP and for more information on what occurred at the first gang violence workshop, visit www.StopGangViolence.smgov.net.



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LOCAL



SANTA MONICA

CITYWIDE

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.

Ruling expected within 90 days

COAST, from page 5

property rights and harbors an extreme environmental agenda. It is a powerful body because it essentially limits local government control of the coastline, and opponents were hoping the high court might revert back some of that planning power.

The case argued Wednesday reached the justices after a Sacramento judge, and later an appeals court in 2003, ruled that the commission’s composition was weighted too heavily in favor of the Legislature, and therefore an illegal agency.

The lower courts were ruling in favor of the environmental group, Marine Forests Society, which was ordered by the commission to halt construction of an underwater reef outside Newport Beach Harbor that is designed as a marine sanctuary.

The commission appealed and when the justices agreed to decide the case, they asked if the court should reopen as many as 100,000 land-use decisions by the commission if the justices found the commission was an illegal body.

Randolphe Streichenberger, the Marine Forests Society scientist who built

The Kite Runner

by Khaled Hosseini

Chapter 5

In the eighteen years that I lived in that house, I stepped into Hassan and Ali’s quarters only a handful of times. When the sun dropped low behind the hills and we were done playing for the day, Hassan and I parted ways. I went past the rosebushes to Baba’s mansion, Hassan to the mud shack where he had been born, where he’d lived his entire life. I remember it was spare, clean, dimly lit by a pair of kerosene lamps. There were two mattresses on opposite sides of the room, a worn Herati rug with frayed edges in between, a three-legged stool, and a wooden table in the corner where Hassan did his drawings. The walls stood bare, save for a single tapestry with sewn-in beads forming the words “Allah-u-akbar.” Baba had bought it for Ali on one of his trips to Mashad.

It was in that small shack that Hassan’s mother, Sanaubar, gave birth to him one cold winter day in 1964. While my mother hemorrhaged to death during childbirth, Hassan lost his less than a week after he was born. Lost her to a fate most Afghans considered far worse than death: She ran off with a clan of traveling singers and dancers.

Hassan never talked about his mother, as if she’d never existed. I always wondered if he dreamed about her, about what she looked like, where she was. I wondered if he longed to meet her. Did he ache for her, the way I ached for the mother I had never met? One day, we were walking from my father’s house to Cinema Zainab for a new Iranian movie, taking the shortcut through the military barracks near Istiglal Middle School — Baba had forbidden us to take that shortcut, but he was in Pakistan with Rahim Khan at the time.

Continued on Saturday.

(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.)

the reef, held out hopes that the high court will side against the agency, a move he said after the hearing would liberate him from “years of harassment for no reason.”

Ronald Zumbun, the Marine Forests lawyer, told the justices that it didn’t matter what the state constitution said, arguing that lawmakers are illegally enacting and implementing coastal zoning regulations.

“The Legislature is directly controlling the implementation of the law,” Zumbun said.

In 2003, in response to the appeals court ruling against the commission, lawmakers tinkered with the appointment structure and made the Legislature’s eight commission appointments fixed, four-year terms while leaving the governor’s four, at-will picks unchanged.

Justice Ming Chin asked whether that revision amounted to a concession that the agency was illegally formed.

Joseph Barbieri, the commission’s attorney, said it was a “response to a fear the commission would cease to function until the issue was resolved.”

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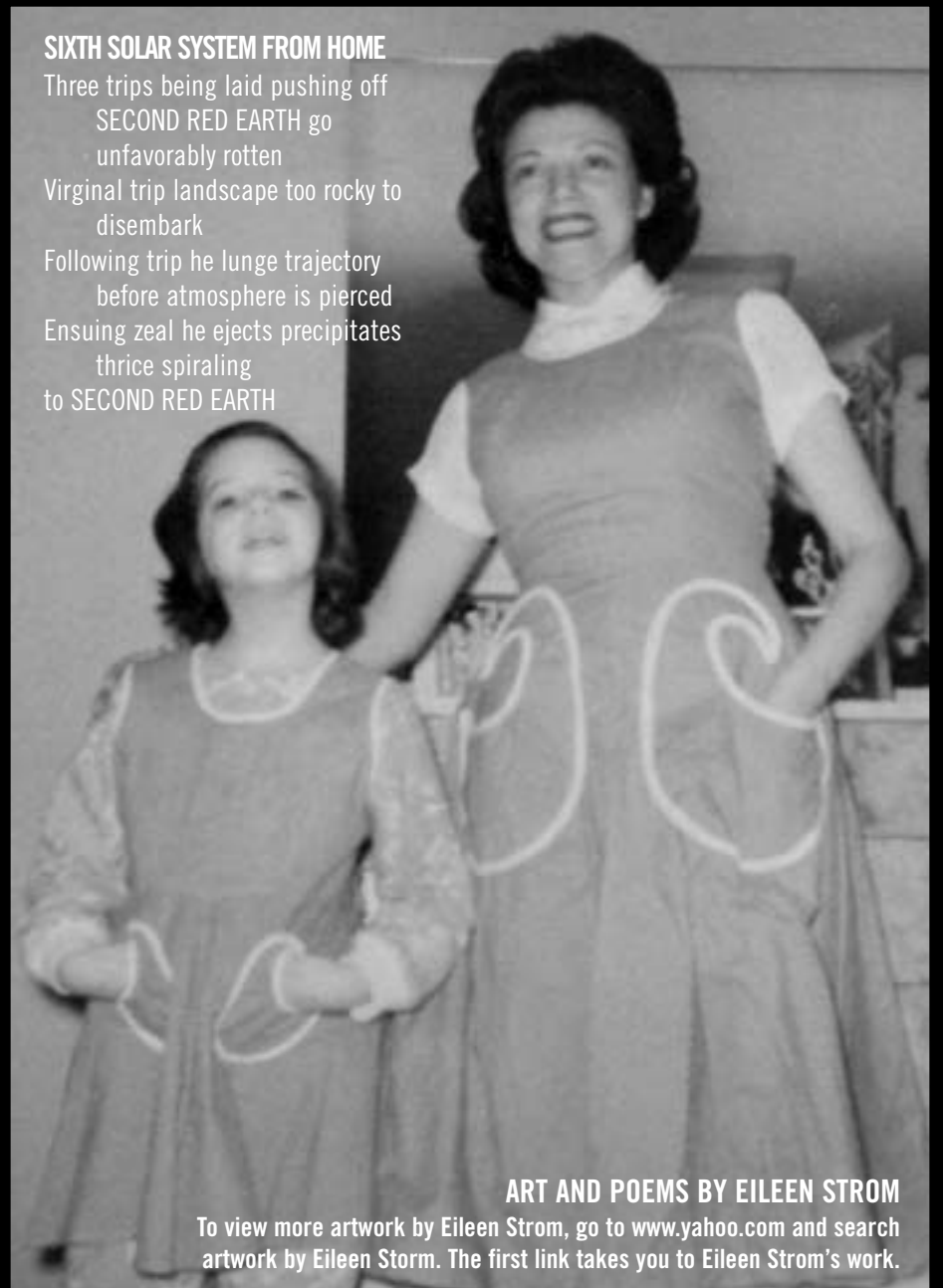
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Entertainment

What's playing

By Dan Dunn
Special to the Daily Press

SIN CITY
A weighty cinematic achievement that personifies the future of film-noir, merging classic sensibilities with the most advanced technology.
Starring: Bruce Willis, Rosario Dawson, Clive Owen

BEAUTY SHOP
Lacks the biting comedy and underlying gravitas of its male-oriented predecessors, relying instead on unoriginal sex and race zingers delivered by a bunch of walking, talking, blow-dryer-wielding clichés.
Starring: Queen Latifah, Kevin Bacon

MISS CONGENIALITY 2
The funniest thing about this slapdash money-grab will be the looks on the faces of gazillions of moviegoers when they collectively realize about 30 minutes into it that they've been Punk'd.
Starring: Sandra Bullock, Regina King

THE RING 2
The only thing remotely frightening about this tension-less sequel is the filmmakers' arrant disregard for its audience's intelligence.
Starring: Naomi Watts

MELINDA AND MELINDA
Woody Allen's new film plays out much like a host of others he's made over the course of his 40-year-career, but alas it's not nearly on par with the revered filmmaker's best efforts.
Starring: Radha Mitchell, Chloe Sevigny, Will Ferrell, Amanda Peet

HOSTAGE
a stylishly rendered collection of action-flick clichés that casts Willis in a familiar role: Burnt-out cop turned reluctant hero.
Starring: Bruce Willis

THE UPSIDE OF ANGER
A smart, funny, and at times heart-breaking look at one family's struggle to reinvent itself in the wake of a father's sudden, unexplained departure.
Starring: Joan Allen, Kevin Costner

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‘Eros’ found to be a self-indulgent piece of work

BY DAN DUNN
Special to the Daily Press

For film directors, it appears group efforts are all the rage these days. Like “Sin City,” the current box office champ, “Eros” utilizes a trio of skippers to present three takes on a similar theme: Sexual desire. Unlike the former, the art-house-ish “Eros” isn’t very appealing. Young bucks Wong Kar Wai and Steven Soderbergh succeed in getting their names on a movie poster alongside one of their idols, the fading Italian auteur Michelangelo

Antonioni (“L’ Avventura,” “La Notte”), but their efforts yield uneven results. Antonioni himself brings up the rear with a short called “The Dangerous Thread of Things” that is so laughably incoherent, it defies analysis ... and that’s putting it kindly. Wong Kar Wai’s “The Hand” is hands-down the best of the bunch. A dark and sensuous tale of an intemperate tailor’s (Chang Chen) unrequited love for a gorgeous Hong Kong call girl (Gong Li), “The Hand” is a disquieting reminder of what a fragile house of cards human sexuality can be. In Soderbergh’s “Equilibrium,” Robert Downey Jr. and Alan Arkin pull off some nifty give and take as, respectively, a skittish 1950s ad exec and his distracted shrink. The performances are a joy and the material intermittently funny, but “Equilibrium” feels conspicuously out of place in this particular collection. It’s not clear what, if anything, the filmmaker is trying to say about Eros. Like the disappointing “Ocean’s 12,” this short smacks of self-indulgence — it’s OK that Soderbergh gets his kicks working with his buddies, but is it too much to ask that he make it a little more fun for the rest of us?

(Rated R for strong sexual content including graphic nudity, and for language. Running time: 104 minutes)



SMC literary arts journal bound to be profound

By Daily Press staff

Beyond Baroque, Los Angeles’ leading literary center, is celebrating Santa Monica College’s release of the spring issue of the acclaimed Santa Monica Review, its national literary arts journal, at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 22. Beyond Baroque is located at 681 Venice Blvd. in Venice.

The event will feature readings by three contributors who have work in the latest issue: Ariane Simard, Diane Lefer, and SMC English professor Jim Krusoe, author of “Iceland.”

Tickets are \$7 general admission, \$5 students and senior citizens, and free for Beyond Baroque members. Call (310) 822-3006.

Featuring fiction and essays by both new and established writers, the journal also will be available at the SMC booth at the upcoming Los Angeles Times Festival of Books April 23-24 at UCLA.

Review Editor Andrew Tonkovich said he is pleased to include work by Jim Houston, Michelle Latiolais and Sharon Doubiago, three Western writers. Houston’s most recent novel, “Snow Mountain Passage,” is only the latest offering in a long career

full of fiction and nonfiction successes, including the classic “Farewell to Manzanar.” Latiolais is a short story writer and novelist teaching at UC Irvine. Tonkovich describes her work as “elegant, painful ... reading it is like unwraping a scroll full of dangerous and beautiful news.” Doubiago’s work was recently named to an essential reading list by the state of Oregon. She is a celebrated poet and author of “The Book of Seeing with One’s Own Eyes.”

Tonkovich recommends a sobering, poetic story by Flannery O’Connor Award-winner Gary Fincke.

“It’s so generous of Gary Fincke to share this amazing piece of writing with us,” he said. “The Santa Monica Review is so very proud to have published his work in the past, but this particular story is a knock-out.

“This is also a very, very funny issue,” Tonkovich added.

Frequent contributor Trinie Dalton, whose first short-story collection appears next year, is a favorite of Tonkovich’s for her humorous work. Another Review veteran contributor, Janice Shapiro, presents another of her droll, slow-motion stories of

hypersensitivity, introspection and their consequences. First-time contributor Chris Hood’s “How I Met My Third Wife in Siberia” doesn’t disappoint in its deadpan follow-through to the wonderfully nutty premise indicated in the title. And Roy Glassberg’s short story is told, crankily, by a cranky old man at a convalescent home book club meeting.

The issue also includes the first four chapters of Dylan Landis ‘award-winning’ novel “Floorwork” and long, prismatic short stories by Roberto Ontiveros and Paul Eggers. Ontiveros writes about real and imagined characters in a comic book universe. Eggers is a former chess master whose experiences inform this beautiful, wrenching story.

Essayists Jonathan Cohen and Meredith Resnick take on, respectively, recollections of a dysfunctional Jewish education and of a dysfunctional mother-daughter relationship. Resnick’s essay is excerpted from her book about adopting her own children, teenagers from Russia.

UC Irvine writing student Ariane Simard contributes another long story about characters whose young lives come back to them,

years later. The issue’s cover work is by Southern California artist Mark Vallen. More of his work on view at art-for-a-change.com.

Founded by Krusoe 18 years ago, the Review has presented readers experimental, thoughtful, and humorous works of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, interviews, and essays including works by well-known authors such as Harold Pinter, Gary Soto, Lynn Freed, and Alan Cheuse. In its 17 years of publication, the Review has achieved a reputation as one of the West Coast’s leading journals.

The current issue is available for sale at the SMC Bookstore, Dutton’s Brentwood, Beyond Baroque in Venice, and other local booksellers. Copies also are available by mail and by subscription through Santa Monica Review, Santa Monica College, 1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90405. Past issues, when available, can be ordered using the same address.

Tonkovich encourages submissions and reads year-round, but advises picking up a copy of the journal beforehand and including a self-addressed-stamped envelope with all works submitted. The fall 2005 issue appears in October.

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La Gloria Cubana cigars ignite appeal



THE IMBIBER

BY DAN DUNN

La Gloria Cubana.

For cigar lovers, the name says it all. Once the best kept secret in Miami, the rich, full-bodied cigars produced by cigar-master Ernesto Perez-Carrillo Jr. and his team are now some of the most sought-after in the world. But had it not been for a bad case of the jitters, modern smokers might never have known the joy of La Gloria Cubana. After immigrating to the United States from Cuba with his parents shortly after Castro came into power, young Ernesto dreamt of becoming a famous jazz drummer. In 1968, his father and namesake founded the El Credito Cigar Factory on the famed Calle Ocho in the heart of Little Havana. Rather than join the family business, Ernesto moved to New York City and started gigging at some of the city's hottest jazz clubs. His moment of truth arrived when he was given an audition by legendary tenor saxophone player Stan Getz.

"I went to his house, and when it came time to play I was so nervous that I just froze up," Ernesto told The Imbiber during a recent tour of the cigar factory. "(Getz) looked at me and said, 'Maybe you need a little more practice.'" Practice doesn't pay the rent, however, so Ernesto headed back home and, upon his father's death in 1980, assumed control of El Credito. The early '90s were very good for the cigar industry, particularly El Credito. In addition to several great reviews in Cigar Aficionado magazine, it also didn't hurt to have the likes of Schwarzenegger and Stallone coming 'round Little Havana buying up La Gloria Cubana smokes by the caseload. Of the stuff I sampled at El Credito, the Corona Gorda frontmark (that's cigar-ease for size) was the favorite. The Corono Gorda (\$4.40 each) goes quite nicely with a single-malt Scotch — say, an 18-year-old Highland Park — or some fine Irish Whiskey like Redbreast's 12-year-old. If you're smoking post-din-din, pair the Corono Gorda or a La Gloria Cubana Wavell frontmark (\$3.90) with a port (try Dow's Trademark Finest Reserve) and some chocolate. A little jazz music enhances the flavor, too ... Ernesto recommends Stan Getz!

(E-mail questions, comments or suggestions for the Imbiber to ddunn@metro.us)

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STATE

Public to help monitor sexual offender registry database

BY KIM CURTIS
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — California's online sex offender registry has added a feature allowing people to send tips about rapists or child molesters directly to law enforcement officials.

The latest improvement to the Megan's Law database went online Monday, according to the state Justice Department. In December, the database was made accessible on the Internet and began including many offenders' addresses. Those improvements cost about \$650,000.

"This is a system that relies on convicted sex offenders to register for the rest of their lives. ... That's not going to provide the most up-to-date information available," said department spokesman Nathan Barankin. "By enabling regular citizens to access sex offenders on the Internet, we can actually enlist the public's help in locating and identifying out-of-compliance sex offenders."

A 2003 investigation by The Associated Press revealed that more than 33,000 convicted sex offenders weren't keeping their registrations current with local police and sheriff's departments. That means the public and authorities often had no idea where to find a particular ex-con. A year later, that number had decreased to more than 22,000. An estimated 63,000 sex offenders currently are required to register in California.

People can search the database by name, address, ZIP code or county. They also can search the immediate area

around certain parks or schools.

Once they access information about a particular offender — name, physical description, offenses, aliases, and in many cases, photograph and address — they can click on a button marked "report information to DOJ." They are automatically directed to a text box where they can supply information about the offender.

There also is space for the tipster's name, phone number and e-mail address.

"The citizen can do it anonymously, but we encourage them to give us their information so law enforcement can follow up with them," Barankin said.

Department staff then sifts through the messages, keeping those that offer concrete information, and forwards them to the law enforcement agency responsible for the sex offender.

"If it's used properly and people actually pay attention, it could definitely be useful," said Sgt. Ron Helder who heads the San Jose Police Department's sex registration enforcement team.

The Web site also provides a Justice Department phone number and mailing address, as well as phone numbers for every police and sheriff's agency in the state.

But e-mail seems to be the preferred — and simplest — method for communication. Barankin said the department already had received about 175 electronic tips.

"Rather than forcing citizens who are taking a look at the Web site to bounce around from one screen to the next ... all you have to do is click a button," he said.

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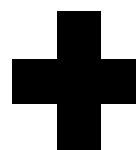
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NATIONAL



Immigrant says he was held by Arizona volunteer minutemen

BY ARTHUR H. ROTSTEIN
Associated Press Writer

TUCSON, Ariz. — Three volunteers patrolling the border for illegal immigrants were being investigated after a man told authorities he was held against his will and forced to pose for a picture holding a T-shirt with a mocking slogan.

The volunteers said they were members of the Minuteman Project — a monthlong effort that has people from around the country fanned out along the border to report undocumented migrants and smugglers.

Law enforcement officials have said they fear the project will lead to vigilante violence. Mexico’s foreign relations department pledged in the days leading up to the civilian operation to pursue all legal and diplomatic means to stop the volunteers and ensure that they do not violate the rights of Mexican citizens.

Border Patrol agents called in deputies from the Cochise County Sheriff’s Office on Wednesday afternoon to report that an immigrant was detained by three

men who identified themselves as project volunteers.

Carol Capas, a sheriff’s office spokeswoman, said the 26-year-old Mexican man told agents he was physically restrained and forced to hold a shirt while his picture was taken and he was videotaped.

The shirt read: “Bryan Barton caught an illegal alien and all I got was this T-shirt.”

Barton is one of the three volunteers. He told agents that they waved the man over to them, offered him food and water, and gave him the T-shirt and money before the Border Patrol arrived.

Border Patrol spokeswoman Andrea Zortman said that the Mexican man remained in custody Thursday and would be going through formal proceedings to send him back to his country. Many Mexican illegal immigrants are quickly sent back after being caught but Zortman didn’t know why the man was going through the longer removal process.

Zortman said it wasn’t clear how long the man had been with the Minuteman volunteers before being picked up by a Border Patrol agent.

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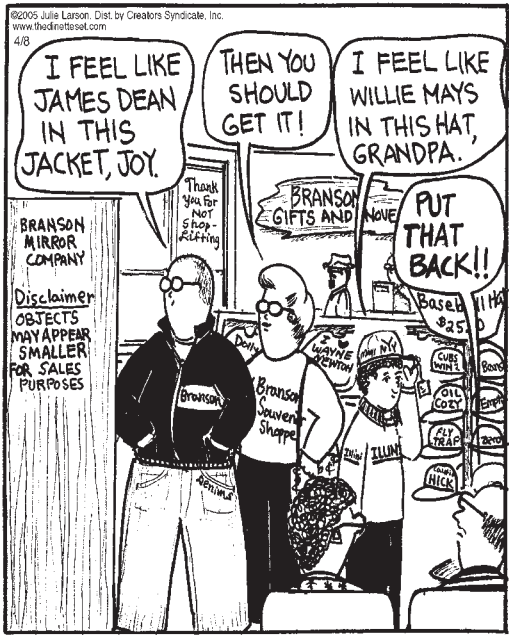
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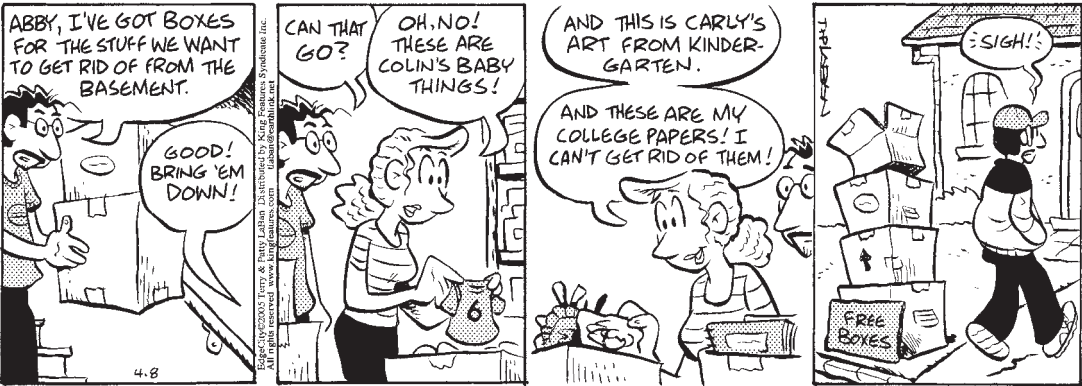


COMICS

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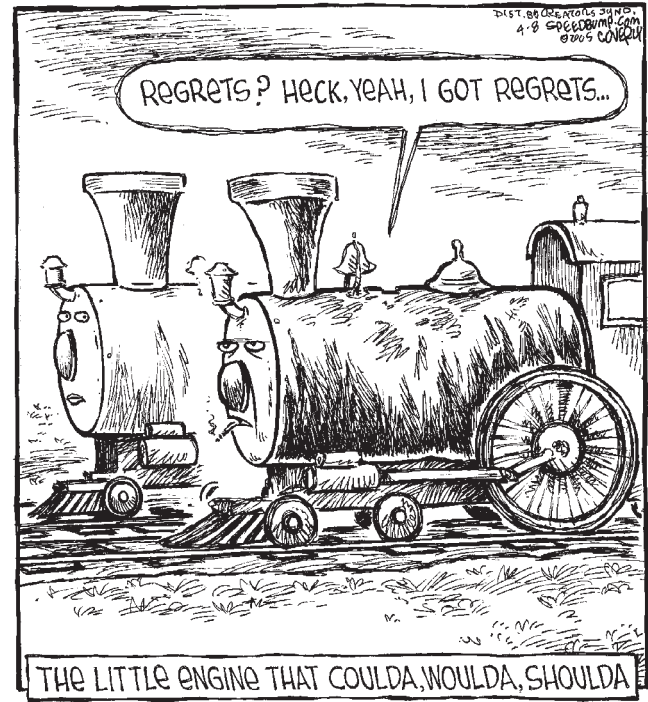
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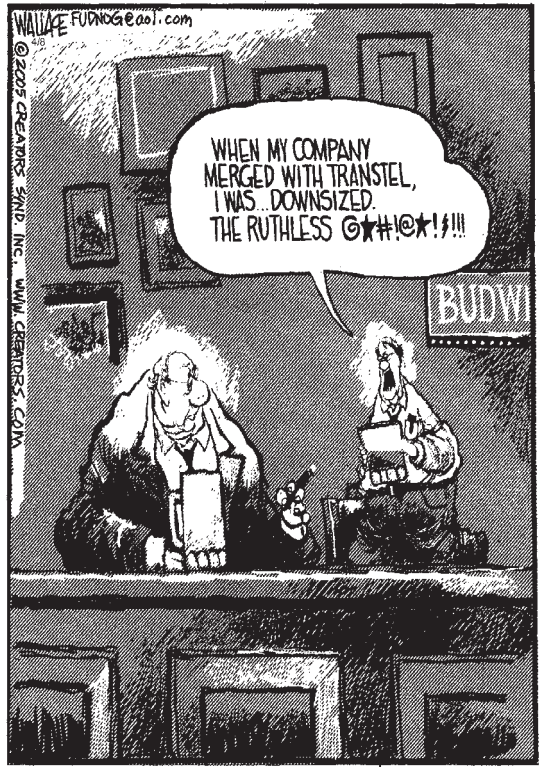


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- ACROSS**
- 1 Seedy area
 - 5 National symbol
 - 9 So far
 - 11 Highway divisions
 - 13 Suspect's story
 - 14 Madonna movie
 - 15 Smidgen
 - 16 "You wish!"
 - 18 Sound systems
 - 20 Elev.
 - 21 Voter, e.g.
 - 22 Ray of films
 - 23 Tab, for one
 - 24 Stir-frying vessel
 - 25 Keen
 - 27 Arrested
 - 29 Do leather work
 - 30 Pepped up
 - 32 Bags
 - 34 Earth: Pref.
 - 35 Actors Robert and Alan
 - 36 "I Am Woman" singer
 - 38 Organ parts
- DOWN**
- 39 Furry wrap
 - 40 Hook's aide
 - 41 Word from the flock

A	B	L	E		L	I	O	N	S
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S	T	E	R	N			M	E	T

Yesterday's answer

- 8 Become tiresome
- 10 To a great extent
- 12 — Domingo
- 17 Go bad
- 19 Deplored
- 22 Superior
- 24 Hesitates
- 25 Heavens' holder
- 26 Bank fixtures
- 27 Equip
- 28 Compass part
- 30 Director Hallström
- 31 Senior member
- 33 Yawn
- 37 Greek letter

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13. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2000; 284: 2689-2694.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Playhouse at Beckingham Palace deemed legal

By The Associated Press

LONDON — The playhouse at Beckingham Palace is safe.

David Beckham and his wife, Victoria, were told by local authorities they don't have to tear down the 16-foot brick playhouse being built on their property without permission.

The British soccer star now with Real Madrid had been warned he might have to demolish the half-built playhouse as well as a play castle — complete with mock tower, drawbridge, slides and rope swings — at the family's "Beckingham Palace" mansion north of London.

The East Hertfordshire District Council said Wednesday it had granted retrospective planning permission provided no one lived in the structures. The playhouse for sons Brooklyn, 6, Romeo, 2, and 6-week-old Cruz must not be used for "permanent habitable occupation" or a "separate unit of occupation."

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Former South African President Nelson Mandela supports London's bid to host the 2012 Olympics.

"There is no city like London," the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize winner said Wednesday. "It is a wonderfully diverse and open city providing a home to hundreds of different nationalities from all over the world."

"I can't think of a better place than London to hold an event that unites the world. London would offer something very special to the Olympic movement, including great new sporting facilities and a legacy for generations to come," he added.

London is competing against New York, Paris, Madrid, Spain, and Moscow. The International Olympic

Committee will select the host July 6.

Mandela met Monday with British Sports Minister Richard Caborn and Sebastian Coe, the two-time Olympic 1,500-meter champion leading London's effort to land the games.

JERUSALEM — Richard Gere told Israel's foreign minister that Palestinians and Israelis must put the past behind them and take advantage of what he called a "special moment" to make peace.

Gere met Wednesday with Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom during his third visit to the region in recent months.

"There is a great instinct and need on both sides of this conflict to find a peaceful solution that is suitable, that is genuine, that is real, and it can be found and this is a moment," the 55-year-old actor said.

Since his arrival earlier in the week, Gere has met with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and Israel's two vice-premiers, Shimon Peres and Ehud Olmert.

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Canadian director and performer Robert Lepage will perform a one-man show next month in a tribute to Danish fairy tale writer Hans Christian Andersen, the royal theater said Wednesday.

Lepage will perform "The Andersen Project," based on several of the 19th-century writer's works, for four days starting May 18 at a theater in Copenhagen.

Denmark last weekend celebrated the 200th birthday of Andersen, known for fairy tale classics including "The Emperor's New Clothes" and "The Little Mermaid."

Lepage, who received an honorary Andersen award last year, already opened the one-man show in his native

Quebec on Feb. 22.

The play will be performed in English at Turbinehallene, a former power station and annex of the Royal Theater in downtown Copenhagen.

Lepage is best known for his work with Cirque du Soleil, the Canadian circus company known for its stunning aerial acts.

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — Bob Costas believes steroid-inflated power numbers have put home run records out of reach.

The Emmy-winning broadcaster said baseball has been "ripped from its historical moorings" and steroids have "distorted the game's statistical framework."

And now that major league baseball is cracking down on performance-enhancing drugs, home run milestones aren't likely to be topped, he said Tuesday during an American Red Cross fund-raiser.

Costas contends the new steroid policy is too lenient. He says players who test positive should be banned for a year rather than 10 days for their first offense. A second positive test should bring a lifetime ban, he said. Still, he said the policy will begin weeding steroids out of the game.

"Even though it seems light and is light, if it's accompanied by immediate public disclosure, that player is branded," he said. "That, I think, will act as a greater deterrent than a loss of pay or games."

He predicted the steroid controversy will intensify once Barry Bonds returns and resumes his chase of Hank Aaron's career mark.

"It's ongoing for Barry Bonds," Costas said. "Every time he hits a home run, he moves closer to (Babe) Ruth and closer to Aaron and the whole debate starts again."



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