

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

3, 11, 31, 35, 37

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 4, 2, 1

Evening picks: 5, 2, 6

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 4, Big Ben

2nd Place: 8, Gorgeous George

3rd Place: 5, California Classic

Race Time: 1:49.40



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Police Reports: From The Recorder, Greenfield, Mass., Nov. 13, 2003: "A man reported buying a car and when he went to get into it with the intention of sleeping in it, there were three people, including the prior owner (a)lready sleeping inside the car." From The Leaf-Chronicle, Clarksville, Tenn., Nov. 6, 2003, reporting the aborted robbery of a convenience store by a man who pulled a knife and demanded money after he had already given the clerk his credit card to pay for a purchase: "The complainant (clerk) looked at the suspect like he was crazy ... the suspect quickly signed the sales receipt and left."



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Sex is best in the afternoon after coming out of the shower."

— Ronald Reagan



INDEX



Horoscopes

Reel fun, Cancer 2



Local

Every picture tells a story 3



Opinion

Burning Bush 4



Real Estate

Rays of hope for homeowners 8



State

Kinko's leaves paper trail 10



National

Smells like a winner 11



John Wood/Daily Press
SMRR marks its 25th year this weekend at The Church in Ocean Park, long a meeting place for local progressives.

SMRR: Hi-yo silver

After 25 years, group isn't just about rent control anymore

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN PARK — Local activists will meet in a church on Hill Street Saturday to mark the 25th anniversary of Santa Monica's political ruling party.

Santa Monicans for Renters Rights was formed in 1979 out of a coalition of organizations that banded together to sponsor the local rent control law. The powerful, left-leaning group has spearheaded a variety of progressive local measures through

the years.

In 1981, SMRR first gained a majority of seats on the Santa Monica City Council, and has retained control over City Hall every since 1988. Five of the seven current council members were endorsed by SMRR.

Denny Zane, SMRR co-chair and one of its founders, credited the organization with everything from strict environmental and recycling policies to aggressive tenant protections, new affordable housing projects and the success of the Third Street Promenade. Strict building standards put in place by SMRR have helped control growth, he added.

"When people think about the developments they don't like,

they usually are thinking about the Water Gardens or Arboretum Project or some of the hotels," Zane said. "And those were approved between 1984 and 1988, when SMRR adversaries had the majority on the council.

"There were about 5 million square feet (of projects) approved."

SMRR supporters will meet at the Church in Ocean Park at 7 p.m. Saturday for Hors d'oeuvres, drinks, music, dancing and "staged readings from dramatic oral histories documented nearly 25 years ago that recreate the multi-generational struggle that brought rent control to Santa Monica," accord-

See SMRR, page 6

Take the Fifth



John Wood/Daily Press
Above: A construction crew tends to a sewage line under Fourth Street on Tuesday afternoon. Parts of Fourth Street have been closed since Feb. 9 so the city can repave and complete work on water mains, curbs, sidewalks, the median, landscaping, crosswalks and signs. Below: Residents will have to wait longer through the summer, as work is expected to be completed by Sept. 30.

School boosters prep for big push

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Local school boosters have given themselves 18 days to gather an estimated 3,500 signatures to put a controversial charter amendment on the November ballot.

The leaders from the Community for Excellent Public Schools contend that securing an average of 194 new signatures each day is definitely within their reach.

"I'm confident that we're going to get the signatures required to put this on the ballot," said Shari Davis, CEPS co-chair. "We've employed a variety of strategies to make sure we've covered all our bases."

The charter amendment put forward by CEPS would force City Hall to dedicate at least \$6 million to the local school district each year, with additional funding going to schools when the city's \$150 million general fund budget grows. The city oversees a total budget of \$350 million, including dedicated funds.

A combination of targeted mailings, phone banking, and volunteer and paid signature gatherers have already netted about 7,500 signatures in support of the proposal, said Ralph Mechur, a CEPS member. Though it needs only 8,640 signatures — or 15 percent of Santa Monica's

See SCHOOL, page 7

Off the hook? Alleged madam still free woman

By Daily Press staff

POLICE HEADQUARTERS

— Charges have yet to be filed against a woman arrested earlier this month for allegedly running a

house of prostitution on San Vicente Boulevard.

Patty Kim Louthain, 34, of Los Angeles, was arrested by Santa Monica Police vice detectives on April 2, after an undercover officer

went to an apartment on the 400 block of San Vicente Boulevard asking for a massage, which was advertised on the Internet. When a woman inside solicited him for illegal sex, he signaled for a team

of officers waiting outside to raid the apartment.

Police began the investigation after receiving a tip from a neighbor who had been noticing sever-

See MADAM, page 6

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Eddie Guerboian



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Keep on smilin', Aquarius

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)

★★★ Aim for more of what you want during the daylight hours, when success will greet you. Groups will be instrumental. Take your time with a friend and thank him or her for an uncalled-for gesture. You pull back later today and do some soul searching. Tonight: Get some extra sleep.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Stay on top of work. You easily could be distracted by a child or loved one. You present yourself unusually well right now, especially in the afternoon. A meeting will prove to be significant if you stay focused. Tonight: Where the gang is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Stay on top of news and information. Reach out for those at a distance. Find an expert if need be. Follow an instinct to take charge and be in a leadership position. Others respond to your ideas and directions. Tonight: Count on it being a late night.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You find that a loved one will give you a new sense of direction if you let him or her in the door. Openly discuss what might be on your mind, even with business associates. You'll find solutions as a result. Tonight: Watch a movie.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Work with others, as they won't leave you alone anyway. Though you might prefer to get more done, you are working with an open-door policy. Later in the day, by talking to one person at a time, you'll accomplish much more. Tonight: Togetherness works.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Learn to pace yourself, as you could easily throw your energy into one project, falling into exhaustion. What happens could take you to a new realm if you listen to suggestions. By the afternoon, you cannot effectively close your door. Others seek you out. Follow through on what you want. Tonight: Join a co-worker for a nibble or two.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Examine what is happening within a key group around you. Brainstorm to your heart's content, because creativity will spring from this type of exchange. Another lets you know how much he or she cares. Pace yourself. Tonight: Play it easy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You are coming from an anchored point of view. Be playful and direct in your dealings with a co-worker. This person might have strong feelings for you. Your sensuality and flirtatiousness merge in a way that many cannot resist. Tonight: Ever playful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You say what you feel, but you might not be ready for the return comment. Someone close could be eyeing you, wanting to be closer. Be careful with this person's feelings. Trouble could come out of your friendly ways. Tonight: head home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Investigate possibilities more carefully than you have in prior years. A friend or loved one might have a moneymaking suggestion, but still get your facts straight. Schedule a discussion for late in the afternoon. Others are responsive. Tonight: Dinner out.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Handling you is like having a tiger by its tail. Fortunately, a loved one or admirer enjoys your vital energy and taming you. Realize how expenses could be getting out of whack. Think before leaping in, if you can. Tonight: Keep on smiling.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Slow down in the morning, especially if something feels a bit off to you. Later in the day, you discover what is really going on. Express what is on your mind mid-afternoon, when the planets cheer you on. Tonight: What would make you happy?

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Got work? SMC stages job fair

By Daily Press staff

More than 100 employers will gather next month to seek out new prospects. Employers ranging from private industry to public service will be at Santa Monica College for the Navigating Career Success Job Fair on Saturday, May 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The fair is free and open to the public.

The job fair is targeted for prospective employees, ranging from entry-level to senior-management positions and will provide opportunities for job seekers to interact with a variety of potential employers.

The employers also will be available to discuss career growth and advancement opportunities.

Those seeking employment are invited to attend free workshops to assist them in their job search, interview skills and identifying their most suitable area of work.

The job fair is a joint effort of the city of Santa Monica, SMC, LA WorkSource, The Pico Youth and Family Center, Chrysalis and the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District.

The fair will be located at SMC, 1900 Pico Blvd. Free parking will be available.

Pretty as a picture in the gallery

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica College 25th Annual Photography Show, featuring the works of students and faculty, will be held April 19 to May 14 in the campus' photography gallery and Pete & Susan Barrett Art Gallery.

An opening reception will be held at the art gallery from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on April 24. The SMC photography gallery is located on the second floor of Drescher Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. The art gallery is at the college's Madison campus on Santa Monica Boulevard at 11th Street.

The art gallery is open 12 p.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

The photo gallery's hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday through Friday.

For further information, call (310) 434-4289 or (310) 434-3434.

Celebs honor equality activists

By Daily Press staff

Liberty Hill Foundation's annual Upton Sinclair dinner will honor four inspired voices for equality and justice, officials said.

Awards will be presented to lifelong activist and state legislator Tom Hayden, musician Bernice Johnson Reagon, as well as two young leaders — national immigrant rights advocate Angelica Salas and Washington Mutual's corporate giving vice president, Antonio Manning.

The pre-dinner reception on April 29 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel will begin at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$275 and \$500.

In the 1960s, Hayden was a founding member of Students for a Democratic Society, a Freedom Rider and an activist in the civil rights movement. In the 1980s, Hayden began his 20-year tenure in the California Legislature.

Officials said Reagon for four decades has wedded activism and art. She is the founder of the Grammy-winning a capella ensemble "Sweet Honey in the Rock."

Salas, director of Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights in Los Angeles, is regarded by some as one of the most gifted young activists and organizers in the country.

While at the coalition, Salas spearheaded several campaigns, including the effort to win in-state tuition for undocumented immigrant students and the introduction of job centers for day laborers — a model that's been replicated across the country.

Manning is the architect of Washington Mutual Bank's corporate philanthropy program, and he's also chair of Los Angeles' Blue Ribbon Committee to end homelessness.

Santa Monica-based Liberty Hill Foundation was established in 1976 by film producer Sarah Pillsbury ("How to Make an American Quilt," "And the Band Played On," "Eight Men Out," "Desperately Seeking Susan"). Pillsbury will be the master of ceremonies, and this year's co-chairs will include Angelica Houston, Robert Graham, film producer Robert Greenwald and his wife Heidi, and Angel Zapata, vice president of Northern Trust Bank.



Look for a mix of NW wind swell and slowly building SW swell today. Most spots are down in the knee- to waist-high range, with some bigger set at best NW and SW breaks in the morning.

Both swells look strongest today. The SW swell will be good for inconsistent waist-high surf. The NW wind and ground swell mix will be good for waist-high surf at the better winter breaks.

OUTLOOK: Look for the NW energy to hang into Thursday as the SW swell fades. It looks like we'll see both more NW and SSW swell by Friday and into the weekend though.

Today the water is:

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	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	8:45	-0.3	7:04	2.8	12:45	5.4	4:22	3.0
SUNDAY	10:16	-0.3	9:28	3.1	1:57	5.0	6:09	3.4
MONDAY	11:34	-0.4	11:30	2.7	3:36	4.8	6:55	3.8
TUESDAY	NA	NA	12:33	-0.5	5:11	4.8	7:27	4.2
WEDNESDAY	12:41	2.1	1:18	-0.5	6:24	4.9	7:56	4.6
THURSDAY	1:32	1.4	1:55	-0.4	7:21	5.0	8:22	4.9
FRIDAY	2:15	0.9	2:27	-0.2	8:09	4.9	8:47	5.2

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The Q Line

City Hall has recently started enforcing a set of codes regarding what type and size of signs businesses are allowed to have in front of their stores. Many business owners argue that enforcement of these codes is trivial and the city should focus on more important issues, such as vagrancy. The city says enforcement is important not only for aesthetic reasons but for safety reasons as well.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know:

"Are city officials justified in cracking down on businesses with illegal signs or are they diverting valuable resources away from the city's bigger problems?"

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

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OPINION

Rhetoric, not action, spews from SMC trustee



Guest Commentary

By Lantz Simpson

Santa Monica College Trustee Margaret Quinones joined five other trustees who voted last May to abolish eight vocational programs at SMC: The automotive, architecture, fire technology, emergency management, administration of justice, hospitality, recreation and geographic services programs. So I was surprised and amazed to read in the Daily Press that college trustee Quinones expressed optimism that some of the eliminated programs will be reinstated. Indeed, the faculty still looks forward to these programs being restored as soon as possible.

However, in reality, neither the trustees nor the college administration has made a move to restore any of the eliminated vocational programs. These were successful programs that, for years, had placed students — many of them disadvantaged — into good paying jobs in the community. Trustee Quinones voted to permanently eliminate these programs in response to

state budget cuts that never materialized. Stronger leadership from her and several other trustees could have saved these programs for SMC students.

Instead of moving to restore the eliminated vocational programs — which unfairly and disproportionately destroyed the majors of Latino men — the college gave away over \$1 million worth of equipment (which had been paid for by Santa Monica taxpayers) from the defunct automotive program. Despite the alleged deep budget shortfall, no attempt was made to auction off the equipment to bolster the supposedly scanty college coffers! Faculty were told that “the equipment was obsolete” and that the “college doesn’t run an auto parts supply store.”

What is even more outrageous is the SMC administration’s claim that the college will suffer a “\$10 million plus” funding shortfall from Sacramento this year — setting the stage for possible further debilitating program cuts or services that serve our students. That claim is a whopper. Public information posted on the state chancellor’s Web site reveals that SMC’s state revenue for this fiscal year will be \$89.1 million — a \$200,000 increase over last year’s \$88.9

million coming from Sacramento.

Here’s the bottom line:

■ First, the college actually received a small increase in state funding this year.

■ Second, it also received an increase in federal funding.

■ Third, the classified staff received no pay raise last year or this year.

■ Fourth, only senior faculty received a moderate pay raise this year as part of a lawsuit settlement.

■ Fifth, and most importantly, the college cut 800 class sections in both the fall and spring this year, reducing students by almost 20 percent, laying off 300 part-time faculty, and (because of state funding rules) putting the college gravely at risk for next year’s funding.

■ Finally, the administration refuses to specify the amount of money saved by eliminating the eight vocational programs last year.

Thinking persons must ask: What is going on?

Faculty have long known that blaming Sacramento for the college’s own budget problems has become a routine ploy by college officials — one that has gone unquestioned by most of the trustees.

This knowledge was a major factor in the 86 percent “no confidence” vote the faculty took last June on SMC President Piedad Robertson. Yet in response, trustees expressed their “confidence” in Robertson and then watched this year as 6,000 students were told “sorry, no classes available.”

Furthermore, Robertson’s close association with Republican Richard Riordan has positioned her to be tapped as Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s key advisor on community colleges.

Surely, it is time for Santa Monica’s progressive voters to start demanding accountability from the college’s elected trustees for their anti-education actions over the last year. After all, SMC is a community college. In November, Santa Monicans will elect three new college trustees. We must look at the trustees voting records — not listen to their sound bites. Let’s put the community back into our college — and elect trustees who will put students first and restore our public trust and high educational standards.

(Lantz Simpson is president of the Santa Monica College Faculty Association and an English professor).

Intelligence failure for ages: It’s a Bush thing



INCITES

By Ed Silverstein

Condeleeza Rice put on a remarkable display of semantic gymnastics during her testimony before the 9/11 commission. And though her molding of the facts to assign blame to others was little more than damage control, there is a kernel of truth. Admittedly, there were failures in each of the four most recent administrations. Yet, not all the failures were equal.

In his book “Against All Enemies,” Richard Clarke, the former terrorist czar, points out that President Ronald Reagan did not retaliate for the bombing in Beirut that killed 278 Marines. He even went against his own policy by negotiating — disastrously — with terrorists during the Iran-Contra scandal. President George H. W. Bush also failed to retaliate after Pan Am flight 103 was bombed.

Then, President Bill Clinton was elected. If the United States’ fight against terrorism had been as organized and as effective as the right wing media’s fight to disparage the Clinton Administration’s record on terrorism, there never would have been a 9/11.

When Clinton took office, there were no organized or comprehensive counterterrorism policies. The threat had been underestimated by the previous two administrations and their lack of reprisals had emboldened both terrorists and the states that sponsored them.

Yet Clinton, with the help of staff members such as Clarke, identified terrorism as the primary post cold-war threat to our security. Far from being disengaged, the administration’s efforts resulted in

quelling Iranian attacks against American interests. And in 1993, in retaliation for the attempted assassination of the first President Bush, Clinton ordered a cruise missile attack that destroyed Iraqi intelligence headquarters and so unnerved Saddam that from that point forward he was not involved in even a single attack against America.

His administration also uncovered the al Qaeda terrorist organization and identified its leaders, including Osama bin Laden. They dispelled the firmly held belief that such organizations required state sponsorship, and uncovered funding from quasi-religious and charitable organizations.

The Clinton administration worked diligently against al Qaeda and was able to prevent them from dominating Bosnia during the crisis in the Balkans. Clinton also ordered the assassination of bin Laden, yet, despite GOP myths, was never provided with sufficiently conclusive intelligence to launch an attack. And there is as much veracity to claims that Clinton ignored offers by the Yemeni or Sudanese governments to turn over bin Laden, as there was to rumors that Hillary murdered Vince Foster.

What is true is that Clinton, through his own relentless reading, identified the potential for terrorists to use chemical, biological or even nuclear weapons. He initiated programs to increase stocks of medical supplies and vaccines as well as detection equipment for nuclear material. Though undermined by Republican opposition, Clinton supported programs to provide jobs for Soviet scientists so that they would not be lured away by terrorist groups or regimes seeking to acquire weapons of mass destruction. And the list goes on.

Was there more that Clinton could have done? Sure. But remember, he was hobbled by unrelenting Republican attacks. Every

military attack against terrorists abroad was undermined by accusations that they were politically motivated. And the military and intelligence communities were so risk adverse that they resisted any attack that utilized American personnel or assets.

In contrast, the Bush Administration was not working in a vacuum. There had already been numerous attacks against American interests. There was policy in place and plans for the future. The Bush staff was extensively briefed by the outgoing administration. And they were so impressed by Clarke that they asked him to stay on. But instead of picking up where the Clinton Administration left off, the Bush Administration dropped the ball.

At every level of the administration, counterterrorism was deprioritized. Treasury Secretary Paul O’Neill initially resisted eliminating barriers so that terrorist funds could be tracked in off shore banks. Attorney General Ashcroft denied FBI terrorism-funding requests. Rumsfeld and Wolfowitz only had eyes for Iraq, embracing the long discredited notion that al Qaeda was state sponsored. Bush and Cheney were more interested in cutting taxes for the rich and rewarding their corporate donors than heeding the mountain of intelligence that stated al Qaeda was planning something very, very big, or the Aug. 6 presidential brief titled “Bin Laden Determined to Strike In The U.S.,” that suggested airline hijackings.

Could Bush have prevented 9/11 from occurring? Who knows? But the better question is, has Bush done everything he can to prevent the next 9/11? And the answer is sadly, no.

Bush was reluctant to use boots on the ground in Afghanistan. As a result, bin Laden and other top al Qaeda leaders escaped. Now it is too late. Al Qaeda has spread and is no longer dependent on a central leadership. The war in Iraq has

diverted funds and resources needed to fight terrorism and the anti-American animosity it has fueled is a terrorist recruiter’s wet dream.

Homeland security also has been short-changed. A recent article in “The New Republic” reports that the Department of Homeland Security’s only success is in hiding pork. Tom Ridge does not have the power to effect any real change and many key positions in the department remain unfilled. And communication between intelligence organizations is worse now than it was pre-9/11.

The Bush tax cuts and the rising deficit have forced Bush to torpedo many bipartisan requests for desperately needed anti-terrorism funding. The ports and chemical plants remain highly vulnerable, and the FBI still does not have an adequate computer system. Bush has even failed to fund his own programs, such as increasing the number of first responders.

Certainly, the last four administrations all bear some responsibility. But in fairness, the Reagan and Bush 41 administrations were preoccupied by the cold war and unaware of the full extent of the danger represented by terrorism. Clinton identified that threat, made it his top priority and began to implement plans to combat it, even if he did not fully succeed.

But, out of the four, only the current Bush Administration came into office armed with full knowledge of the threat, an experienced counterterrorism staff, and existing and proposed policy to combat future attacks. Yet despite this, the president chose to turn his back on terrorism as he pursued his ideological goals. And for that reason, it is George W. Bush who will bear the greatest liability and blame.

(Ed Silverstein is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica. His intelligence failures may be reported to edsincites@aol.com).

OPINION



Blame game for 9/11: Start with person in your mirror



POLITI-GIRL

By Beth Solomon

"I'm fat."
"I'm lazy."
"I'm not that talented."

Such are some of the most powerful untruths we tell ourselves. Forget the ducks, we nibble ourselves to death.

Fasten your seatbelts for this transition, but it's a useful thing to remember as we watch the hearings of the 9/11 Commission, the effort to see what went wrong in our government to allow the biggest terrorist attack in U.S. history. Who did what, who didn't, how and why.

Blame will have to go somewhere — it always does. I had a job once where the operational priority was, "Don't let it stick to you."

But if you look across the ideological spectrum, past the pointed fingers, the name calling, the fog of memory that prevents everyone from establishing absolute truth, and the fiction that there is such a thing as accurate "history," what you'll find is, there's a lot of blame to go around, and we can all take some of it.

What?

The blame will land on some obvious doorsteps. While terrorists were training in U.S. flight schools, Attorney General John Ashcroft's FBI announced in March, 2001 that the No. 1 domestic terrorism threat was ... animal lovers?

"In recent years, the Animal Liberation Front — an extremist animal rights movement — has become one of the most active extremist elements in the United States," according to FBI Director Louis Freeh, testifying before Congress in May of 2001. "A distinct but related group, the Earth Liberation Front, claimed responsibility for the arson fires set at a Vail, Colo.,

ski resort in October, 1998 that destroyed eight separate structures ... in retaliation for the resort's planned expansion that would destroy the last remaining habitat in Colorado for the lynx." The FBI went on to announce that environmental extremists were part of a new movement called "special-interest terrorism" that could bring the country down.

They didn't include Enron, Halliburton or Exxon as threatening special interests back then. Oops — they still don't.

But there were other threats. Ashcroft was embarrassed by the sight of an exposed breast on the "Spirit of Justice" statue behind him at the Justice Department podium. He swiftly ordered a cover-up — of the breast, that is — at a cost to taxpayers of \$8,000.

And as recently as last year, Ashcroft's Justice Department targeted local environmentalists like Josh Connoles of Pomona, who is still under surveillance for the 2003 San Bernardino Hummer fires, even though the FBI has no shred of evidence against him. It doesn't seem to faze officials that when the FBI told Connoles the ELF claimed responsibility for the attacks, he thought they were talking about a Christmas movie.

So it's pretty obvious that intelligence and law enforcement services missed the boat on 9/11 in some pretty egregious ways, focusing on threats that seem laughable by comparison.

But were they? It's all a function of how you see the world, what you're afraid of, and what you do about it. The right side of our political spectrum is fearful of losing power to a ubiquitous "them" that doesn't understand "us" and won't take care of "us" if they get power.

That fear is real.

And fears that lead to damaging political actions don't belong solely to the right. What about Bill Clinton?

The general consensus seems to be that he was more involved than President Bush in addressing terrorism. As presi-

dent, Clinton had a voracious mind that couldn't sit still. He was consumed by the need to please people and to find intimacy with rafts of women, for instance.

How much of that hyperactivity led to distractions that put us at risk?

Why didn't the Clintons do more against Osama before he became a worldwide menace?

Now, going further. We Americans elect our leaders. But most of us feel powerless to affect the world. So we turn away. And leave the political process to others.

"The president is doing his best," people say.

"Washington is bought and paid for," runs another line.

"I don't read the paper — it's depressing!"

But every day, we wake up, we interact, we shape our reality, we affect the people around us.

We drive generously, or nastily.

We keep up with the news, or are igno-

rant of it.

We make the effort to participate actively, or spend our time shopping.

And we get the world we've created.

Facts are useful, but the walls of ignorance, fear and mistrust we build govern how we think, what we determine to be important, even what we consider to be "facts."

So where does the blame lie for 9/11?

I'd like to blame John Ashcroft, George Bush and Dick Cheney.

But if I look in the mirror, I know I'm the most important factor creating my reality. How could it be that they were elected on my watch? What did I do about it? And what should I do now?

The bad news is ... John Ashcroft is a product of all of us. The good news is ... the same.

(Beth Solomon is a Left Coast columnist losing her mind at bethsolomon@earthlink.net.)

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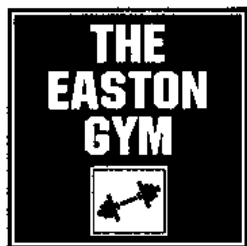
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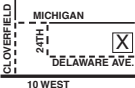
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ensure a lengthy reign**

SMRR, from page 1

ing to a press release.

Between 3,000 and 4,000 people belong to SMRR on any given year. Before each election, SMRR mails out to targeted groups up to eight "slate" mailers, which list its endorsements for the election. The cost of doing so is roughly \$70,000, making it prohibitive for most independent candidates to successfully campaign against SMRR-backed opponents.

"The first time I ran was for school board and ... I talked to people who were on the school board, and they said it was impossible to get elected, because it is a strong and powerful political machine in Santa Monica," said City Councilman Bob Holbrook, one of the two independent councilmen. "It's always been hard. You have to raise an awful lot of money to raise the money they have, because they have a professional fundraiser that works year round."

Opponents of SMRR have long worked to break the organization's stronghold on local politics, saying the progressive group doesn't respond to resident and business complaints about homelessness, traffic and City Hall bureaucracy, among other issues.

"It's true," Holbrook said on Tuesday. "I mean the fact that we have a homeless population in Santa Monica is directly attributable to the funding of social service agencies that provide support for those folks, and that's the bottom line. When you keep spending money on it, you keep attracting homeless people. The officers realize that there's no point in trying to move any of them along ... Because if the city supports it, why buck it?"

Holbrook said working with the SMRR-controlled council is frustrating because many of its members are micro-managers who don't trust City Hall staffers to see through any projects by themselves. Still, he said change is unlikely to happen soon.

"I'm a realist that (SMRR control) is not likely to be broken, because the public keeps returning them to power — and that's the bottom line," Holbrook said. "But I get pretty discouraged with people complaining to me all the time about things I can't change."

The local chamber of commerce last year formed a political action committee

to endorse a candidate for the upcoming November election, when four seats will be open. Three of the seats are occupied by SMRR politicians. Chamber officials are currently reviewing potential candidates and plan to hold a workshop for those interested in running.

"I'm a realist that (SMRR control) is not likely to be broken, because the public keeps returning them to power — and that's the bottom line."

— **BOB HOLBROOK**
City Councilman

Asked to respond to the chamber's concerns, specifically homelessness, which has been stressed as a key election-year issue, Zane said, "What do I say to such people? I think they're misguided and in some cases, heartless. The homeless problem is a problem national in scope. There are many, many cities with comparable homeless populations in California."

"The main causes of this problem are lack of affordable housing, lack of sufficient jobs, but also, of course, there were the problems of California giving up on its responsibility for the mentally ill," Zane added. "Santa Monica is one community of many that experiences these problems. And to say that SMRR is responsible for this problem is absurd."

Zane added SMRR is preparing for the election, adding it isn't the first year opponents have tried to capitalize on the local homeless situation.

"Certainly there are people who are sympathetic to their point of view and who want to blame SMRR for this problem," Zane said. "But Santa Monicans are an intelligent, thoughtful and sympathetic population, and they won't do any better with that argument than they have any time in the last 20 years."

More than massages going on

MADAM, from page 1

al men coming in and out of the apartment — day and night — while two or three women would show up on a daily basis, but leave at the end of the night.

The Web site, which advertised the location and services, included descriptions of offerings at the "massage" parlor. It includes escort services, sensual services and alternatives such as sadomasochism and fetishes. There also are headshots of the women and more revealing photos of them posing.

Louthain's bail was set at \$25,000. Chief Deputy City Attorney Betty Haviland said she is waiting for the case to be handed over by the SMPD.

Haviland expects to prosecute Louthain for keeping a house of ill fame and disorderly house. Two other women were cited for prostitution-related misdemeanors.

— *Carolyn Sackariason*

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LOCAL



CEPS puts its popularity to test this month

SCHOOL, from page 1

57,596 registered voters — to qualify its measure for the ballot, CEPS hopes to gather 11,000 signatures.

"To be honest, not every signature we have is a valid signature," Mechur said.

CEPS workers will launch a major signature gathering effort April 24. The group has set May 1 as an internal deadline to collect the signatures, which must be handed over to the City Clerk's Office for verification.

While CEPS members said the cutoff date is the first week of May, technically, they have more time. Assistant City Clerk Beth Sanchez on Tuesday said the school boosters actually have until July 20, which is 180 days from when the ballot request was formally recognized on Jan. 21. Once they get the signatures, the City Clerk's Office must draft a resolution and ask the county to place the item on the November ballot. Because doing that can be time-consuming, the City Clerk's Office has asked CEPS to turn in their signatures in May, if possible.

Davis declined to say how many paid signature gatherers there are or how much CEPS has paid a consultant hired for their campaign. There are about 200 volunteer signature gatherers, she said.

"Every school has worked hard to get volunteers and they've been working hard within their communities," Davis said.

The April 24 effort will include posting signature gatherers at high-traffic locations like supermarkets, as well as knocking on individual doors in residential neighborhoods throughout Santa Monica. Mechur said so far volunteers have gathered 90 percent of the required signatures, but added paid signature gatherers may be relied upon more heavily as the deadline approaches.

"I'm confident that we're going to get the signatures required to put this on the ballot."

— SHARI DAVIS
Co-chair, CEPS

Many city leaders — including several council members — have come out against the proposed measure, saying it's irresponsible to dedicate money without designating a revenue source. What's more, they claim amending the city's charter is too rigid a reaction to the funding crisis, one that will lead to cuts in other impor-

tant areas, as well as a reduced bond rating for the city.

CEPS supporters counter that taking \$6 million from City Hall's general fund — the equivalent of 4 percent — is a small investment for a key resource. The proposal also calls for "accelerating" that amount by one percentage point each year if the general fund grows by 3.5 percent. As a charter amendment, it would last indefinitely.

The school district had to close a \$13 million shortfall in state funding last year. It did so by cutting programs, laying off workers and receiving \$5.25 million from City Hall, \$2.25 million of which was in "one-time" funds which aren't guaranteed this year.

Meanwhile, City Hall leaders plan to meet April 28 with officials from the local school board and Santa Monica College to discuss options. In two previous meetings, they discussed possibly providing \$6 million to the schools, but not offering the accelerator.

Davis said CEPS was initially optimistic about the talks, but that the discussions hit a roadblock when officials didn't offer to include an accelerator similar to the one provided in the proposed charter amendment.

"At first, we were encouraged at some progress being made, but the last meeting was disappointing," Davis said. "We'll see what happens on the 28th."

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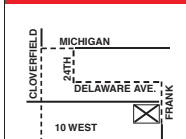
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DAYS ON THE MARKET

By Jodi Summers

We're very lucky here by the Pacific Ocean — the climate is perfect and we can leave the windows open all year around. Around the rest of the country, a body and a home have to weather through brutal winters or soaking rainy seasons. We've just got sunshine. The sun is 93 million miles away and its rays beam to earth at 186,000 miles a second. SoCal properties are blasted with sunshine virtually all day, every day. Constant exposure makes exterior surfaces bake and peel, while sun coming through windows makes fabrics fade.

As we move into the summer months, we'd like to share a few wise tips about the sun and your home. Advice is courtesy James Carey and Morris Carey, a.k.a. the Carey Bros., nationally recognized experts on home building and renovation.

GARDENS AND THE SUN

Smart landscaping can lower your utility bill. As the sun rises in the morning, it heats a home through east-facing windows. In the afternoon, the sun blazes through the west-facing windows. Cool your home with landscaping. To block early morning and late afternoon sun, place shrubs on east and west exposures. Late morning and early evening sun glare can be regulated with moderate-size trees. Large trees will shade the roof from those blistering mid-day rays. In the winter, sunshine is a good thing for a house — think deciduous trees.

ROOF CONSIDERATIONS

Metal roofs reflect more heat from intense sun, while asphalt shingles absorb heat and transfer it indoors. Metal roofs are a value as they may come with lifetime transferable warranties, meaning you (or future owners) will never have to re-roof. They're also fireproof, and may lead to lower homeowners' insurance.

When you replace your roof, think about color — it offers free heating and cooling. In sunny climates a light-colored roof reflects the heat of the sun, and can

reducing air conditioning costs by as much as 20 percent.

Finally, be sure that there is a thick layer of insulation in your attic to keep the heat from penetrating into your living area.

SOLAR ROOFING

Solar roof tiles also are photovoltaic collectors that convert sunlight into electricity. A normal "energy roof" uses 300 square feet and covers approximately a 17x17 area. In SoCal it can produce many thousands of kilowatts of clean energy a year, and get you a credit on your utility bill.

CAULK

The sun's ultraviolet rays lead the list reasons for caulk deterioration. When using an exterior caulk, be sure to select a product that offers UV protection. It will last longer and look better.

PAINT

How often should you paint the exterior of your home depends on a number of factors. What kind of siding? How's the micro-climate? Sun exposure? Did they use cheap paint? With proper preparation and quality paint, a home typically requires painting every five to seven years. Think of

paint as an investment and not a cost.

50 PERCENT SOLUTION

Because the north side of a home's roof side gets less direct sun, it can outlast the south side of the roof. Same goes for the paint — the paint job on the north side of your home may look perkier longer. If finances are an issue, repairing half your property may be an option worth considering.

AWNINGS

Awnings are a great way to reduce heat. Shaded windows, walls and patios block 60 percent of heat and almost all damaging sunlight. Cooling bills will be lower and inside fabrics will last longer. Curtains are cute, but exterior shades prevent the heat from entering the property.

Check with your local utility company for rebates and other incentives for energy-efficient improvements to your property.

(James Carey and Morris Carey, known as the Carey Bros., share their 50-plus years of experience as licensed contractors at www.onthehouse.com.)

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

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04/06/2004	Lot Size: 5,140	Sold Price: \$1,051,000	Bath: 2	04/08/2004	HOD: \$250	Sold Price: \$548,000	Bath: 2	04/08/2004	HOD: \$610	Sold Price: \$899,000 Pool Bath: 2	
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04/09/2004	Lot Size: 18,910	Sold Price: \$2,025,000	Bath: 3.5	04/09/2004	HOD: \$238	Sold Price: \$540,500	Bath: 1.5	04/08/2004	HOD: \$375	Sold Price: \$1,175,000 Pool Bath: 2.5	
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Sold Date	SqFt: N/A	List Price: \$2,750,000	Bed: 4	Sold Date	SqFt: N/A	List Price: \$608,000	Bed: 2	Sold Date	SqFt: 1,622	List Price: \$1,395,000	Bed: 2
04/08/2004	Lot Size: 7,500	Sold Price: \$2,925,000	Bath: 3.5	04/08/2004	HOD: \$350	Sold Price: \$670,000	Bath: 2	04/09/2004	HOD: \$550	Sold Price: \$1,350,000 Pool Bath: 2	
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Sold Date	SqFt: N/A	List Price: \$6,395,000	Bed: 5	Sold Date	SqFt: 0	List Price: \$687,000	Bed: 2	Sold Date	SqFt: 0	List Price: \$999,000	#Units: 3
04/07/2004	Lot Size: 0	Sold Price: \$5,800,000 Pool Bath: 5.5		04/08/2004	HOD: \$660	Sold Price: \$670,000 Pool Bath: 2		04/09/2004	Lot Size: 2,496	Sold Price: \$1,020,000 GRM: 16.67	
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04/06/2004	HOD: \$200	Sold Price: \$410,000	Bath: 1	04/06/2004	HOD: \$200	Sold Price: \$730,000	Bath: 2.5	04/06/2004	Lot Size: 7,497	Sold Price: \$1,715,000 GRM: 0.00	
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REAL ESTATE



Proposition 13 is a much-needed stabilizer for economy



IN YOUR SPACE

By Christina S. Porter

With the scramble to find money to offset California's tremendous budget crisis and the 25-year anniversary of the approval of Proposition 13, the tax restrictions imposed by it are in the spotlight once again.

In this volatile economic climate, it seems that the tax restrictions mandated by Prop. 13 are at least partially responsible for the relative stability and predictability found in the residential and commercial real estate

markets. The need for that stability and predictability are clearly a dynamic factor in investors' voracious, sometimes even unreasonable, appetite for real estate.

It's clear by all accounts that the business climate in California is considered to be "hostile" and is continuing to get worse (worker's comp, etc.). Leaving the amount of what property taxes will be up to the uncertainty of not only the real estate market but also economic conditions in general would be counter-productive. As any investor knows when evaluating the return on an investment, there is a good amount of speculation involved and the bottom line is that you cannot predict what your final return will be until you actually liquidate that asset. Property taxes, along with fixed rate loans, seem to be the only constants in

the equations formulated for investing. The impact of Prop. 13 may be just the ingredient to counterbalance at least a portion of the perceived hostility in the California business climate. It has been said that total property tax revenues to local governments in the state have increased at a rate exceeding inflation and virtually all other economic indicators.

When considering an investment in either residential or commercial real estate, one certainty is that your property taxes will not be any more than 1 percent of the purchase price and they cannot be increased more than 2 percent annually. In a world of capricious economic conditions, Prop. 13 is

a breath of fresh air.

The way people invest or don't invest their money is ultimately a barometer of the economic/emotional health of our society. It's clear to me that stability is very attractive in our fast moving, unpredictable world. The predictability inherent in Prop. 13 creates a much-needed stabilizer for our economy, while at the same time producing an increasing flow of tax dollars.

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



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1821 Wilshire Blvd	Office	4/5/2004	1,270	\$2.95/fs
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STATE

CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

District schools deserve demerits

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Five schools targeted for inspection by a joint city and school district team were hit with more than 130 safety and building violations — even though the campuses got a two-week warning that the inspectors were coming.

Violations included pest infestation, leaky roofs and exposed electrical boxes. Health risks included fleas, stray cats and no soap in bathrooms, and some schools had peeling paint that could expose students to lead, officials said.

Still, it was the cooperation of the inspection process itself — a joint effort by city inspectors and the Los Angeles Unified School District — that earned the praise of City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo. The first phase of the program involved the five schools.

“Although the inspection results show that we still have a lot of work to do to improve the conditions of our campuses, I think the school district is clearly moving in the right direction,” said Delgadillo, who championed city inspections of schools and eventually overcame school district resistance.

The joint inspections were announced in January after Delgadillo’s office got complaints about dirty school bathrooms.

In the first phase of the program, the city and the school district conducted joint and independent inspections of five campuses: Millikan Middle School in Sherman Oaks, Cabrillo Elementary in San Pedro and Eagle Rock High, Webster Middle and Manchester Elementary, all in Los Angeles.

Schools were given a month to fix the problems. Administrators at some of the schools said the city’s inspections were tougher than those conducted by school district.

Paper trail: Kinko's closing shop in California

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — The 430 corporate employees of Kinko’s Inc. in Ventura County are losing their jobs or being transferred to the new Dallas headquarters.

The surprise consolidation announcement this week firmly transplants the company to Texas.

About 330 finance and technology workers in Ventura and Oxnard will be laid off between June and May 31, 2005, the company said. Those remaining will be offered transfers to Kinko’s headquarters in Dallas, where the company moved in 2002.

Ventura has been the corporate home of Kinko’s since 1988. The company was acquired in February for \$2.4 billion by the FedEx Corp.

The company’s 1,200 copy shops, including five in Ventura County, will not be affected.

Kinko’s spokeswoman Maggie Thill said an examination of operating efficiency, management costs and redundancy “very recently determined that consolidating to a central location would better align our resources and infrastructure.”

The eyes have it at Ontario Airport

By The Associated Press

ONTARIO — A \$3.8 million closed-circuit security television system has been installed at Ontario International Airport.

“Any time you have more eyes, you have more security,” airport police Chief Alan G. Hyde said. “It’s a significant enhancement to the existing security structure at the airport.”

The system, which was planned years before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, allows police to watch people throughout the terminal area. If someone is suspected of not going through screening, an officer can stop him without evacuating the entire terminal.

The cameras also give dispatchers a view of areas they could not previously watch, Hyde said.

The airport will also begin a fencing project in November. The \$10.1 million perimeter security enhancement project includes lengthening the fence around the airfield, increasing three strands of barbed wire to six strands and building a concrete base to prevent vehicles from driving through. It will also increase lighting in the airfield and place cameras on some of the fence lines.

The airport announced Monday that for the first time since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, passenger volume is on the rise. Airport officials said it was due in part to a new ad campaign touting alternatives to Los Angeles International Airport.

The airport showed a 6 percent increase — or nearly 30,000 more passengers — in February over the same month last year.

Mayor keeping more kids after school

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Mayor James K. Hahn is expanding the city’s after-school program.

During a news conference this week at 92nd Avenue Elementary School, Hahn said the city would provide \$1 million this year for the L.A.’s BEST program, expanding it by 500 students to 19,500 each day.

“I believe there is no better way to improve the safety of our neighborhoods over the long term than to give our children positive opportunities after school,” Hahn said. “In the midst of tough budget decisions, I am committed to acting creatively to do more with fewer resources.”

The L.A.’s BEST program operates at 117 elementary schools. Hahn has said he hopes to expand it to schools citywide.

The program was started by former Mayor Tom Bradley as a way to keep young people off the streets after class and to provide tutoring.

NATIONAL



There's gold in that there manure, or at least oil

BY JIM PAUL
Associated Press Writer

URBANA, Ill. — A University of Illinois research team is working on turning pig manure into a form of crude oil that could be refined to heat homes or generate electricity.

Years of research and fine-tuning are ahead before the idea could be commercially viable, but results so far indicate there might be big benefits for farmers and consumers, lead researcher Yanhui Zhang said.

"This is making more sense in terms of alternative energy or renewable energy and strategically for reducing our dependency on foreign oil," said Zhang, an associate professor of agricultural and biological engineering. "Definitely, there is potential in the long term."

The thermochemical conversion process uses intense heat and pressure to break down the molecular structure of manure into oil. It's much like the natural process that turns organic matter into oil over centuries, but in the laboratory the process can take as little as a half-hour.

A similar process is being used at a plant in Carthage, Mo., where tons of turkey entrails, feathers, fat and grease from a nearby Butterball turkey plant are converted into a light crude oil, said Julie DeYoung, a spokeswoman for Omaha, Neb.-based Conagra Foods, which operates the plant in a joint venture with Changing World Technologies of Long Island, N.Y.

Converting manure is sure to catch the attention of swine producers. Safe containment of livestock waste is costly for farmers, especially at large confinement operations where thousands of tons of manure are produced each year. Also, odors produced by swine farms have made them a nuisance to neighbors.

"If this ultimately becomes one of the silver bullets to help the industry, I'm absolutely in favor of it," said Jim Kaitschuk, executive director of the Illinois Pork Producers Association.

Zhang and his research team have found that converting manure into crude oil is possible in small batches, but much more research is needed to develop a continuously operating reaction chamber that could handle large amounts of manure. That is

key to making the process practicable and economically viable.

Zhang predicted that one day a reactor the size

of a home furnace could process the manure generated by 2,000 hogs at a cost of about \$10 per barrel.

Big oil refineries are

unlikely to purchase crude oil made from converted manure, Zhang said, because they aren't set up to refine it. But the oil

could be used to fuel smaller electric or heating plants, or to make plastics, ink or asphalt, he said.

"Crude oil is our first

raw material," he said. "If we can make it value-added, suddenly the whole economic picture becomes brighter."



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Marie Callender's
11324 National Blvd.
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Wednesday, April 21
9:00 a.m.
Carrows
3040 Ocean Park Blvd.
Santa Monica

Wednesday, April 21
3:00 p.m.
Coco's
8731 Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles

Thursday, April 22
10:00 a.m.
Grinder's
8521 S. Sepulveda Blvd.
Los Angeles

Thursday, April 22
2:30 p.m.
Sizzler
5801 Sepulveda Blvd.
Culver City

Tuesday, April 27
2:30 p.m.
Marie Callender's
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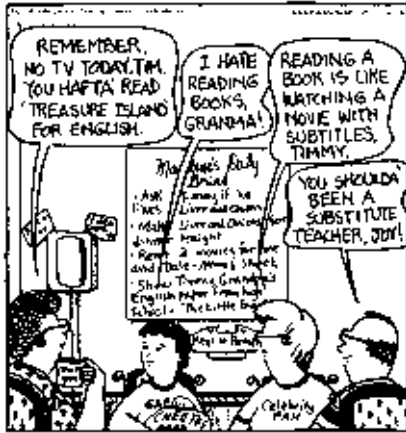
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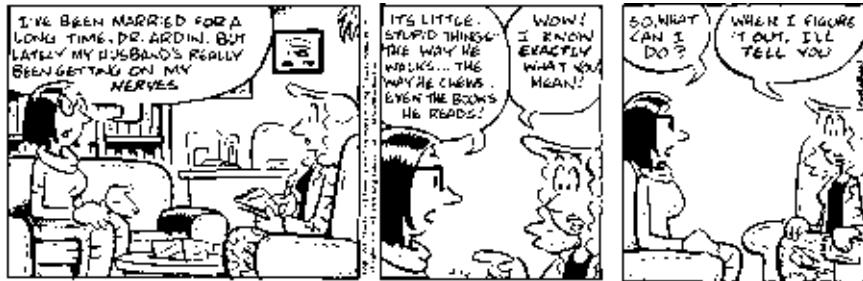
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 - 18 Superlative suffix
 - 19 Train stop
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 - 29 Moving day sight
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 - 33 Spanish river
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 - 36 Swindles
 - 37 Refers to
 - 38 Make scaloppini
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 - 41 Budget item
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 - 2 Brings back
 - 3 Ready for deployment
 - 4 Judicious
 - 5 Tolkien tree herder
 - 6 Moxie
 - 7 Ease up
 - 8 Window sections
 - 9 Derisive sound
 - 11 Fuming
 - 15 Storage site
 - 17 Restaurant card
 - 20 Stein's kin
 - 21 Island souvenir
 - 24 On the way
 - 25 Swooned
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 - 28 Dweebs
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PDR DELUXE Security Complex 2car parking, multiple amenities 1699/mo, 6/month lease, 310-628-2416

PDR SPACIOUS 2+1, lovely hilltop residential area, lots of closets, r/s, no pets \$1395/mo 310-822-3144

SANTA MONICA \$1100/mo 1bd, 1ba. Bright, light upper front apt. 1428 11th St.#5 Stove, laundry, parking, 310-394-4837

SANTA MONICA \$2400 Walk to beach, great apt. to share, Spacious, 3bd/2ba, hardwood floors, new appliances, 7-unit building, 310-399-1273

SANTA MONICA 2+2, 833 5th St.#201, Stove, d/w, carpet, pool, laundry, intercom entry, gated, tandem parking. No pets. \$2400/mo 310-393-2547

SANTA MONICA 2bd 1ba, \$1450/mo Brand new hardwood floors, ceramic tile in kitchen & bathroom, small pets negotiable 2212 Ocean Park Blvd. 310-776-0571

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SANTA MONICA, lower, r/s, gated, patio, crpt, laundry, m to m, util. incld, \$800 www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA, new crpt, laundry, near SMC, fourplex, just painted, quiet, \$1275 www.westsiderentals.com

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SANTA MONICA, shrd apt, pvt rm, r/s, dishwasher, balcony, laundry, prkng, \$550 www.westsiderentals.com

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Announcements

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP meeting. Last Wednesday of the month; at Sunrise Assisted Living, Pacific Palisades call (310)573-9545/Linda.

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Obituaries

WE HAVE learned that
Leon Hyatt, a long time
businessman of the Santa
Monica West Side Area
passed away, Monday April
5th from an un-named, un-
known lung disease. Leon
Hyatt opened the Arsenal
Restaurant & Lounge in
1960. He added a success-
ful Sports Bar in January
2000, just months before re-
tiring to the San Fernando
Valley. Mr. Hyatt was a vet-
eran of WW II in the Asiatic-
Pacific Theatre, where he
served in the Army
Occupation of Japan. Leon
is survived by his wife
Ginny, and daughters,
Katrina Roberts, Cynthia
Roberts, and Mona Bradley,
as well as eight grand-
children.

Pay tribute to a loved one.



The Santa Monica Daily Press Obituaries.

Call Mitch or Kitty for details. 310.458.7737

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