

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

34 38 42 43 45
Meganumber: 19
Jackpot: \$16 Million

FANTASY 5

9 20 22 27 33

DAILY 3

Daytime: 3 7 3
Evening: 6 4 0

DAILY DERBY

1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 06 Whirl Win

RACE TIME: 1:45.67

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Vivienne, an interactive companion accessible on powerful, "third-generation" cell phones, was recently introduced by the Hong Kong company Artificial Life as a high-maintenance, video-image "girlfriend" who goes on dates with you, kisses, speaks six languages, converses on 35,000 topics, accepts flowers and diamonds, and may even marry you (though you also acquire a troublesome mother-in-law). Vivienne so far is prudish (no nudity, no sex), owing to Artificial Life's aim at marketing in modest cultures, but she will appear in Europe and some U.S. cities by the end of this year (at about \$6 a month plus airtime). Said one Hong Kong video game player, characterizing Vivienne for the New York Times, "It's a little bit for the losers."

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 105th day of 2005.
There are 260 days left in the year.

In the early hours of April 15, 1912, the British luxury liner Titanic sank in the North Atlantic off Newfoundland, less than three hours after striking an iceberg. About 1,500 people died.
In 1989, 95 people died in a crush of soccer fans at Hillsborough Stadium in Sheffield, England.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Why does a slight tax increase cost you two hundred dollars and a substantial tax cut saves you thirty cents?

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Fabian Lewkowicz/Special to the Daily Press

Manuel Barraza, who works as a security officer for UCLA, on Thursday yells as he pickets in front of Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center.

Protest in 'bad faith,' say UC officials

By Daily Press staff

Thousands of University of California workers walked picket lines on campuses and at medical centers on Thursday, a move university officials say is illegal.

The Local 3299 chapter of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), which represents workers at UC, has been in a deadlock with the university system over salaries, workload and educational opportunities since negotiations for a new contract began last year.

In protest, 7,300 workers participated in a one-day strike at UC institutions throughout the state, with about two dozen showing up

to the Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center.

The strike had no effect on operations and procedures at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center. Many AFSCME employees crossed the picket line and reported to work as scheduled, said spokesman Ted Braun. Contingency plans helped ensure that there was no disruption in services to patients and visitors, he added.

University officials said because AFSCME called the strike before the statutorily mandated impasse process was completed, they believe the strike is not only unlawful and unprotected under the Higher Education

Employer-Employee Relations Act (HEERA), but also demonstrates bad-faith bargaining by the union.

Numerous rulings by the state Public Employment Relations Board hold that any strike in advance of the completion of the full bargaining process, including impasse proceedings and the parties taking time to explore and consider all settlement options following impasse, is presumptively illegal, according to university officials.

Workers say it's the university system that refuses to bargain in

See PROTEST, page 5

Locals want more parking attached to expansion

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — An \$80 million bus-barn expansion will move forward despite attempts by nearby property owners to open it up for public parking.

The City Council voted 6 to 1 on Tuesday to deny an appeal by

developer Craig Jones to modify already-approved plans to expand the Big Blue Bus facility on the 600 block of Colorado Avenue. However, councilmembers said they would reconsider adding public parking in the area if they find it feasible.

Residents and business owners argued for more public parking, a

more pedestrian-friendly street and a design that would deter homeless individuals who already dominate the area.

The facility expansion plan — conceptually approved by the City Council in February of 2001 and funded 65 percent by the state and

See PARKING, page 5

Officers search for bank robber

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

MAIN STREET — First Federal Bank was robbed at gunpoint Thursday morning by a man wearing black pantyhose over his head. He got away with an undisclosed amount of money.

At about 10:45 a.m., a black man entered the bank at 2827 Main St. carrying a brown paper bag. He approached a bank teller, pointed a gun at her and demanded money.

"He said, 'Give me the money. Give me all of your money, everything, in the bottom drawer and in the top drawer,'" said FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller.

The suspect then moved on to two more tellers and demanded money. He exited the bank, turned left onto Ashland Avenue and disappeared. Police say a teller placed a dye pack into the bag along with the money.

Witness accounts vary on what the suspect looks like. Some describe him as between 5 feet, 5 inches and 5 feet, 10 inches tall. Others told authorities he is between 6 feet, 5 inches and 6 feet, 7 inches tall. Some witnesses describe the suspect as being between 25 and 30 years old, while others say he's between 35 and 40. He has a medium build, weighs between 160 and 180 pounds, and was wearing a yellow and black baseball hat, a white T-shirt and blue denim shorts, Eimiller said.

Santa Monica Police detectives are working with the FBI on the case.

Anyone with information regarding the robbery can call the SMPD's robbery-homicide unit at (310) 458-8451. Callers who wish to remain anonymous can call the We-Tip national hotline at (800) 78-CRIME (27463). Callers with information that leads to an arrest and conviction become eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000.

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How to Secure Super-Low Downpayment Home Loans When You Buy A Home

WESTSIDE - A new report has just been released which identifies a foolproof 3-point plan which any homebuyer can use to secure the best financing rates when they buy a home.

When you're looking to buy a home, the first thing most homebuyers do is start the process of househunting. However, experience proves that this is one of the last steps you should be taking if you want to get the most home for the least amount of money. In fact, shopping for the best financing should start long before you start shopping for a home.

The experience of thousands of area homebuyers has been summarized in a new report entitled "Best Financing: A 3-Point Plan" This report out-

lines 3 critical steps you must take to obtain the absolute best financing rates when you buy a home. It tell you where you should go, what questions you should ask, and how to manage the process to your personal advantage.

To read a brief message about how to order your free copy of this report, visit www.westsidehomesource.com. Visit this site now to learn how to obtain the best financing rats when you buy your next home.

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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)**
★★★★ Mellow out, and you'll see new ways of making money. You have an unusual gift or quality that could be converted into an asset. Don't wait. Your unusual desirability helps with everyone. Tonight: Happy at home.
- TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
★★★★★ Venus enters your sign today, adding to your potential and allure. Recognize that this planet is pushing you one step closer to a long-term desire. Your conversations even start taking on a new quality. Tonight: As you like it.
- GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
★★★ You might become a bit more sen- than you have been in recent months. People you meet might seem as wholesome as apple pie, but below the surface lies much more than is apparent. You cannot be too careful. Tonight: Curb a desire to make a big splash.
- CANCER (June 21-July 22)**
★★★★★ You might be chomping at the bit, as you see what you want right ahead. You will get there if you use self-discipline and patience. Time is your ally today. Use it like a cat about to pounce on its prey. Tonight: Could you be overly serious?
- LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
★★★ You are a bit of a wild thing, whether you realize it or not. Just the same, you are giving off a very calming and alluring aura. Others might be surprised at just how much lies beyond the obvious. Schedule some quiet time. Tonight: Curl up with a good book.
- VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**
★★★★ You might not be aware of just how close you are to a very special encounter or happening. Sometimes you become far too serious-minded. Could today be one of those days? Learn when to be less controlling and more trust- ing. Tonight: Where the action is.

- LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
★★★ Listen, and you will gain. An asso- ciate or special person in your life shares some important information. If you are too busy, you might miss it. Listen to what is being shared. Tonight: Out late, whether you like it or not.
- SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
★★★★ You have a way of making waves, which emerges often. Someone might be trying to soften the results. For now, observe more and do less. You might be delighted by the end result. Difficulty surrounds a trip or receiving key infor- mation. Tonight: Emphasize the plusses.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
★★★★ Shove what you can't handle from your plate onto someone else's. Actually, this person might enjoy the responsibility and sense of accomplishment he or she gains. What makes your life easier turns out to be another's pleasure. How perfect! Tonight: Intensely concen- trate on what you deem urgent.
- CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
★★★ Knowing when to let go of an issue could be very important. Listen more often to the other side or point of view. With your skill of inter- relating facts, you come up with an unusual sug- gestion. Tonight: Say "yes."
- AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
★★★ All work and no play might not be what you would like to do. Sometimes you go too far, especially in accepting responsibilities. Know when to say "no." You gain unusual pleasure through your personal life. Tonight: Know when to say "enough."
- PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
★★★★★ You might be delivering bad news, but someone might not realize the essence of your message until later. A stern approach proves to be appropriate with a child or with your indulgences. Tonight: Visit with a pal.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Elks hold installation/inaugural ball

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Elks held their Installation of Officers/Inaugural Ball last Saturday night.

Doug Randall became the Junior Past Exalted Ruler. Ray Beers was installed as Exalted Ruler; Betty Beers became the “First Lady;” Mona Young Lopez was installed as Leading Knight.

Special Olympians diving in at LMU

By Daily Press staff

Special Olympians are gearing up for an aquatic challenge. On Saturday, April 16, Westside Special Olympics and Loyola Marymount University will hold their annual Special Olympics Aquatics meet.

More than 125 athletes from Antelope Valley, San Gabriel Valley, Tri-Valley, Long Beach, the Westside and greater Los Angeles will participate.

Westside Special Olympics (WSO) is a community-based, nonprofit organization supported by the city of Santa Monica and private donations. As a branch of Special Olympics Southern California and an accredited chapter of the International Special Olympics organization, WSO promotes and implements year-round athletic training and competitions for children and adults with mental retardation.

The Special Olympics Aquatics meet will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at LMU’s outdoor pool in Westchester.

The public is invited to come out and cheer for athletes.

For information call (310) 458-2201, ext. 2020

A gift to keep Westside Waldorf School giving

By Daily Press staff

The Westside Waldorf School just received a gift that will help the school continue to grow and give education to Los Angeles’ kids.

The Ronald and Catherine Gershman Foundation gave \$650,000 to the school.

“This is the largest gift the school has ever received,” said Jeffrey Graham, the school’s administrator and director. “It is a substantial amount that we will apply to our future growth to help to ensure that we become — for the long term — an important leader among private pre-school and primary schools in Los Angeles. All nonprofits rely on gifts such as these. The Gershmans will enable us to carry forward our mission.”

Waldorf education consists of an integrated and art-based curriculum that addresses a variety of learning styles: logical, linguistic, spatial, kinesthetic, musical, interpersonal and intrapersonal. The school strives to have subjects play off one another: math by music, language by handwork, science by drawing, to name a few. The school is part of the largest non-sectarian independent school movements in the world, with 200 such schools in North America and more than 1,000 throughout the world.

Founded in 1988, the Westside Waldorf School offers classes for parents and toddlers, all the way through the seventh grade, as well as summer camps and after-school enrichment programs open to all.

The Westside Waldorf School has two campuses, one at 1229 Fourth St. with an auxiliary nursery on Fifth Street, and the Waldorf Early Childhood School at 1441 15th St.

For information call (310) 576-0788 or visit the school on Fourth Street.

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SURF REPORT

Friday the NW wind swell is expected to increase size around west-facing breaks into the chest-high+ range. Saturday the NW wind swell is expected to back down toward waist to chest as the SW ground swell increases toward waist to chest as well.

**Today the
water is:**

57°

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	4:23	-0.5	4:09	0.7	10:32	4.7	10:22	6.0
SUNDAY	5:05	-0.5	4:36	1.3	11:18	4.2	10:50	5.9
MONDAY	5:49	-0.4	5:00	1.9	12:09	3.6	11:19	5.6
TUESDAY	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
WEDNESDAY	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
THURSDAY	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
FRIDAY	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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The  Line

It appears that all is quiet this week here in this city by the sea. So, this week, the Q-Line question is: “What’s on your mind? What is the biggest issue facing Santa Monica and how should it be handled?”

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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OPINION



I BELIEVE IN THE LIFE AND THE WORLD TO COME...

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dogs will run rampant around here

Editor:

If the city of Santa Monica caves in and opens up one of its large pristine beach areas to be trashed out with enormous deposits of mostly unrecoverable feces and urine by irresponsible dog owners, who will be running their loud barking, annoying animals at all hours of the day and night? What, if anything, will prevent all of the owners of the animal shelters, doggy-daycare facilities and animal hospitals that abound in Westwood and elsewhere from bringing to it hundreds of out-of-the-area animals to add to the chaos to be created? How does anyone tell if an owner bringing a dog there to relieve itself is from Santa Monica, or Malibu, Venice, Culver City, Brentwood, Hollywood, or even from Los Angeles? I guess there will be a whole lot of people joining in on devastating the beach environment around here. And, it would seem fair that all these folks should have their own local areas to trash out.

Don Johnson
Venice

You have to earn a roof over your head

Editor:

Regarding Penny Elsberry's letter (SMDP, April 12, page 4). After reading this remarkable view on how the city should build homeless housing instead of a park on the former Fisher Lumber site, I can only surmise that Penny herself is homeless.

When someone can't afford something, Penny, they shouldn't buy it. When someone doesn't have a job, money or any desire for either, they shouldn't look to live in one of the most expensive areas in the country. Unless of course if the city is going to start awarding free housing. If that's the case, then we should all quit working and start lining up. Heck, I'll even sell my car. I'll go to the beach every day.

I'll ride my bike ... Oh wait, it's my tax money that's paying for this housing, and without that money there is no free housing. So wait, I'm confused, why do they get free housing and I have to work and pay taxes? How about the people who work the low-paying fast food jobs and retail jobs? I'm willing to bet they have a hard time making ends meet each month. Do they get free housing? How about all the housekeepers, city workers and gardeners who commute here? They actually contribute to this community, do they get free housing?

This goes for everyone. Please think about what you are saying when you push the city for housing for the homeless. Where do you draw the line? How about we keep the well-being of our tax-paying citizens in mind first.

I will now go to Beverly Hills and sit on a park bench until the city gives me a house.

Peter Shopay
Santa Monica

City alienates its architectural assets



OUR TOWN
BY TED WINTERER

Can anyone name me one public edifice that's been built in Santa Monica in recent years that qualifies as truly great architecture?

The sheds crafted by Daly, Genik at Los Amigos Park are going to look pretty darn smart. But they're just sheds. And perhaps the new Public Safety Building has some aesthetic value. To my eye it evokes the early ironclad battleship Monitor that fought to a standstill with the Merrimack in the 1860s, so perhaps it will help educate students across the street at Samohi about the Civil War.

But otherwise our new public buildings are at best cautious and tame, at a time when nearby Los Angeles has benefited from bold and innovative works by Thom Mayne, Frank Gehry and Rafael Moneo.

These new structures in downtown LA enliven the urban landscape with their provocative design. They also draw throngs of tourists who stimulate the local economy and thus increase municipal revenues. Perhaps that'll get the attention of city officials: good architecture = good business.

Likewise, new private architecture in our town is often equally insipid because the layers of well-intended constraints in our zoning ordinance and public review process are so onerous that the architects in the greatest demand can afford to choose commissions in cities that aren't so creatively stifling. Those that continue to work their trade here despite the obstacles must battle to keep their visions intact.

In fact, City Hall's knack for repressing individual architectural expression is such that Messrs. Gehry and Mayne, both Santa Monica residents and both widely acknowledged as being at the peak of their profession, won't design projects within our borders. And can you blame them? Imagine whisking Rembrandt through time to paint a portrait for you. But there's a catch: He can only use three colors and cardboard as his canvas and must first get his sketches approved by a panel of lesser-known artists. I think his response would be an unprintable Dutch obscenity.

Concerned about the future of architecture in our burg, I placed a call to the Santa Monica offices of Thom Mayne, recently the winner of the Pritzker Prize, often described as the Nobel Prize of architecture. Fortunately I had better for-

tune than the last time I rang up Nelson Mandela, as Mayne immediately took my call.

Mayne moved to Ocean Park years ago because of his attraction to Santa Monica's diverse community and liberal values, yet has been dismayed to find a completely different perspective towards architecture, one that is not at all progressive. Mayne believes the "provincial attitudes" of city officials assure they "get the worst out of good architects" and told me he'd had "nothing but...extremely negative experiences with the city." When he and his firm Morphosis designed an innovative, green building to replace the fire station at Hollister and Second, City Hall "treated us incredibly horribly" and eventually replaced his scheme with the prosaic building that exists there today. And when he designed a new home for himself in Ocean Park, he was told the plans would never get approved by our Architectural Review Board.

Mayne further attests that his history with City Hall is not an anomaly. He believes "there are a lot of really interesting architects," a younger generation in their 30s and 40s, living and working in Santa Monica, but "everyone would tell you that it's a horror story to work here."

So what's Mayne going to do? He's looking to move out of Santa Monica, to a place where he can build his own home without his vision being adulterated or rejected. Word has it Frank Gehry has plans for a new home in Venice and also will be leaving our town.

So two of our greatest living architects are leaving Santa Monica because they rightly fear they wouldn't be allowed to fully express themselves in the creation of their own homes? To me, the exodus of these intellectual and artistic resources is a crisis far greater than the loss of restaurants at the Promenade or camping in freeway underpasses, yet city officials seem completely oblivious to the issue.

Instead, when Mayne's Pritzker Prize was brought up at a recent City Council meeting, one of our elected officials went so far as to praise our city for cultivating world-class architects. I suggest our Council members would serve our town well if they also rang up Mayne and other architects and asked if city policies really foster their best work.

(In my next column, which runs two weeks from today, I'll offer some immodest proposals for ways to promote great architecture in Santa Monica. Ted Winterer is married to an architect and thus knows they need to be nurtured, respected and loved. He can be reached at ourtownsmdp@aol.com.)

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Santa Monica Daily Press

LOCAL



City staff to evaluate parking situation

PARKING, from page 1

35 percent by city transit funds — was appealed by Jones, and other nearby residents and business owners.

Opponents believe the first level of the facility's underground parking garage should be open to the public because downtown Santa Monica faces a shortage of parking and the project is funded by taxpayer money. They also argued that Colorado Avenue and Seventh Street need to appeal more to pedestrians.

"It seems like there are a lot of wasted resources to keep this parking structure vacant at night when parking is such a problem in the city," said Robert Kerr, owner of Fritto Misto Italian restaurant on Colorado Avenue, across the street from the proposed expansion site. "We want to maintain a residential neighborhood that is pedestrian oriented, not having to face a big, blank monolithic wall."

The City Council decided to hold off on additional public parking until city staff determine how much it would cost and how long it would take.

The expansion will include a 76,000-square-foot, three-story administrative building at 612 Colorado Ave. with three levels of parking underground that would accommodate 353 parking spaces. The facility also would include a 63,000-square-foot, two-story vehicle maintenance building along Seventh Street between Colorado Avenue and Olympic Boulevard.

Also part of the plan is a 10,000-square-foot, two-story facility to house

the Ocean Park Community Center and SWASHLOCK operation that would provide daytime services to the homeless population. OPCC already operates a daytime drop-in facility at the corner of Seventh Street and Colorado Avenue.

Kerr said he regularly supports the homeless through food and coffee from his restaurant, but some aspects of the expansion would increase homeless activity in his neighborhood, an issue he said is not being addressed by City Hall.

"I'm a businessman who employs 50 people in Santa Monica," Kerr said. "I also try to be a fair man. I understand the needs of the homeless, and I support those needs. But my neighborhood has a disproportionate number of homeless."

Jones said it would be a shame if an \$80 million public project couldn't have additional parking with minimal cost because the project was being driven too much by bureaucracy, and not logic.

City Councilman Bobby Shriver was the only dissenting vote for that same reason.

Mayor Pam O'Connor said the Big Blue Bus facility expansion plan was intended to have a public benefit, and added it's important that the site meets the strictest government guidelines to ensure future funding and maximum security.

"This is a site which provides a benefit to the public," O'Connor said. "This is not a commercial project. This is a maintenance and storage facility for fueling and securing vehicles."

"It's not designed to be opened up to the public."

Other UC unions sympathetic to issues of service workers

PROTEST, from page 1

good faith. Wage disputes are at the center of negotiations, as the union wants UC to institute salaries they find comparable to those received by other area workers.

Both sides have met more than two dozen times over the past six months to no avail. No settlement was reached when negotiations with a state mediator were held April 4-5. Under the state's bargaining law for higher education, the parties were required to resume negotiations and use those recommendations in an effort to reach an agreement.

UC officials say the figure the union is requesting is well beyond anything the universities could actually pay. AFSCME wants about two times what the system actually has, according to UC officials.

They added that the union's demand for salary increases are financially unrealistic. University officials say they can't give the workers increased wages without funding from the state.

The university has offered raises for service workers predicated upon the bud-

get compact with the governor, which provides increased salary funding over the next several years.

AFSCME is demanding guaranteed across-the-board increases every six months over a three-year period and a 20 percent salary increase over the next three years.

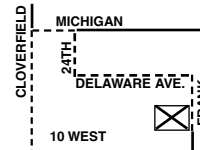
UC service workers are mostly immigrant and minority employees who serve food, clean buildings and grounds, drive buses and provide other essential services. They voted by a 92 percent margin in mid March to strike.

AFSCME Local 3299 has filed unfair labor practice charges with state regulators against UC to end the perceived bad-faith bargaining. UC officials say the bargaining record shows that the university has bargained fairly and in good faith throughout the negotiations.

Because other UC unions have indicated their intent to join in sympathy with AFSCME, the university has sent letters to union leaders reminding them of their legal obligation to adhere to the no-strikes provisions in their contracts.

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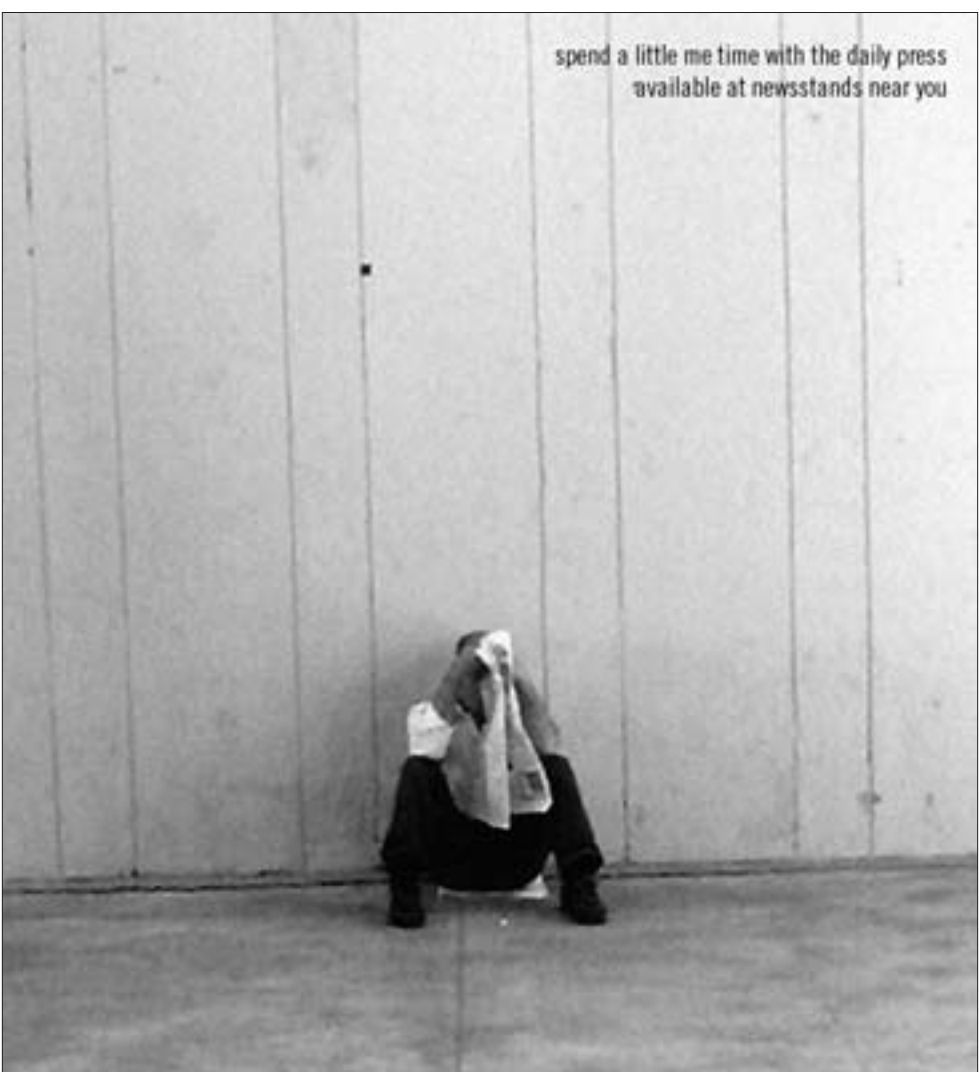
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STATE

Governor's inmate rehab promises hit opposition

BY DON THOMPSON

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Corrections should correct, said Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, a Republican with a tough-guy movie star image who dared to add "rehabilitation" to the name of California's deeply troubled prison system.

But crime victims and the powerful prison guards' union organized in opposition, and efforts to reform the parole system and keep more ex-cons from quickly returning to prison have repeatedly stalled

for more than two years.

This week, battered by television ads painting Schwarzenegger as soft on criminals, the administration abruptly dumped the idea of sending parole violators to halfway houses, substance abuse treatment centers or using electronic monitors instead of returning them to prison.

Inmate rights lawyers on Wednesday asked a federal judge to hold the administration in contempt, alleging the move violates an injunction requiring parole reforms that currently lag most other states. Schwarzenegger settled the lawsuit on his first day in office in November

2003, shortly after the government's watchdog Little Hoover Commission labeled California's parole system a "billion-dollar failure."

"I'm frankly shocked that they can turn on their heels so dramatically," said attorney Michael Bien, who filed the contempt motion with another law firm and the Prison Law Office, a nonprofit inmate rights advocacy group. "I don't really understand what happened, unless (the administration) bowed to outside pressure."

Just last month, the Department of Corrections' parole chief told state lawmakers that the promised parole programs were finally underway — programs the administration had been counting on unsuccessfully for a year to trim prison crowding and the ballooning prison budget.

Bien said the diversion programs were never given a chance, and state Youth and Adult Correctional Secretary Roderick Hickman essentially agreed.

In a Monday memorandum ordering parole violators back to prison, Hickman said there was no evidence the programs were working. Constant delays were the main problem, said Hickman's spokesman J.P. Tremblay, and the state didn't want to use communities as guinea pigs for unproven reform plans.

Parole agents and some local law enforcement agencies complained the diversion programs were endangering the public, while prosecutors wound up filing new charges against ex-cons who in the past would quickly have been sent back to prison for violating parole.

"We're not in the position where we can afford to make a mistake," Tremblay said.

The state has other rehabilitation programs, Tremblay said, so it's not violating the parole court settlement. The state has no obligation to keep parole violators on the streets, he said.

Lance Corcoran, vice president of the California Correctional Peace Officers Association, said his union urged crime victims organizations and local law enforcement to make their objections known.

"I think everyone saw this was just a 'keep criminals on the streets at all costs' policy, it wasn't a reform policy," Corcoran said.

The announcement came as crime victims gathered for their annual rally in Sacramento, heralded by Schwarzenegger's weekly radio address Saturday in which he stressed the state's concern and aid for crime victims.

Crime Victims United of California

spent \$450,000 for three weeks of television commercials in Sacramento and the Central Valley in which founder Harriet Salarno alleges Schwarzenegger "let us down" despite pledging to "stand with victims."

"We feel we accomplished one step forward," Salarno said Wednesday. But she's still concerned with Schwarzenegger's paroling of murderers and his plan to restructure the adult and youth prison system, renaming it the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

"The penal code says punishment first, then rehabilitation. They're going to turn it into a revolving door," said Salarno, whose daughter was murdered in 1979 by a man who is now eligible for parole.

The prison system restructuring is the vanguard of Schwarzenegger's plan to reorganize state government. But last week he abruptly dropped a ballot measure to cut state pension obligations after discovering flaws in the initiative language, and he earlier ended an effort to eliminate or reorganize 88 state boards and commissions after criticism from interest groups and nonpartisan organizations.

Attempts to change the parole system predate Schwarzenegger, to the final weeks of Democratic Gov. Gray Davis before he was replaced by Schwarzenegger in a dramatic midterm recall election. But Hickman and other Schwarzenegger appointees quickly embraced and expanded upon the proposals as a way to trim the inmate population and a prison budget that was routinely out of control.

James L'Etoile took over as the Corrections Department's new deputy director for adult parole and community services in December after Hickman transferred his predecessor for failing to move swiftly enough on reforms.

He, like Tremblay, blamed bureaucratic delays, problems with private contractors, negotiations with unions, and overly optimistic time and financial projections.

But critics said the move is the latest example where the administration has promoted reform without following through.

"I've said over and over again, 'Great talk, where's the walk?'" said Sen. Jackie Speier, D-Daly City, who has a bill promoting more use of electronic monitoring of parolees.

"The parole function in this state is out of control," Speier said. "This is a parole system that guarantees that 80 percent of parolees will go back to prison," double the rate in other states.

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STATE



Tax resister receives six-year sentence

BY JIM WASSERMAN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — A Redding businessman who refused to pay his income taxes and those of 10 employees with a contention that federal income tax laws were repealed in 1939 was sentenced to six years in federal prison sentence and fined \$7,500 Wednesday.

U.S. District Judge William B. Shubb called Walter "Al" Thompson, 58, "incorrigible" and told Thompson's supporters that "people looking at Mr. Thompson now need to know you do go to jail. They need to know Mr. Thompson is not their hero. He is going to jail."

Even as Shubb sentenced Thompson he acknowledged the "lenient" prison time would cause no changes in him. The judge predicted a familiar cycle of non-payment followed by arrests and prison will begin anew when he is released.

The judge did not order Thompson to repay an estimated \$259,000 in back taxes.

Thompson, former owner of Cencal Aviation, a Shasta Lake manufacturer of private airplane accessories, betrayed no emotion at the sentence. Addressing the judge before it was pronounced, he said, "I don't believe I should spend one day in jail for what I did. I have not committed a crime and there's nothing to convict me on."

Chained and wearing an orange Sacramento County Jail jumpsuit, the man who has become a minor folk hero through the Internet also demanded to be released immediately.

No family or supporters attended the sentencing.

During a one-hour rambling discussion with Judge Shubb, the mild-mannered Thompson, who served as his own attorney, refused to acknowledge the court's authority over him, criticized the federal government for "railroading" him into court, quoted Biblical proverbs and questioned the legality of U.S. tax laws.

"I'm not the sharpest knife in the drawer, but I can read English and read the laws," he said. "I looked at the laws, read the books and that's why I did what I did."

Similar performances caused federal prosecutors to charge him with making a "mockery" of the case.

Thompson, who once appeared on the CBS News show "60 Minutes" to explain

how he stopped withholding taxes from his employees for the Internal Revenue Service, told the judge that filling out government tax documents that he didn't believe were legal constituted a "lie."

"My first responsibility is to God and the Ten Commandments," he said.

Thompson has engaged in a yearslong battle with federal tax authorities. The colorful saga that continually filled the pages of Northern California newspapers and included three arrests last year reached its final stage in November with a rambling chase on Interstate 5 that ended with his surrender at gunpoint.

In January, a federal jury convicted Thompson of 13 counts of tax resistance, including not paying his own since 1999 and failing to pay those of his employees since 2000. The jury also convicted Thompson of illegally seeking refunds for taxes paid in 1996 and 1997 and to skip paying them altogether in 1998.

Thompson reported \$300,000 in income during the three-year span.

Federal attorneys and the U.S. Internal Revenue Service consistently rejected his arguments that income earned by most U.S. citizens doesn't meet the definition of taxable income under U.S. Treasury regulations.

Thompson was acquitted in January of conspiring with Joseph Banister, a former special agent in the criminal investigation division of the IRS, to remove Cencal employees from the taxpayer rolls. Banister appeared with Thompson at an employee meeting in 2000, investigators allowed, and backed up Thompson's earlier story to employees that they weren't legally required to pay taxes.

Banister, of San Jose, faces a separate trial on the issue in June.

First arrested last April 15, Thompson was immediately released after promising a judge he would get his records together. But judges ordered him arrested Aug. 9 on contempt of court charges when he missed a court date. A federal judge released him after 88 days, saying jail wasn't having the desired effect.

His third arrest came Nov. 19 after being indicted earlier in the day for conspiring to bilk the government out of payroll and income taxes. Thompson surrendered at gunpoint after a chase with blown tires from a police spike strip and threats to send a police dog into his car to remove him.

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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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Malibu Film Festival this weekend

By Daily Press staff

This weekend, the Malibu Film Festival will screen more than 30 films at the Aero Theater in Santa Monica in the sections of short live-action films, animated short films, short subject documentary films, feature-length documentary films, and narrative feature films.

The festival will feature five world premieres, nine West Coast premieres, three Los Angeles premieres and four Academy Award-nominated shorts. Awards night will take place at Wolfgang Puck's Granita Restaurant in Malibu and recognize the winning films and filmmakers of this year's festival and honor Pierce Brosnan with an Award for Achievement in the Arts.

**April 15-17
Independent film screenings**

A complete list of films and detailed descriptions are available at www.MalibuFilmFestival.com. Times are 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Aero Theatre, 1328 Montana Ave.

Tickets: \$8, (866) 468-3399; \$99 VIP screening pass; \$1,000 VIP all access passes, Ticketweb.com; (310) 452-6688.

**Friday, April 15
Premiere party**

The Victorian/Duck Duck Mousse Premiere Party will follow the opening night film. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided by Duck Duck Mousse and local restaurants as well as coffee, tea and dessert by Urth Caffe; DJ music by DJ Dash1; sponsored drinks by Patron Tequila, Pyrat Rum, Penta Water, and wines from Twin Fin. Twin Fin is the official wine sponsor of the festival.

9 p.m.-midnight, The Victorian, Main Street
Tickets: \$25, (866) 468-3399, Ticketweb.com; (310) 452-6688.

**Independent film screenings:
OPENING NIGHT FILM**

"Mad Hot Ballroom," written by Amy Sewell directed by Marilyn Agrelo (U.S.A.) – West Coast Premiere

CLOSING NIGHT FILM

"Apres Vous," directed by Pierre Salvadori (France) - Los Angeles Premiere

SHORT LIVE-ACTION FILMS

"Everything In This Country Must," directed by Gary McKendry written by Colum McCann and Gary McKendry (U.S.A.) - 2005 Academy Award Nominee

"Dog Eat Dog," written and directed by Jonathan Zames (Canada) - World Premiere

"Gabriel," directed by Cherie Knott written by Janine Brchett (Australia)

"Rosbeef," written and directed by Bruce Burgess (France)

"In The Morning," written and directed by Danielle Lurie (U.S.A.)

"I?," written and directed by Wade Robson (U.S.A.)

"Premonition," written and directed by Renata Adamidov (U.S.A.) - World Premiere

"The Big Empty," co-written and co-directed by J Lisa Chang and Newton Thomas Sigel (U.S.A.) - West Coast Premiere

"The Intervention," directed by Jay Duplass (U.S.A.) - West Coast Premiere



Free 'Sonny Boy' screening being offered on Saturday

By Daily Press staff

Named the "Best Documentary" at San Diego Film Festival, "Sonny Boy" will be offered as a free screening at the Aero Theater this weekend as part of the Malibu Film Festival.

Actress-director Soleil Moon Frye's second work, "Sonny Boy," focuses on her often-troubled relationship with her father, actor Virgil Frye, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease. From the beginning of his career as a makeup artist on the set of "Easy Rider," his work as a Elvis Presley double in New Orleans and his political support for the civil-rights movement in Alabama to his work on the cornfields in

Iowa and his Golden Gloves boxing championship, Frye accompanies her father to re-experience their past on a journey through the states. The longer their trip lasts, the more Frye's disease seems to worsen. Therefore, it gets more and more difficult for both of them to cope with their lives and memories.

A question and answer session will follow the screening with Soleil Moon Frye.

The screening, which will be held on Saturday, April 16, is free, but the password, "Punky," must be said at the door.

Visist www.sonnyboy.org for more information.

The Aero Theatre is located at 1328 Montana Ave.

"Show & Tell," directed by Chris Dollard written by Sean Patrick Murphy (U.S.A.) - West Coast Premiere

"The Fourth," written by Justin Varava and directed by Jared Varava (U.S.A.) - West Coast Premiere

"Replaced," written and directed by Sean Carter (U.S.A.) - World Premiere

"Morphin(e)," written and directed by Alex Ranarivelo (U.S.A.) - World Premiere

"Twitch," written and directed by Leah Meyerhoff (U.S.A.) - West Coast Premiere

"The West Bank Story," directed by Ari Sandel (U.S.A.) - West Coast Premiere

"7:35 In the Morning (7:35 de la Manana)," directed by Nacho Vigalondo (Spain) 2005 Academy Award Nominee

"Candy Viola," directed by Fabio Simonelli (Italy)

ANIMATED SHORT FILMS

"Gopher Broke," written and directed by Jeff Fowler (U.S.A.) - 2005 Academy Award Nominee

"Lorenzo," story, production design and direction by Mike Gabriel (U.S.A.) - 2005 Academy Award Nominee

"The Meaning Of Life," written and directed by Don Hertzfeldt (U.S.A.)

"Catching Kringle," written by Adam Himoff directed by Jeff Wadlow (U.S.A.)

SHORT SUBJECT DOCUMENTARY FILMS

"Viva Morrissey!" written by Jonathan Miertschin directed by Jessica Hundley / Jonathan Miertschin (U.S.A.) - West Coast Premiere

"The Hot 8," written by Luis Macias and directed by Greg Samata (U.S.A.)

DOCUMENTARY FILMS

"Between The Bridges," written and directed by Adam Ross (U.S.A.) - World Premiere

"The Hard Straight," directed by Goro Toshima (U.S.A.)

"Sonny Boy," directed by Soleil Moon Frye (U.S.A.) - Los Angeles Premiere

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"Mad Hot Ballroom," written by Amy Sewell directed by Marilyn Agrelo (U.S.A.) – West Coast Premiere

NARRATIVE FEATURE FILMS

"Four Eyed Monsters," directed by Susan Buice & Arin Crumley (U.S.A.) - Los Angeles Premiere

"Ellecktra," directed by Rudolph Mestdagh (Belgium) – West Coast Premiere

"Apres Vous," directed by Pierre Salvadori (France) - Los Angeles Premiere

"Hooligans," directed by Lexi Alexander, written by Lexi Alexander, Dougie Brimson, Josh Shelov (USA)

This summer's passion floats in flavored rum



THE IMBIBER

BY DAN DUNN

Well, we've reached that time of year when you first realize that you're moving right past "Roll down the windows, winter's over," to "Where's the air conditioning button again?" So of course you know that sand and sun are not far away.

If you're the Imbiber — and, come to think of it, I AM — the very next thought is about beach drinks. OK, perhaps not the VERY next thought, but pretty close. I also happen to have an impending IRS audit on the brain, but my tax attorney has advised me not to speak openly about such things. But I can dish on rum, and fortunately the good folks at Malibu provided me with a tax-day twist by introducing "Passion Fruit" (\$13.99 a bottle) as their latest flavor on April 15 ... the one day many of us could use a drink.

Now that the flavored-vodka craze has (thankfully) died down a bit, we've now entered into what amounts to an arms race among flavored rums. It seems there's literally a flavor of the month, and I'm pleased to be among the members of that particular club. Across my rum shelf, I can see that passion fruit joins flavors that would make a pretty good Caribbean salad: Coconut, pineapple and mango. But passion fruit must be the Next Big Taste, because Captain Morgan's is also in that game, with their new Parrot Bay Passion Fruit flavored rum (also \$13.99 a bottle).

One of the really good things about flavored vodkas and rums is that you can use them as a springboard into a refreshing pool of creativity, mixing with anything that comes to mind. Not one to avoid that challenge, and with a nod to Malibu's tax day unveiling, I've come up with yet another Exclusive Imbiber Recipe: The Garnished Wage®. It's easy to make, and you can enjoy it with friends at the beach or while placing your worldly possessions on eBay in the hopes of somehow avoiding another year of ruinous tax penalties.

The Garnished Wage

- Two parts passion fruit flavored rum
- Tonic water
- An empty soft drink bottle
- A brown paper bag

Funnel passion fruit flavored rum into clean, dry soft drink bottle; add tonic to taste. Place open bottle in brown paper bag and drink.

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

Synagogue honors rabbi through song

By Daily Press staff

The University Synagogue in Brentwood will present on Saturday, May 7, world-renowned singer-songwriter Debbie Friedman, who has been called the "Queen of Soul" and "an inspiration for two generations of worshippers." Friedman will perform at a special Havdalah service, honoring Rabbi Zachary Shapiro, at 7 p.m. at the synagogue, 11960 Sunset Blvd.

A singer, songwriter and guitarist, Friedman

has recorded 19 albums. Originally influenced by American popular music of the 1960s and 1970s — Peter, Paul and Mary, Judy Collins, Joan Baez and Joni Mitchell — she in turn has been influencing younger singers and songwriters with her own style. Her latest release is a double compilation CD and will be available this June. In fact, she is asking her community to vote for their top 10 favorite songs. The winners will appear on the CD.

Although originally from Los Angeles, Friedman lives on the East Coast and rarely

makes appearances in Southern California. This is the first of only two scheduled appearances in the area.

Ticket prices (non-reserved seating):
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'House of D' gets a D grade

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

David Duchovny wrote, directed and stars in "House of D," and unfortunately the strain of such an excessive workload is evident in the finished product. Duchovny's coming-of-age tale is sporadically sweet and semi-literate, yet marred by numerous deficiencies. Among them, a narrative that is transparently scripted rather than organic (Duchovny was a lit major at Yale and seems hell-bent on us knowing it), overbearing use of a flavorless voice-over, the employment of laughable stereotypes, and an epilogue designed to be restorative that is nothing short of ridiculous.

Review

What works in "House of D" are a few of the performances, especially — and don't laugh — Robin Williams as a retarded janitor, and Anton Yelchin as Tommy, the troubled 13-year-old boy who befriends him in Greenwich Village circa 1973. Williams' take on the dopey do-gooder Pappas is expectedly overwrought, yet oddly appealing — reminiscent to a small degree of one of his most memorable characters, Parry in "The Fisher King." Still, I think we can all agree that at some point soon, Mork ought to be shipped back to Ork for good.

Yelchin, who was 14 when this movie was made, exhibits uncommon range and a keen sense of comedic timing. His work in the film's most outstanding scene, in which he dances with his first crush (played well by Williams' daughter, Zelda), is the stuff that launches successful careers. As the adult Tommy/narrator, Duchovny falls flat in a role that should have been either expanded or done away with altogether. His wife, Tea Leoni, pitches in as Tommy's pill-popping mess of a mother. Her performance can be summed up with one word: Spanglish. Not faring much better is Erykah Badu, who screams an awful lot as — feel free to laugh — the imprisoned hooker with the Angela Davis 'fro who dispenses sage counsel to our impressionable young hero.

(Rated PG-13 for sexual and drug references, thematic elements and language.
Running time: 96 minutes)

Senseless 'Palindromes'

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

A palindrome is a word, phrase, verse or sentence that reads the same backward or forward. Examples include "Tarzan raised a Desi Arnaz rat," "Doom an evil deed, liven a mood," and "Poor Dan is in a droop." (And after this total downer, I most certainly

Review

was.) Palindromes, while occasionally clever, usually don't make much sense, nor is there any real use for them. And that's about the best that can be said for writer-director Todd Solondz's latest film, yet another noxious whiff of suburbia's armpit courtesy of film-dom's reigning misanthrope. Just like Solondz's previous efforts, "Welcome to the Dollhouse," "Happiness" and "Storytelling," "Palindromes" treads (far too slowly) along the extreme fringes of an unrelentingly ugly post-modern America or, as it's also known, New Jersey. Solondz's world is populated with pedophiles, religious extremists, bad parents, liars, thieves, murderers and other unsavory characters that exist almost solely to underscore the hopeless tragedy that is his doe-eyed protagonist's journey. Her name is Aviva. She's 13, and more than anything, she wants to have a baby.

Aviva finds herself with child early on following a precipitous copulation with a cousin, only to have her dream forever dashed when her parents (Ellen Barkin and Richard Masur) force her to have an abortion that leaves her barren. So she runs away and eventually winds up in the care of Mama Sunshine (Debra Monk), a preternaturally chirpy zealot who rescues unwanted children while simultaneously carrying out a much more sinister mission.

Solondz cast eight different actors of varying age, skin color, weight and gender to play Aviva (among them 40-something Jennifer Jason Leigh) presumably to encourage maximum empathy from his audience. Alas, it comes across as nothing but a show-offy trick that makes it all but impossible to connect with the character. That's unfortunate, because Aviva is the only good thing about the grim "Palindromes."

(Not yet rated. Running time: 100 minutes)

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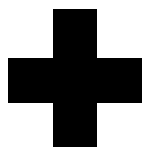
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STATE □ NATIONAL



Mexican family sues hunter, ranch owner over fatal shooting of illegal immigrant

By The Associated Press

EL INDIO, Texas — The family of a illegal immigrant shot to death on a Texas ranch sued the property owner and a hunter, who allegedly told police he thought the man was a wild hog.

The wrongful death lawsuit seeks \$8 million for the family of Celestino Lopez, 36, who died after being shot in the abdomen in January 2004. Prosecutor Roberto Serna said he plans to decide soon whether to present the case to a grand jury.

Lopez, who was from the Mexican state of Guanajuato, had been walking in the dark with other immigrants after entering the United States when they saw a shadowy figure and stopped, according to the lawsuit filed Monday in Eagle Pass.

Jaime Gonzalez shot Lopez from about 150 feet away, the lawsuit claims. He allegedly told police he thought he was shooting at a hog.

The lawsuit against Gonzalez and ranch owner Eduardo Rodriguez alleges the death was "reasonably foreseeable" and that the defendants had a legal duty not to shoot in poor light and without verifying the target was an animal.

An attorney appointed by the Mexican government to represent Lopez's widow and five children said they are tired of waiting on a criminal prosecution.

"At this point, it looks like we are going to have to go to a jury for relief on this case," J.A. Garcia said.

Gonzalez, Rodriguez and their attorneys could not be reached for comment by the San Antonio Express-News.

Last year, the family of an illegal immigrant killed on a ranch near Laredo reached a \$15 million settlement with the owner and his ranch hand, who claimed he shot the man after mistaking him for a wild hog.

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STATE BRIEFS

Pelican mutilations resume

By The Associated Press

HUNTINGTON BEACH — The pouch of another endangered brown pelican may have been deliberately slashed in what bird rescue specialists fear could be a recurrence of pelican mutilations several years ago.

The latest bird is one of four pelicans brought to specialists in recent weeks with similar injuries. One of the birds died, and two others are apparently recovering.

"We're asking the public to report any suspicious activities," said Debbie McGuire of the Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center, which is offering a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest of anyone who mutilated pelicans.

The bird rescue group is concerned it may be a repeat of a rash of deliberate pelican mutilations in 2002 and 2003, when as many as 20 dead or injured pelicans, some apparently shot, were found near Los Angeles Harbor.

McGuire received two birds, the first April 5 from Newport Beach, the second April 10 from Huntington Beach. The first bird died and the second was scheduled for surgery this week at the All Creatures Care Cottage in Costa Mesa.

McGuire said cuts on both birds appeared to be intentional. The dead bird's cut went from its breast to its lower beak, and the beak was split, she said. The second was more of an "ear to ear" slash.

Two birds with similar injuries are being cared for by Linda McLeod of the Pacific Wildlife Project in Laguna Niguel.

Development clears major hurdle

By The Associated Press

DANA POINT — The California Coastal Commission decided there were no significant grounds to appeal the city's approval of the 121-acre Dana Point Headlands development.

Wednesday's 7-4 vote was the last major hurdle for the project — 118 homes, retail stores, a 65- to 90-room seaside inn and a 28-acre park. The development is on one of the region's last undeveloped coastal promontories.

The Surfrider Foundation and two commissioners, Sara Wan and Meg Caldwell, said in the appeal that Dana Point's approval doesn't follow the guidelines of the permit approved in January 2004 by the commission.



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NATIONAL



Data breach at LexisNexis possibly not isolated

BY ERICA WERNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A LexisNexis executive said Wednesday there may have been an earlier breach of consumers' personal data that was never reported to the public.

The disclosure at a Senate hearing came a day after London-based Reed Elsevier, which owns LexisNexis, revealed that criminals may have breached computer files containing the personal information of 310,000 people since January 2003. That in itself was a tenfold increase over the 32,000 people the company said in March were put at risk. The company said the fraud involved the improper use of IDs and passwords.

"I believe there may have been a security breach in LexisNexis prior to 2003 that involved personal data and we did not make notice," Kurt Sanford, LexisNexis' president and chief executive for U.S. corporate and federal markets, said in response to questioning at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing.

Sanford gave no details. LexisNexis spokesman Sean C. McCabe said later that Sanford was referring to more than one past breach, but he could provide no information about how many there were, when they took place or how serious they were.

"It's unclear if any sensitive information was accessed, or if any consumers were impacted," McCabe said in an interview.

Sanford's disclosure Wednesday came in response to questioning by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., about whether companies that sell consumers' personal data may have had security breaches prior to 2003 that they didn't disclose.

A California law took effect in 2003 that required such notification. That law, the only one like it in the nation, forced ChoicePoint Inc. to make a recent disclosure about a security breach involving 145,000 Americans. ChoicePoint has also recently acknowledged a data breach in 2002 that it never disclosed at the time.

The string of recent data breaches has drawn national attention to the loosely regulated companies that collect informa-

tion on consumers — from Social Security numbers to medical records — and sell it to insurance companies, prospective employers, law enforcement agencies and others.

Feinstein supports requiring companies in all states to notify consumers of data breaches. She and other senators called Wednesday for a federal crackdown on the industry.

"I believe that there will be some very firm federal legislation coming out of this issue," said Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter, R-Pa. "There has been limited governmental response. ... It is my conclusion that we do need federal legislation, that there needs to be uniformity as we approach an enormous problem of this sort."

Specter said he would be submitting draft legislation to the Federal Trade Commission for review, but a spokesman said later that details of the bill were still being worked out.

Sanford and executives from ChoicePoint and Acxiom Corp. said

Wednesday they would support a federal rule requiring notification of consumers in the event of data breaches.

But Sanford and Acxiom chief privacy officer Jennifer Barrett made clear in written testimony that they would support such notification only in cases where the security breach put consumers at risk of identity theft or fraud. Federal Trade Commission Chairwoman Deborah Platt Majoras took the same position.

Feinstein questioned how companies could determine when the release of personal information was risky or not.

"I think it's very difficult to determine significant risk," she said.

Another sticking point is whether states would be allowed to set stricter standards for privacy breach notification than the federal government establishes.

Vermont Attorney General William H. Sorrell, president of the National Association of Attorneys General, testified that states should have that right. But several senators and the data companies said that would be unwieldy.

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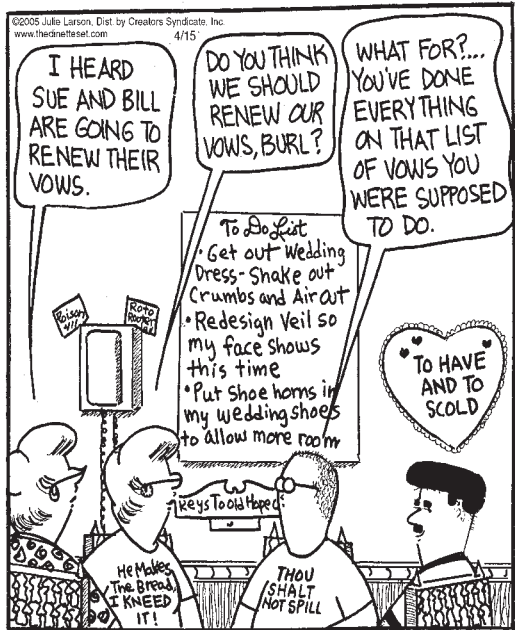
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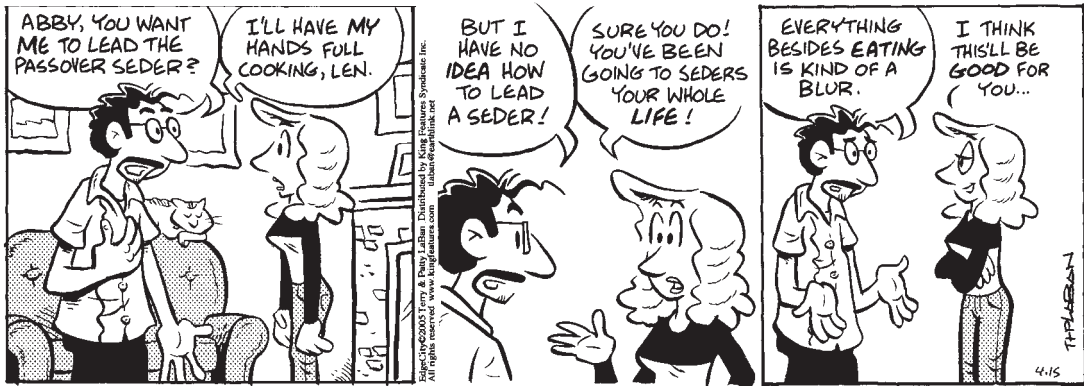


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- 11 Not drowsy
- 12 Actor's helper
- 13 Sports-cast staple
- 14 Caribou's cousin
- 15 That lady
- 16 Cham-pagne sound
- 18 Regret
- 19 Meringue ingredient
- 20 Use a crowbar
- 21 Salon stuff
- 22 Fume
- 24 Lamarr of Hollywood
- 25 Predict
- 27 Edinburgh native
- 29 Meal
- 32 Jam ingredient
- 33 Idiosync-rasy
- 34 Dieter's resort
- 35 Act like
- 36 Early hour
- 37 Huck's pal
- 38 Lover of drama
- 40 Block

- 42 Even a little
- 43 Get the lead out
- 44 Flexes
- 45 Barry Levinson movie

DOWN

- 1 Robe parts
- 2 Claim
- 3 "Rumble in the Jungle" loser
- 4 Hurler's pride
- 5 Plug
- 6 Deliber-ately vulgar
- 7 Before today

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Yesterday's answer

- 8 Camera pioneer
- 9 Followed
- 10 Unwavering
- 17 Call for food
- 23 Hogwash
- 24 Cool, to jazzmen
- 26 Left the group
- 27 Sacred beetle
- 28 "The Grass Harp" writer
- 30 Better half
- 31 Meddle
- 33 Shop equipment
- 39 Days of yore
- 41 Jackie's second

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Pregnant Spears' life becomes reality May 17

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — With Britney Spears and her husband, Kevin Federline, making headlines with the news that she's pregnant, UPN has announced a May 17 premiere for the couple's reality show.

The premiere will be a special one-hour episode (9 p.m. ET), UPN announced Wednesday. The series, not yet titled, will follow their courtship, engagement and wedding through private home videos, mostly shot by the couple with their own camera.

UPN said it is shooting new footage and commentary with Spears and Federline, who were married in September. Spears' pregnancy was announced on her Web site Tuesday.

"As we all know, Britney and Kevin's life together has been played out in front of the public through Internet speculation, the gossip columnists and entertainment magazines," Dawn Ostroff, president of UPN, said in a statement earlier this week. "But now, for the first time, their millions of fans will get to see and hear the couple's real story ... as told directly by them."

The show will lead into Jenny McCarthy's comedy, "The Bad Girl's Guide," which premieres May 24 (9:30 p.m. ET).

PARIS — France has honored Bruce Willis, making him an officer in the Order of Arts and Letters, one of the country's top awards for cultural achievement.

"France pays homage to an actor who represents the force of American cinema and the power of emotions

that he invites us to share on screens throughout the world," Culture Minister Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres said Wednesday as he presented the award to Willis.

Willis, 50, thanked both France and the minister for what he called a "great, great honor."

The actor, who does not speak French, read from a script during his brief speech but still managed to make some grammatical slip-ups.

"I'm nervous. Bonjour Paris," Willis said. "I am extremely touched by this medal. ... We all belong to the same artistic community."

He concluded by saying, "Vive la France!"

The award is conferred on those who have particularly distinguished themselves in an artistic or literary field.

Willis was in Paris to promote his new movie, "Hostage," directed by France's Florent Emilio Siri.

RICHMOND, Va. — Michael Eugene Archer, better known as D'Angelo, has pleaded guilty to possession of marijuana and driving under the influence of alcohol after a January traffic stop.

Archer, 31, a Richmond native, waived his preliminary hearing on a third charge of possession of cocaine, a felony. A Chesterfield General District Court judge certified that charge to a Chesterfield Circuit Court grand jury.

The R&B singer was fined \$250 Wednesday and given a 90-day suspended jail term on the DUI conviction. Archer's driver's license was suspended for one year.

On the marijuana charge, Archer was fined \$50 and given a 10-day suspended jail term. His driver's license was suspended for an additional six months.

In an unusual legal maneuver, authorities said Archer appealed both the marijuana and DUI convictions to Chesterfield Circuit Court.

Archer was pulled over on Jan. 9 in suburban Richmond, where he was charged with driving under the influence. Authorities said a subsequent search yielded marijuana and .029 grams of cocaine.

WARWICK, Ga. — Emmanuel Lewis, the former child star of the '80s TV series "Webster," got off with a warning for speeding after giving his autograph and posing for a photo with police, officials said.

Officer Ron Kirk said he stopped a vehicle Tuesday afternoon in rural southwestern Georgia that had been traveling 70 mph in a 45 mph zone. Kirk immediately recognized Lewis.

"Well, I grew up watching him and he was very nice and professional, so I just gave him a courtesy warning," Kirk told Albany TV station WALB.

The officer asked for his autograph, and Lewis, 34, agreed to pose for a picture with Kirk and the town's police chief, Randy Howard Jr.

Kirk said Lewis, who lives in the Atlanta area, was probably unfamiliar with the road and didn't realize there were speed-limit changes.

Warwick, a tiny lakeside town about 30 miles northeast of Albany, gets most of its police department revenues from speeding fines, Kirk said.



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