



THE SENTINEL
REVIEW PAGE 10

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

12 19 23 34 47
Meganumber: 19
Jackpot: \$11 Million

FANTASY 5

19 20 22 23 29

DAILY 3

Daytime: 1 5 9
Evening: 0 2 4

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Volleyball is quite popular among female devout Muslim refugees in Kenya, according to a March New York Times dispatch, even though the women's bulky hijabs frequently shift around, hindering the "digs" and "spikes." The Nike company recently came to the rescue by designing (and then donating) sleek hijabs that cover the skin and hair appropriately, but also permit much freer movement on the court. Nike is silent on its marketing plans, but worldwide, the number of Muslim girls and women of prime sports-playing age is huge.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 111th day of 2006.
There are 254 days left in the year.

■ On April 21, 1789, John Adams was sworn in as the first vice president of the United States.

■ In 1649, the Maryland Toleration Act, which provided for freedom of worship for all Christians, was passed by the Maryland assembly.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Why is it that we rejoice at a birth and grieve at a funeral? It is because we are not the person involved."

MARK TWAIN
(1835-1910)

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Kevin Herrera/Daily Press

Leane Vandeman (at right), who lives just east of the Santa Monica Airport, talks with Congresswoman Jane Harman and Los Angeles City Councilman Bill Rosendahl about noise and air pollution caused by an increase in airline operations at the airport. Vandeman said she is concerned about the health of her 21-month-old daughter, Phoebe, also pictured.

Pilot program aims to clear the air

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

WEST LA — When Leane Vandeman and her husband moved into their home just east of the Santa Monica Airport, they knew they were going to have to deal with the occasional jet roaring overhead as it made its way to the runway about 1,200 feet away

from their front door.

It was an annoyance they could live with, they thought — a trade-off for living in a nice neighborhood on the Westside. That was six years ago.

Today, Vandeman and her neighbors say they are fed up with increased operations at the airport and what they feel is a lack of concern about health impacts on

behalf of Santa Monica officials and those with the Federal Aviation Administration.

"We're just looking for some relief," Vandeman said from her front lawn Thursday, holding her 21-month-old daughter Phoebe. "It's scary thinking about the potential health effects of living so

See AIRPORT, page 6

Fuel costs driving Big Blue to make some cuts in service

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE — As the price of gasoline continues to rise, Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus has laid out plans to trim its service.

During community meetings held in February and March, the Big Blue Bus presented several proposed service changes. Feedback on the changes varied from applause to consternation over certain proposals, according to transit officials.

At the meetings it was

explained that trimming unproductive service is something the Big Blue Bus does year round, but that this year it was especially important, because fuel costs have hit record highs — around \$72 per barrel of crude oil as of Thursday — and most experts agree there is no relief in sight.

"When we were budgeting two years ago, we had no idea fuel costs would go through the roof the way they have," said Dan Dawson, acting customer service

See BIG BLUE, page 7



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Bill Figueroa, 55, a transportation mechanic for Big Blue Bus, fills a bus tank with natural gas. A typical bus can hold about 210 gallons and can travel up to 300 miles on a full tank. Natural gas is cooled to minus 260 degrees to become liquid and can burn skin upon contact.

Meters have workers petered

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

COLORADO AVENUE — Larry Beaufait of Four Oaks Garage has a difficult decision to make — pay for parking, or cover the costs of health care for his employees.

Beaufait said he used to be able to do both, but since a discount parking program was eliminated this month, he and other business owners along the industrial corridor of Santa Monica have seen their parking costs skyrocket, some as much as 500 percent.

"I pay about \$500 a month per employee for health care premiums, and to sit here and say I'll now have to pay \$200 to \$250 a month for parking when I was only paying \$35 — something has to give," said Beaufait, who has been operating his auto repair business near Seventh Street and Colorado Avenue since 1987. "We'll either have to get the world's cheapest medical insurance,

See METERS, page 8

Jacquie Banks

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HOROSCOPES

Add some spice, Cancer

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)
★★★★ You might wake up on the wrong side of the bed, but once you look at what you would like to do and have happen, you'll feel better. Opportunities will drop on you. Optimism will help you grab them before it is too late. Tonight: The party happens where you are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Expect that others will be observing your actions and style. Don't worry -- you have a lot going for you. The responsibility might drag you down a bit. Accept an invitation for a late lunch. You will want to start your weekend as soon as possible. Tonight: A star.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Read between the lines with someone you converse with frequently. Easily, it might be what they don't say that is important. Detach, and understand where others are coming from. Walk in their shoes. Tonight: Blaze a new trail.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ A close encounter fits the bill right now. Whether you are having a heavy conversation with the boss or an intimate discussion with a loved one doesn't matter. You need to feel these different types of connections. Tonight: Add some spice to the moment.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You might feel as if someone close to you is testing your limits. He or she just might be. You also might want to consider how great your need to be in control is. Could this be a factor in your feelings? Let go and see what happens. Tonight: So many choices.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Pace yourself as best you can. You could be a bit overwhelmed by all that you need to get done. Curb a tendency to look at rising issues bleakly. Your attitude could make or break a situation. Watch. Observe. Tonight: Easy does it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ You might be worried about fulfilling a commitment right now. You will do just fine. Have more faith in your creativity. A money investment or risk might look good now, but tomorrow you could be singing another tune. Tonight: You carry the weekend celebration banner.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ If you can hang close to home, all the better. You will be able to complete any project more quickly in this environment. An opportunity could be irresistible. Why not go for it? Tonight: Don't stray far from home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Choose your words with care, as others really are listening. Your feelings could well over if facing an emotional situation -- be it happy or sad. Communication flourishes, especially if you use your verbal skills. Tonight: Catch up on another's news.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You might not realize the impact of a money decision on you and someone else. In fact, finances could be causing an issue between you and this person. Associates and friends show their true colors. Tonight: Avoid spending more than you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You have much more magnetism than you realize. Someone could be giving you a hard time, but look at everyone else! Your popularity soars, and in return you revitalize and have more energy and time. Tonight: You call the shots.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Play it low-key, and you will be far more content. News from a distance could be exciting. Keep this info hush-hush until every detail is shored up. Sometimes you need to relax and let events unfold. Tonight: Not available.

CIRCULATION AUDIT BY

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
Phone: (310) 458-PRESS (7737) • Fax: (310) 576-9913
1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • www.smdp.com

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LOCAL



Earth, wheels and fire



Nate Rawner/Special to the Daily Press
School children ‘slap five’ with a firefighter on Thursday after emergency rescue responded to an accident scene at 1500 Pacific Coast Highway. A school bus driver and a young passenger suffered minor injuries after the bus collided with a car in Santa Monica. The injured were transported to local hospitals. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

City Manager to learn about NOMA

By Daily Press staff

The North of Montana Neighborhood Association (NOMA) will hold its general membership meeting this Monday, April 24 at the Montana Ave. branch library. The meeting will start at 7p.m.
New City Manager Lamont Ewell will be the special guest speaker and address questions and issues of concern to NOMA members. Also on the agenda will be the release of the recent NOMA neighborhood survey results and opportunities for membership sign-up and getting involved in NOMA.
NOMA members and residents who live North of Montana are encouraged to attend. The meeting is open to the general public.

White House aging report to be read in Santa Monica

By Daily Press staff

Local recommendations on aging policy will be read in Santa Monica before they’re read at the White House.
Dr. Monika White, CEO of the Center for Healthy Aging, will report on recommendations to be submitted to the president and Congress on the 2005 White House Conference on Aging in order to help guide the national aging policies for the next 10 years.
White will talk about her experience at the conference, the top resolutions to be submitted and what those efforts mean as 78 million baby boomers are turning 60

See BRIEFS, page 6

SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

CONDITIONS					DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM
BEAR MOUNTAIN					
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 24" - 48"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 27	LIFTS OPEN 5/12	
CONDITIONS: Machine Groomed, Hard Packed, Spring, Variable					
JUNE MOUNTAIN					
CLOSED					
MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN					
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 204" - 228"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 150	LIFTS OPEN 26/28	
CONDITIONS: Packed Powder, Machine Groomed					
MOUNTAIN HIGH					
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 12" - 24"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 19	LIFTS OPEN 4/16	
CONDITIONS: Spring					
MT. BALDY					
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 15" - 32"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 4:30 pm	RUNS OPEN 26	LIFTS OPEN 4/4	
CONDITIONS: Machine Groomed, Spring					
SNOW SUMMIT					
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 24" - 48"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 am - 4:30 pm	RUNS OPEN 26	LIFTS OPEN 7/14	
CONDITIONS: Machine Groomed, Hard Packed, Spring, Variable					
SNOW VALLEY					
NEW SNOW (24 Hrs) 0"	BASE DEPTH 18" - 48"	LIFT HOURS 8:30 am - 4:00 pm	RUNS OPEN 20	LIFTS OPEN 3/11	
CONDITIONS: Machine Groomed, Hard Packed, Spring					

CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 59°

DATA PROVIDED BY WETSAND.COM

SWELL FORECAST (2-3 FT)

Today should see some long-period energy and forerunners filter in. This isn't all that much in the way of size, but west facing breaks should see some waist to chest high waves.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

Tracking SW for beginning of May...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

MONDAY

LOW TIDE

6:41AM

-0.1FT

4:54PM

2.3FT

HIGH TIDE

1:18PM

2.8FT

11:44PM

5.3FT

TUESDAY

LOW TIDE

7:45AM

0.0FT

5:01PM

2.6FT

HIGH TIDE

3:12PM

2.7FT

N/A

N/A

WEDNESDAY

LOW TIDE

9:05AM

0.1FT

N/A

N/A

HIGH TIDE

12:33AM

5.1FT

N/A

N/A

THURSDAY

LOW TIDE

10:26AM

0.0FT

9:15PM

3.2FT

HIGH TIDE

1:48AM

4.8FT

6:33PM

3.3FT

FRIDAY

LOW TIDE

11:31AM

-0.2FT

N/A

N/A

HIGH TIDE

3:32AM

4.6FT

6:46PM

3.7FT

SATURDAY

LOW TIDE

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

HIGH TIDE

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

SUNDAY

LOW TIDE

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

HIGH TIDE

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

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The Q Line

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The City Council and city staff are getting ready to draft a budget for the coming fiscal year, which begins July 1. Residents are encouraged to submit budget requests for consideration through the city's Web site at www.santa-monica.org.
So this week Q-Line wants to know: **“What special items do you think should be included in the city's budget for the upcoming year?”**
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

EDITORIAL

The show really doesn't have to go on ... and on



It's trying enough that because the Third Street Promenade is a public street we have to endure constant panhandlers and shady solicitors, but being forced to listen to would-be musicians butcher the Beatles and shred Sheryl Crow is enough to make residents want to stay away, and some visitors never want to return.

Unfortunately, for many business owners and their employees, they have to hear it day in and day out.

That's not to say there are not exceptionally talented performers along the Promenade. Many have seen their careers launched as a result of having their day in the sun. They also add character to what might otherwise be just another suburban mall lined with chain stores.

Regardless of their talent level, the musicians en masse are just too loud. Performing only 40 feet apart from one another, they pump up the volume to get their voices heard, and drown out the competitors. The resulting instrumental lament is a collective one, as passersby must turn to the fancy new vendor carts in search of keepsake earplugs.

The staffers at the Daily Press, which has offices located along the Promenade, once pooled their money together and actually paid a drummer \$20 to stop playing for 30 minutes.

The frenetic fugue of disharmonious voices competing for attention drives people from restaurants because they can't have a conversation at the outdoor tables, and it turns people off who just want to sit because they can't hear themselves think. What's more, some of the more obnoxious performers force the mellower, acoustic musicians out, as they either can't or won't compete in the hectic atmosphere.

There is a city law that is supposed to prevent this from happening. It dictates a certain decibel level for the day and night. But like so many other laws, it goes largely unenforced. That's because it's difficult for police officers to get an accurate reading — the performers see them coming and turn it down before they get a ticket.

Stephen Bradford, the venue manager on the Promenade, has reported that some performers have even threatened violence. Since he neither carries a weapon nor can issue a ticket, Bradford's presence only goes so far.

That's why the Promenade needs more police officers patrolling the area. We've suggested it before because of other illegal activity that happens routinely on the Promenade. There should be a police officer patrolling each block of the Promenade, including the alleys on both sides, 24/7.

Effectively monitoring the street performers also could be solved if the Bayside District — which manages the area in conjunction with City Hall — moved forward with its ambassador program. It would include trained people who would cruise the Promenade with radios that have direct contact with police so they could report illegal activity. The ambassadors also would serve as helpful guides for visitors looking for specific attractions, stores and restaurants. But more importantly, they would be the eyes and the ears for police who aren't always around when crimes are committed.

The City Council needs to put a priority on funding that program.

Lastly, put the police substation back on the Promenade. More than a year ago, it was moved from the center of the mall near Santa Monica Boulevard to a tucked away office on Second Street. That was one of the worst decisions ever made. A police presence is absolutely crucial on a public street that attracts every walk of life.

Earth Day and Apocalypse

THE SOAP BOX BY BENNET KELLEY



The challenge for any Earth Day assessment of the Bush Administration's policies is where do you begin? With a record that includes refusing to acknowledge evidence of global warming and weakening environmental laws — there is no shortage of material demonstrating this Administration's poor stewardship of the nation's environment.

While the calamity of these policies cannot be understated, the greatest environmental threat presented by the Bush administration has been its Strangelovian policies on nuclear proliferation. From his decisions on weapons systems, his refusal to engage North Korea or Iran, to his failure to safeguard nuclear technology from the former Soviet Union, President Bush has placed us at the greatest risk of nuclear catastrophe since the Cold War.

From day one, President Bush made the Reagan-era "Star Wars" missile defense program his top defense priority and promptly withdrew from the Anti-Ballistic Treaty with the Soviet Union — which limited the deployment of missile defenses to ensure that neither party would seek a preemptive first strike — in order to begin deployment. After two decades and approximately \$100 billion, this program has yet to demonstrate that it will work.

In reality, the more likely path of a nuclear weapon targeted at the U.S. is via sea since experts estimate that a nuclear weapon smuggled in a ship container has a 90 percent chance of clearing customs undetected. President Bush, however, would rather spend \$10 billion a year on a missile defense program that does not work, than provide an additional \$1 billion needed for port security efforts. This is very disturbing considering that the nation's busiest international port is only 30 miles south.

On top of this, the Bush administration reversed long-standing U.S. policy against the first use of nuclear weapons while also seeking to develop newer nuclear weapons. The net effect of these actions has been to raise concerns in Russia and China that the U.S. is seeking a crippling first strike capability and spur a new arms race.

President Bush also refuses to take action needed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons among rogue nations or terrorists organizations. This includes under-funding efforts to secure nuclear weapons materials from the former Soviet Union and killing a similar plan to employ former nuclear weapons scientists from Libya and Iraq despite state department

warnings that these unemployed scientists could sell their knowledge to rogue nations.

President Bush's most enduring legacy and greatest failure may be a nuclear North Korea and Iran. In 1994, when North Korea began to take steps towards converting their fuel rods from their nuclear power plants to weapons-grade plutonium, President Clinton prepared for war and, as a result, North Korea backed down and agreed to lock up the fuel rods and adhere to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty ("NNPT") in return for energy assistance.

President Bush, however, rejected this policy in favor of a black-and-white approach in which North Korea was part of the "axis of evil." North Korea responded in 2003 by withdrawing from the NNPT, unlocking the fuel rods and ultimately developing nuclear weapons while signaling a willingness to negotiate and reverse course at each key step in the process. The Bush Administration, however, refused to negotiate because it wanted to preserve "moral clarity" according to a White House memo. At about the same time, Iran also communicated a willingness to discuss its nuclear program and support of terrorist organizations as part of normalizing relations. Vice President Cheney and Administration neo-cons bent on "regime change," however, blocked these negotiations as well.

Instead of taking action when confronted by the danger of a nuclear North Korea and Iran, President Bush chose "moral clarity" and invading non-nuclear Iraq. It is amazing that this administration which raised the specter of mushroom clouds where the threat was non-existent can be so blind to a real nuclear threat.

After watching the world's first nuclear explosion, Manhattan Project Director Robert Oppenheimer thought of a passage from a Hindu text: "I am ... death, the destroyer of worlds." At the height of the Cold War, President Kennedy echoed this theme when he warned that "(w)e have the power to make this the best generation ... in the history of the world or to make it the last."

Today, the dark cloud of nuclear danger that had dissipated with the end of the Cold War, is gathering again as the nuclear genie travels the globe unchaperoned. On this Earth Day, we should each remember the Indian proverb that "(w)e do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children" and that it is us to up to protect the treasure which they have entrusted us with from the "destroyer of worlds" which President Bush so blindly embraces.

(Bennet Kelley (bennet@bennetkelley.com) is the former national co-chair of the Democratic National Committee's young professional arm, the publisher of BushLies.net and a Santa Monica attorney.)



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Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOCAL



CRIME WATCH

By Daily Press staff

90-year-old busted for sneaking a peak

On Sunday, April 9 at 1:25 p.m., Santa Monica Police officers responded to the 1400 block of the Third Street Promenade — Urban Outfitters — regarding a possible juvenile annoyance investigation. When officers arrived, they spoke with an employee at the store who said he saw a 90-year-old man use his reflective sunglasses to look underneath the dress of a female shopper, who was bending over to look at some items for sale. The elderly man noticed he was spotted and tried to run away, but was detained by store security. He was held until police arrived, at which time he was taken into custody and booked at the Santa Monica Jail for child annoyance. The alleged victim was 17. Police identified the man as Virgil Thomas Richards. Police said Richards is a registered sex offender.

On Friday, April 14 at 4:45 p.m., police patrolling the beach parking lot just north of the Santa Monica Pier were approached by a female who said her boyfriend had physically assaulted her and was inside a camper parked nearby. She also said her boyfriend was attempting to make a bomb. A portion of the parking lot was evacuated and the suspect was eventually asked to step outside his vehicle. He did and was taken into custody. Once detained, members of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department bomb squad entered the suspect's camper and determined that the suspect was making a low-level explosive device, which was rendered safe, police said. The suspect was booked for domestic violence, false imprisonment and the manufacturing of a destructive device. He was identified as Donald Joseph Brower, 49.

On Monday, April 10 at 12:35 a.m., police officers stopped two individuals in the 1100 block of Palisades Beach Road for violating a city law that prohibits smoking on the beach. As officers approached the two, they saw two baggies containing a white, crystallized substance that was later identified as methamphetamine, police said. The two suspects were taken into custody and booked for possession of a controlled substance and possession of a smoking pipe. The two were identified as Elizabeth Louise Routenberg, 23, and Daniel Damato, 38.

On Monday, April 10 at 4 p.m., officers on beach patrol said they saw a group of five men on lifeguard tower No. 12 spray painting and marking the tower. Officers took the alleged vandals into custody. Four of the suspects were juveniles and were released to their parents. The fifth suspect was identified as Larry Antoine Paxton, 20. He was booked for felony malicious mischief. Los Angeles County Lifeguards were notified.

On Wednesday, April 12 at 5:05 p.m., undercover officers with SMPD's vice unit conducted a sting operation in the 2600 block of Santa Monica Boulevard — Mimiko's Massage — after receiving tips about prostitution at the location. An undercover officer went inside the business, requested a massage and was taken into a massage room where he was greeted by a masseuse. Police said after a brief massage, the masseuse asked if he wanted sexual services for additional money. They agreed upon a price, at which time the officer gave a predetermined signal to other officers, who entered and placed the female masseuse under arrest for prostitution. A second masseuse also was arrested when officers entered her room and saw a client nude, which is in violation of the municipal code that prohibits genitals from being exposed during a massage. The two booked for prostitution were identified as Hee Kyeong Yi, 42, and Jung Hi Park, 59.

On Wednesday, April 12 at 5 p.m., police responded to the 1400 block of Montana Avenue — Wild Oats — regarding a report of grand theft. When officers arrived, they spoke with a manager at the store who said officials with Wild Oats had conducted an audit and determined that a service manager at the Montana store had been issuing gift cards in her name and then returning them for cash refunds. It was estimated that over a 12-month period, the service manager issued \$10,700 in gift cards. The employee was taken into custody by police and booked for grand theft. She was identified as Amy Jo Kozlow, 44.

On Saturday, April 15 at 12:30 p.m., police responded to the 1300 block of Third Street Promenade — Old Navy — regarding a possible theft investigation. When officers arrived, they spoke to a security officer who reported that a female entered the store, removed a package of underwear and removed three pairs. Old Navy employees said they saw her place the underwear in her purse and leave the store, failing to pay for them. Once outside the store, store security detained her. She was later released to police, and was booked for petty theft. She was identified as Zamika Montoya King, 19. The items allegedly stolen were valued at \$9.

(Editor's note: Bail amounts and the place of residence for each incident were not available for this report.)



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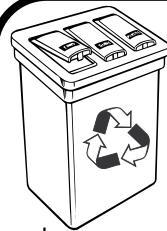
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LOCAL

Pilot program at airport
takes planes on new path

AIRPORT, from page 1

close to the airport. Of course, when we purchased our home we knew the airport was there, but in the last six years flights in and out of there have increased tremendously, so much so that in the summer, the fumes are unbearable.

“You’re always wondering if you should run back in the house, shut the doors and never go outside.”

Relief may be on its way. On Thursday afternoon, U.S. Representative Jane Harman announced a trial program already underway at Santa Monica Airport that, if successful, could cut down on the time planes spend idling on the runway.

The trial program involves a private jet company, NetJets, which is using a new flight path that does not conflict with flight paths at the Los Angeles International Airport, Harman said. By doing so, NetJets are able to take off without having to wait for clearance from LAX, which should cut down on time spent idling on the runway, and therefore, reduce air pollution.

If the program is successful, the congresswoman said she will lobby the FAA to let others participate. It’s not a solution to all of the noise and air pollution residents have complained about, but it’s a start, Harman said.

“My bottom line is, this airport has to be a good neighbor, and I will do everything in my power to make sure that happens,” said Harman, who accompanied Los Angeles City Councilman Bill Rosendahl and Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution, or CRAAP, on a tour of Vandeman’s neighborhood.

Airport manager Bob Trimborn said City Hall has been responsive to residents’

concerns and has been “proactive” by calling on the South Coast Air Quality Management District to conduct the first in-depth study on air quality at and around the airport. The study is currently underway, Trimborn said.

“This study is the first of its kind, so clearly, the City of Santa Monica is concerned,” Trimborn said. “We’ve been very proactive. Some feel we aren’t doing enough, fast enough, but this work you don’t do fast. It takes a while to accumulate data and analyze it.”

Trimborn said the relationship between the airport and residents is unique because housing was allowed to be built up to the perimeter of the airport and adjoining runways, with no natural buffers. This occurred during the peak years of Douglas Aircraft, which employed as many as 44,000 employees, many of which wanted to live close to work.

There has been a delicate balance ever since, Trimborn said, with City Hall enacting the strictest noise reduction program in the nation. As far as airplane engine emissions go, Trimborn said the International Civil Aviation Association and the FAA are responsible for setting the standards.

Long-time resident Virginia Ernst doesn’t care who’s responsible. She just wants to be able to eat lemons from her lemon tree without having to clean off the black soot that collects on her fruit from planes passing overhead.

“It’s not just the noise, it’s the toxic fumes, the soot,” she said. “It covers everything. I have to have my house pressure-washed almost every year. We’ve complained since 1992 and nothing’s been done. We just want someone to do something.”

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

in the coming years.

The event, hosted by Partnership with God, is to be held at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, April 23 at Simkins Hall, First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica. The church is located on 11th Street between California and Washington avenues.

Bridge classes available

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Public Library will be offering a series of free bridge classes. Classes will meet on Monday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for five weeks beginning on Monday, April 24.

The Fairview branch of the library located at 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. will be hosting the sessions.

Taught by four-time national champion bridge player Don Krauss, the classes are aimed at beginners and intermediate players wanting to sharpen their skills.

To register for this program, call (310) 450-0443.

Celebrities to read on the environment

By Daily Press staff

Children who have an appreciation for sea life, and the parents who love them, will all be able to enjoy special activities planned at the aquarium for Earth Day.

Heal the Bay’s marine education facility, the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium, will host a day of marine exploration and ocean awareness called “Commotion in the Ocean” from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, April 30.

Activities for the day include oceanographic demonstrations in the aquarium and on the pier, celebrity readings of environmental ocean-themed books, educational presentations and activities, and take-home arts and crafts projects.

Each visiting child will receive a free marine-themed book to take home and visitors will receive discount coupons for other pier businesses.

The aquarium is located at 1600 Ocean Front Walk, below the historic Santa Monica Pier Carousel. Admission is free for children 12 and under; \$5 for ages 13 and above.

LOCAL



Spikes in fuel prices prompt Big changes

BIG BLUE, from page 1

manager for the Big Blue Bus.

In the last 12 months, Dawson said the price for liquefied natural gas (LNG) has increased by almost 20 percent, "but that's nothing compared to diesel costs, which in the last 12 months has increased 35 percent."

And in the last two years, diesel costs have skyrocketed, spiking by 180 percent. This year, the bus company has budgeted \$3.65 million for fuel costs. Last year, the budget was \$2.9 million, Dawson said.

Of the 200 buses in the Big Blue Bus fleet, 89 buses run on LNG, with the remaining using diesel fuel. Dawson said 10 LNG buses were purchased and should be brought online in the next few months. LNG is slightly less expensive than diesel.

The higher fuel costs make providing typical Big Blue Bus service more expensive than projected, Dawson said. In addition, more resources are needed for a new service called "Community Transit," which is intended to make traveling in and around Santa Monica easier and better for residents and visitors.

The Big Blue Bus has conducted surveys on Community Transit over the last few weeks with key community members, Dawson said, and should be releasing the results of that survey within the next few weeks. The survey will help identify where routes should be created.

To begin Community Transit, which will rely on smaller buses that make more stops at locations of interest, resources are needed and the service cuts will be a start in helping Big Blue Bus shift resources toward the new service, according to transit officials.

The following is a summary of the changes that will be made, beginning in June.

■ Line 9: Service will be rescheduled on Sundays from the current 30-minute frequency to 60-minute frequency, and there will be some minor schedule and route changes on weekdays. The route changes will affect only the stops at Fourth Street and Colorado Avenue. For northbound passengers, the closest new stop will be at the corner of Fourth Street and Colorado Avenue. For southbound passengers, the next closest stop is located on Broadway at Fourth Street. The southbound route will change at Fourth Street and Broadway, and will now travel west on

Broadway and south on Second Street to Colorado Avenue.

■ Line 4: Slight schedule changes will be made to the timetable, the end of the route and the layover point, which will change to Second Street and Colorado Avenue. There will be no route or frequency changes to the weekend schedule.

■ Line 5: After 7 p.m., all trips will end on Pico Boulevard at Beverly Street. After 8 p.m., service will be changed from a 30-minute to 60-minute frequency. Both of the changes will be effective seven days per week. The last trip leaving downtown Santa Monica heading eastbound will be at approximately 9:15 p.m.

■ Line 12: The line ends at Pico Boulevard and Robertson with no peak-period extension to the Pico Rimpau Transit Center. There will be no changes to the weekend service.

■ New Fare option: A day-pass and the elimination of free local transfers were discussed at the meetings and are still under consideration. Any proposed changes to fares will be publicly noticed and will go through a public hearing process before the City Council this spring.

■ Combining of bus stops: The Metro and Big Blue Bus stops have been combined at the westbound Santa Monica Boulevard and Bundy Drive stop to make it more convenient for passengers. This suggestion was made at one of the meetings, and this change has already been put into place.

To raise more revenue, Dawson said transit officials are also considering restructuring bus fares by eliminating free transfers and creating an all-day transit pass much like the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation District's \$3 day pass, which offers unlimited rides.

Dawson said transit officials have also cut back "tremendously" on overtime for maintenance employees and have delayed refurbishments to buses.

Big Blue Bus is also in negotiations with its fuel suppliers to lock in a long-term contract that would cap fuel prices to help stabilize operations, Dawson said.

So far, layoffs have not been considered.

"We already operate on a very lean human resources budget," Dawson said. "Some days we run close to not having enough drivers. If we made any more cuts that would start to negatively affect service."

OBITUARY

Phillips, seeker of truth

By Daily Press staff

Anita Bernstein Phillips passed on April 15 of natural causes. She was 75.

Born and raised in New York, she migrated to the west coast about 1975 and formed a close attachment to her cousin, the late Jeanette Bernstein Partnow; her husband, the late Al Partnow; their daughters, Dr. Judith Hyman, Elaine Bernstein Partnow, and Susan Partnow, and their grandchildren, David Hyatt, Lesley Ann Hyatt-Friedman, and Michael Hyman.

Phillips is described as having an amazing spirit. Despite struggling with bipolar disease throughout her adult life, she never allowed it to keep her from living fully and passionately. Santa Monica

became her adopted home in February, 1998. A constant a seeker of truth and justice, she worked served as chair of the Elder Abuse Committee for the Santa Monica Commission on Older Americans. After law school, she volunteered her services at the local Legal Aid Society, and, working as a paralegal, was an advocate for the homeless. Phillips helped many of her contemporaries with their legal problems.

She will be buried at the Bernstein Family Plot in Beth Moses Cemetery in Pinelawn, NY. She is survived by her cousins, her sister and brother-in-law, Rosalind and David Spielsinger, several nieces and nephews, and her lifelong friend Naomi Mark, who was like family.

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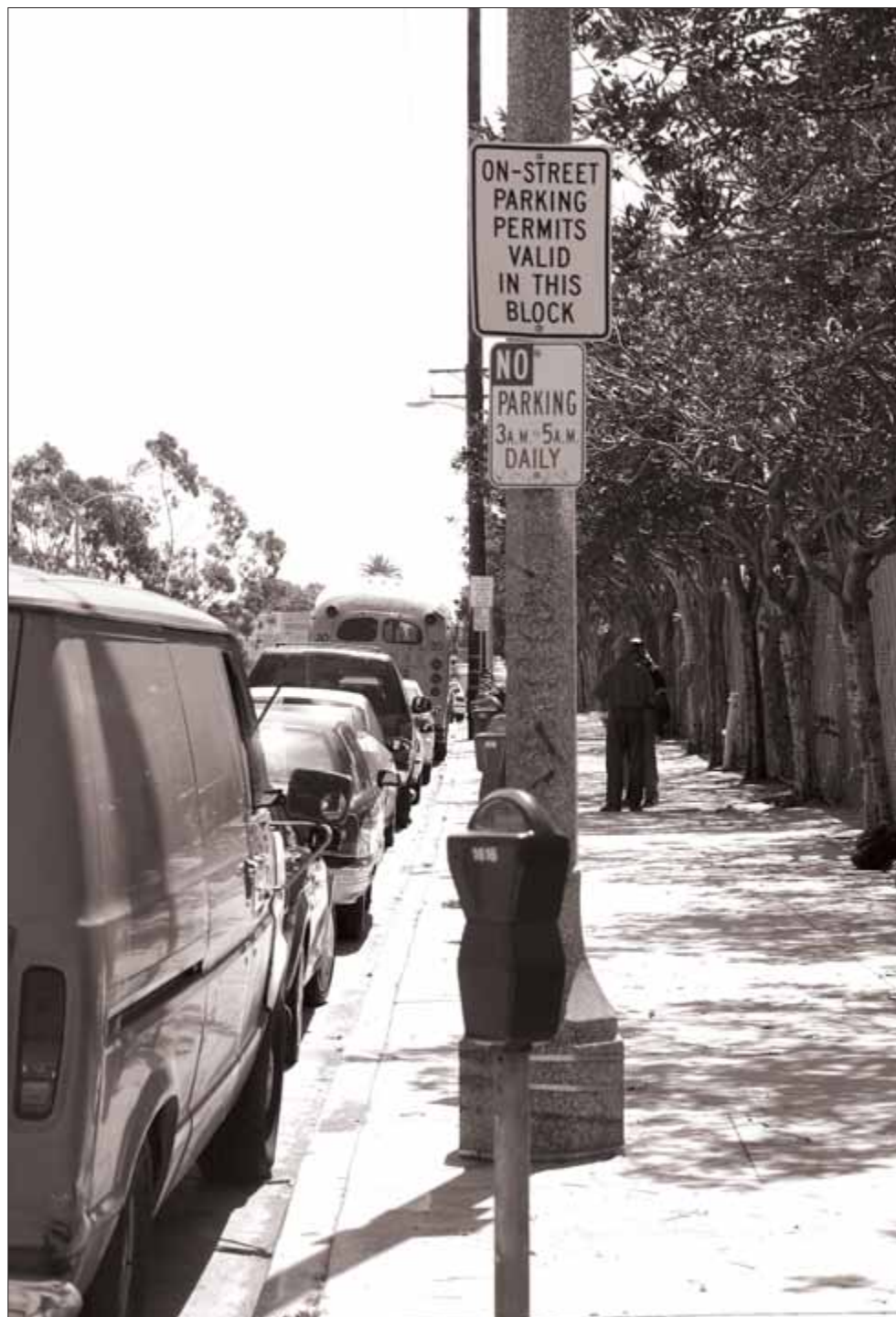
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Kevin Herrera/Daily Press

SIGNS BEHIND THE TIMES: Despite a city sign denoting the opposite, the discounted parking permit program along the city's industrial zone has been eliminated, forcing many employers and their workers to scramble for space and empty their pockets into meters.

Days of discounted rates are over

METERS, from page 1

which is practically no good, or I'll have to make my employees pay their own parking or insurance."

The parking meter permit program, which is at least 20 years old, allowed for those like Beaufait to purchase permits from the city enabling them to park at meters on certain streets in the industrial zone — between Colorado Avenue and Olympic Boulevard — for \$35 a month. The program was intended to provide relief to business owners while generating revenue for the city at meters that were rarely used.

Business owners recognized the permits were a bargain. At \$35 per month, Beaufait and company could afford to purchase permits for all of their employees — saving them time, money and frustration. Students from Crossroads School also found the permits helpful, as their school lacked adequate parking, city officials said.

But with the permits no longer available, drivers are shelling out hundreds of dollars or more each month feeding meters, which can cost as much as \$9 a day for nine hours of parking. Those hardest hit are small business owners like Beaufait, who operate on a limited budget.

When the program was established, city

officials said there were few cars parked on the participating blocks, leaving meters sitting idle.

"But things have changed," said Lucy Dyke, City Hall's transportation planning manager. "Originally, there wasn't much demand, but now these streets are very busy with traffic. New businesses have come in, the post office nearby expanded. It's no longer possible to provide this (parking discount)."

The rate for each permit was originally set at \$10 per month, but that was raised to \$35 in 1989 to match increases in parking meter rates. Dyke said the cost of the permits eventually fell far behind increased meter rates, providing a significant discount, so much so that sales of the permits were capped in 1990 after city staff received complaints from purchasers that there were no spaces available, Dyke said.

"We felt the program wasn't equitable at that point because, how could we tell some they can't have the permits, but then provide such a discount to others?" Dyke proposed. She added that some were also abusing the program, purchasing permits and then leasing private parking spaces for profit.

The move to discontinue the program

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See METERS, page 9

LOCAL

Workers scramble to adjust

METERS, from page 8

began in 2003, when the City Council increased parking meter rates and voted to replace aging mechanical meters with electronic ones that could accept a stored value card, now known as the Santa Monicard — a debit card that allows people to store up to \$120 at a time and use at meters across the city.

With the Santa Monicards available for purchase this month, the parking meter permits were discontinued.

Notices were sent out on January 30 to some 60 groups or individuals who purchased the permits. The letter advised them that the program would end by April 1. Dyke said the city sold 347 permits per month.

Scott Carleton, vice president of Nomad, a post-production house on 19th Street, said he understands why City Hall has discontinued the program, but he wishes more advance notice would have been given so he could have factored the new parking costs into his budget for the year.

"All I received was one letter," said Carleton, who had been purchasing 10 permits for his employees. "Their response was that the decision had been made years ago. Well, that's great, but if you don't read all the City Council agendas you're not made aware. I would have thought since the decision was made back then, someone would have given us notices since we purchase new permits every month.

"It seems like it happened overnight. I know it didn't go down like that, but that's how it felt."

Carleton said he has had to resort to having his employees park in his customer parking lot. If a customer does visit, he has to have his employees leave work to move their car, which cuts into his company's productivity. Without the permits, Carleton said he is looking at a \$14,000 increase in costs this year.

"I understand their need to be fair to everyone, but I feel if I'm parking here all the time, I should get some kind of volume discount," he said. "I understand what they're doing, but I feel it could have been handled differently."

Dyke said notices were sent out in January to give business owners "an ample amount of time to make other arrangements," such as purchasing parking in the new

Main Library parking structure. Spaces there are going for \$85.50 per month.

"It's a brand new facility, underground, secure and there are plenty of spaces available," said Mayor Bob Holbrook. "I just hope people will take advantage of it."

The only problem with the library lot, business owners said, is that it is too far away to walk.

"It's not realistic," Beaufait said. "For someone on 19th Street, having to walk 14 blocks at night, unescorted, that's ridiculous and totally unrealistic."

"It seems like it happened overnight. I know it didn't go down like that, but that's how it felt."

SCOTT CARLETON
Vice president
Nomad

Dyke said City Hall is investing in improvements to the transit system as well as bicycle and pedestrian facilities that should be able to provide some relief. She also suggested business owners purchase Santa Monicards for their employees.

"That's not a solution," Beaufait said. "What if one of my employees loses the card? Am I supposed to punch in up to nine hours of parking? What happens when I have to leave? I can't get that money back."

In a letter sent to Councilman Bobby Shriver in March, Larry Kasanoff, the president of Threshold Entertainment on 11th Street, pleaded for the City Council to reconsider the decision to end the program, which he said was a bad move for residents, businesses and their employees, and doesn't help in solving the parking crisis in the city.

"We could have worked together on a solution," Kasanoff wrote. "Without sufficient parking, employees will most likely end up circling blocks around the office, wasting time and gas. In the end, they will arrive stressed at the beginning of the day. Ultimately, this reflects upon their work, which in turn, impacts the business."

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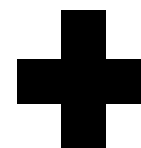
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Stereotypes abound in ‘Dreamz’



MOVIE REVIEW

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

THE MOVIE: American Dreamz
THE DIRECTOR: Paul Weitz
THE STARS: Hugh Grant, Mandy Moore, Dennis Quaid, Chris Klein, Marcia Gay Harden, Willem Dafoe, Jennifer Coolidge

If his latest film is to do brisk box office business, writer-director Paul Weitz (“In Good Company,” “About a Boy”) had best be right about its central conceit: In “American

Dreamz” Weitz posits that a great many Americans are starstruck dolts who celebrate the banal at the expense of the truly consequential. Well, given that Weitz’ movie is a poorly executed satire littered with mean-spirited jokes and offensive stereotypes, he must be banking on the Great Unwashed turning out just to see movie stars such as Hugh Grant and Mandy Moore. And they boink, too.

Grant plays the caustic Brit host of America’s most beloved television program, a ratings phenomenon that pits ordinary people against one another vying to become the next great singing sensation. Sound familiar? Grant’s Martin Tweed is a

self-loathing egoist who you might say has lost his religion ... that is, if you could possibly imagine him having one in the first place. His hatred for the show that has made him a household name is matched only by his contempt for the idolatrous householders. But when the latest search for hopefuls turns up conniving Ohio songbird Sally Kendoo (Moore), Martin — or “Tweedy,” as he likes to be called — finds renewed vigor in a kindred spirit. Meanwhile, Dennis Quaid and Willem Dafoe pillory the current administration with all the subtlety of a punch in the nose (all gags directed squarely ON the nose)

playing, respectively, a half-witted President and his Karl Rove-ian Chief of Staff. Chris Klein remains a model of consistency with yet another utterly convincing turn as an insensate yet lovable lunkhead.

In fairness, the cast does a pretty good job, particularly newcomer Sam Goltzari as a reluctant would-be Middle Eastern terrorist with a passion for showtunes. Too bad Weitz puts Goltzari in the unenviable position of trying to mine humor in an area most Americans prefer not be tread. It’s one of many missteps that haunt this filmmaker’s “Dreamz.”

(RATED PG-13. RUNNING TIME: 107 MINUTES)



SANTA MONICA ART PALETTE

MAKING ARTS AND CULTURE COME ALIVE IN SANTA MONICA

Welcome to the Santa Monica Art Palette for the weekend of April 21. The goal of the Art Palette, created by City Hall’s cultural affairs division, is to showcase the many eclectic arts and cultural opportunities available in Santa Monica every week, highlighting one or more of the many happenings within our borders.





Hit the gallery scene on Friday night, sip wine, mingle with the hipsters, and check out the openings at the Lowe Gallery, Berman/Turner Projects and other spaces. You’ll find tribal art sculptures and other art objects on display in the exhibition “Ancestors: In Search of a Source” at Lowe Gallery while Bergamot Station’s Berman/Turner Projects will feature an array of female forms in the group show “Queen of the Night.”

Ancestors: In Search of a Source
The Lowe Gallery
2034 Broadway
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
(310) 449.0194

Queen of the Night
Berman Turner Projects
2525 Michigan Ave.
(310) 453-0909
<http://www.bermanturnerprojects.com/>

Corey Arnold’s Raccoon Costume (seen below) is just one of the artworks that will be on sale Saturday night at Fresh Start’s one-night-only sale to raise funds for A Window Between Worlds, providing arts programming for children living in domestic abuse shelters and My Friend’s Place’s art programs for teens living on the streets of Hollywood. There will be cocktails and hors d’oeuvres from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. along with music by KCRW DJ Scott Silva. Tickets are \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door.

Arena 1 Gallery
Santa Monica Art Studios
3026 Airport Ave.
<http://www.freshstartweb.org/index.html>



Track 16 will host local company Empire of Teeth’s premiere performance of The Crook: A Revival on Friday and Saturday night. Theatre, dance, performance art and low-tech lighting and sound come together to create a multi-disciplinary feast.

The Crook: A Revival
Track 16 Gallery
2525 Michigan Ave.
Friday and Saturday at 8:30 p.m.
April 2 –May 6

Reservations and tickets
(310) 392-9396
<http://www.empireofteeth.org/crook.html>.

Take advantage of this great weather Sunday afternoon while you enjoy the music of Theresa James and the Rhythm Tramps. The concert starts at 2 p.m. The series continues every Sunday until Memorial Day.

You can also stay indoors on Sunday at an Afternoon With Jonathoan Safran Foer, author of the 2006 Santa Monica Reads book, “Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close.” Presented by the Santa Monica Library and Santa Monica College, the award-winning writer will read from and discuss his novel, followed by question-and-answer and a book sale and signing on Sunday, April 23, from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., at Santa Monica College Pavilion, 1900 Pico Blvd.



And to wrap up this Art Palette Super Pak, Sunday also offers up a fresh round of the L.A. Café Plays at the Ruskin Theatre. Writers, directors and actors team up to write, stage and perform five short plays in only 10.5 hours. This month the plays will revolve around the theme “There’s something I need to tell you.” Tickets for © L.A. Café Plays are \$10 and reservations are strongly encouraged.

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And once again, don’t forget to mark your calendars now for the 14th Annual Santa Monica Festival on May 13. Viver Brasil will be putting in an appearance before starting their National Dance Project funded tour. The local dance company fuses passionate Afro-Brazilian dance with stunning costumes, exultant percussion and dynamic vocals with dances inspired by the Bahian carnival for an amazing visual and auditory experience.



If you would like to subscribe to the Santa Monica Arts Palette via e-mail, please send a blank e-mail with the word “Subscribe” in the subject line to artpalette.mailbox@smgov.net.



‘Sentinel’ stars shoot blanks



MOVIE REVIEW

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

THE MOVIE: The Sentinel
THE DIRECTOR: Clark Johnson
THE STARS: Michael Douglas, Kiefer Sutherland, Kim Basinger, Eva Longoria

Why are sinister Russian assassins who inexplicably haven’t experienced the Cold War thaw trying to kill America’s President? How were they able to infiltrate the highest levels of the Secret

Service undetected? What’s a petite Desperate Housewife doing waving around a badge and a gun? What in the hell is Kiefer Sutherland doing in this movie? These are just a few questions raised in the bromidic striller (shorthand for “stupid thriller”) for which there are no reasonable answers.

While this movie was almost certainly shopped around Hollywood as being a cross between “The Fugitive” and “In The Line of Fire,” make no mistake — it’s inferior to both in every regard that matters.

(RATED PG-13. RUNNING TIME: 108 MINUTES)

‘Standing’ room not enough



MOVIE REVIEW

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

THE MOVIE: Standing Still
THE DIRECTOR: Matthew Cole Weiss
THE STARS: Jon Abrahams, Colin Hanks, Mena Suvari, James Van Der Beek, Lauren German, Amy Adams, Ethan Embry

The old saying goes that you can find some good in anyone or anything if you look hard enough. It’s easy to spot what’s good about “Standing Still” — cast members Jon Abrahams (“Prime”), James Van Der Beek (“Dawson’s Creek”) and, in particular, an alluring young actress you probably have not heard of named Lauren German. Unfortunately, the bad stuff is more conspicuous.

Director Matthew Cole Weiss and scribes Matthew Perniciaro and Timm Sharp modeled their ensemble piece after Lawrence Kasdan’s “The Big Chill,” and ran into many of the same problems that plagued their overrated forebear. For one, there are so many characters that we never truly get to know any of them. Additionally, several key scenes designed to add weight

to the proceedings are transparently contrived. At least half the cast is guilty of affecting the sort of overwrought emotion you’d expect to find on a daytime soap opera, and it doesn’t help matters that their dilemmas are so superficial. When did being twentysomething, hot, successful and unattached become such a cross to bear?

Pic finds a group of college pals reuniting in a Hollywood Hills manse for a wedding. The alcohol flows freely and bedlam ensues as old hurts are exposed while new romances bud. The gang is a mishmash of types, most interesting among them Jennifer (German) the disenchanted former lover of the bride-to-be who sets her sights on the serially lovelorn actress Lana (Mena Suvari). Van Der Beek is delightful too as a narcissistic alcoholic (yet strangely lovable) actor who just signed on for the lead in a “metaphysical western.” On the flip side, “Standing Still” could have done without Colin Hanks’ sleazy Hollywood agent (really, does anyone OUTSIDE the business give a crap about these guys?) and Ethan Embry’s hyperkinetic children’s show host — intended comic relief that relieves every scene of comedy.

(RATED R. RUNNING TIME: 90 MINUTES)

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ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

Santa Monica company wins award for best producer

By Daily Press staff

H. Thomas Jones of the Santa Monica-based Halo Group won “Best Producer” honors at this month’s Beverly Hill’s film festival for the documentary “The Real Deal,” which chronicles the evolution and impact of the homeless performance group Los Angeles Poverty Department, (LAPD), which offers free performance workshops to the Skid Row community.

“The Real Deal,” written by LAPD founder John Malpede and directed by Jones, utilizes a one-man performance by Malpede and interviews to detail the 20-year history of the organization. The LAPD transforms the experiences of the Skid Row community into performance, establishing a forum for social action and development. Among those interviewed is theater director Peter Sellars.

To find out more about the film, go to www.lapovertydept.org.

Troupe dancing to freedom

By Daily Press staff

A local dance troupe is inviting members of the public to come see what’s shaking. The R Dance Company is now showing Freedom Dances, a tribute to the tenacity and strength of the human spirit. Artistic directors/choreographers Roberta Wolin-Manker and Robert Whidbee are joined by Meri Bender, Ola Hudson, Kathryn Rossum and special guests Marion Scott with Craig Ng for dance and poetry.

Roberta Wolin-Manker, nominated for two Lester Horton Awards, premieres “Freedom Suite;” Robert Whidbee, second place winner in the William Couser Black Choreographer Awards, presents “Eternity;” and Marion Scott, now 83, recipient of the Lester Horton Lifetime Achievement Award in Dance, premieres “Into the Light” with Craig Ng.

The show is being held at 8:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, April 28 and 29, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 30, at the Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St., one block north of Olympic Boulevard.

Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$14 for students. For reservations, call (310) 315-1459.

Treasure film to be featured at fest

By Daily Press staff

A family film about treasure has become a treasure of its own. The Seventh Annual Newport Beach Film Festival will present a line-up of family films from around the world, including the world premiere of The Tillamook Treasure, directed by Santa Monica resident Jane B. Hall.

The Tillamook Treasure is part of the 2006 Family Film Series, which will take place at Edwards Island Cinemas, located in Fashion Island at 999 Newport Center Drive in Newport Beach at 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 23.

A question and answer session with director Jane Hall and the cast will follow the screening. The Tillamook Treasure is a coming-of-age story that revolves around self-discovery and personal strength in life, and an inspirational movie for young girls. Julie Kimball’s (Suzanne Marie Doyon) adventures and discoveries highlight the most amazing summer of her life.

Filmed in Santa Monica and on location at the Oregon Coast, The Tillamook Treasure follows the adventure of a 14-year-old girl as she searched for a local treasure legend. The movie opens as Julie and her family move to an Oregon seaside town after her dad loses his job. Her parents struggle with his unemployment and their own marital problems. Her Grandpa Jack (Max Gail) and his friend, Standing Elk (Floyd Red Crow Westerman), seem to be the only ones with time for Julie. Julie finds an old Spanish gold coin after a mystical encounter with a huge elk on the beach. Grandpa Jack and Standing Elk tell Julie about the Tillamook treasure legend. The legend talks about Spanish sailors who buried a chest of gold on Neahkahnie Mountain over 300 years ago. The Spaniards killed a slave and buried him with the treasure to frighten the Indians away. The elk becomes her watchful guide as Julie searches for the buried gold and discovers more than she’s bargained for. In the tense climax, Julie’s courage is tested to the maximum as she places herself in great physical danger in order to complete her quest.

The Tillamook Treasure, a Bright Light Studio production, is written and produced the award-winning team of Hall and Richard A Doyon. The film is directed by Hall, with stars Brian McNamara (Arachnophobia, Caddyshack 2), Brian Thompson (X-Files, The Terminator, Dragonheart) and Julia Campbell (Santa Barbara, Romy and Michele’s High School Reunion).

Tickets and information are available by calling (866) NBFF-TIX or online at the festival’s Web site www.NewportBeachFilmFest.com.

Sitcom of aspring actress lives

By Daily Press staff

Those who say the days of the sitcom are dead may not have seen “Sugar Happens: A One-Girl Show,” which has been running at The Lee Strasberg Theater in West Hollywood for 10 months.

The show recounts nice/naughty Jewish girl Rachel Bailit’s ascent from Nowhere (Needham, Mass.) to Almost-There (The Proverbial Cutting Room Floor). It’s the bracingly honest personal story of one aspiring actress in a city full of aspiring actresses.

Rachel’s undying optimism inspires, and her comic and considerable anatomical gifts are on bounteous display.

The show is written by Emmy winning writer, Sherry Coben, and directed by David Lee Strasberg. The show was featured at the HBO Aspen Comedy Festival on a referral from a producer on The Tonight Show.

The show runs at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Lee Strasberg Theater in West Hollywood.

Green Gardens without water?

BY JUNE STODDARD

Special to the Daily Press

Sitting at The Talking Stick on Ocean Park Boulevard, after my volunteering gig at KCRW, an e-mail pops up. It’s an invitation to the second annual Green Gardens Tour-Santa Monica coming up later this month. Last year, I participated in the first garden tour. My favorite garden felt like a secret, lush garden — a vacation far from the city. I can’t wait to go again to see what I’ll experience and learn this time.

Sipping my green tea I remember I’d never heard of sustainable gardening last year. This year, I’m working toward sustainability. What does that mean? Sustainable landscapes thrive with little watering or chemical treatments. They use few resources and create little or no waste. They’re in balance with their environment.

Well, I have a few small patches of ground around my condominium and work sporadically at taking care of them. I’ve succeeded in not watering them much, and presto it looks great. No really, I chose cape honeysuckle to frame my patio, butterfly bush, jade plant, rosemary, a rose bush in a blue pot, and various flowering perennials around my patio in

ceramic pots organized by size, shape and color. It is looking pretty good, but random. It needs something and I know this year’s tour will bring me the answer.

Oh, I forgot, usually every spring some microscopic predator attacks my plants. One day the leaves are a beautiful shade of shiny green. The next day they’re just nowhere to be seen. What do I do about them and not use pesticides? Well, last year solutions abounded at each and every inspiring garden, and wouldn’t you know I didn’t take notes. This year I will.

Thank you, Marilee Kuhlman, for creating this wonderful fundraiser for the Virginia Avenue Project, an afterschool nonprofit, helping children discover their full potential.

The tour is on Saturday, April 29, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Their choice of gardens demonstrates that green gardens can be lush, colorful and inexpensive. Information is available at (310) 264-4224, or at www.VirginiaAvenueProject.org.

(June Stoddard, a Santa Monica freelance writer and gardener, is working toward sustainable gardening on her patio and in life. To reach her, e-mail her at js@searchjs.com.)

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STATE

California home sales fell in March

BY ALEX VEIGA

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — Home sales fell statewide in March for the sixth month in a row, while annual price appreciation remained flat, a real estate research firm said Wednesday.

Some 54,500 houses and condominiums were sold in March, down 12.5 percent from a revised 62,300 a year ago.

However, sales last month were up 43.8 percent compared to February, according to DataQuick Information Systems.

January and February are traditionally slow sales periods, so an increase in March is typical.

Even so, last month's sales count was the third strongest of all March figures in DataQuick's records, which go back to 1988.

Meanwhile, the statewide median price of a home hit \$473,000 in March, up 12.4 percent from \$421,000 in March 2005 and up 3.5 percent from February, DataQuick said. The average annual price increase in February was 12.3 percent.

The numbers reflect the gradual transition from a high-flying housing market that saw prices basically double during the past four years to a less frenzied market, DataQuick analyst John Karevoll said.

"Looking back, last month's numbers are actually stronger than we anticipated," he said. "The sales are still strong. They're not at record-breaking levels, but well above the midpoint."

Annual home price increases in California peaked in June 2004 at 23.2 percent, and that rate has gradually

declined ever since.

The annual increase posted in March could be lower than some homeowners had expected but still exceeds the roughly 7 percent average appreciation rate the state has seen since 1988, Karevoll said.

"Even if it's not 24 percent, it's still way above the longterm average gain for home prices," he said. "Today's market is actually much more balanced and much more healthy and much more sustainable than it was a year or two ago."

DataQuick also released figures for the nine-county region surrounding San Francisco Bay. Sales in that area were down 13.8 percent in March compared to the same month last year but up 57 percent from February, DataQuick said.

The median price of a home in the region in March was \$622,000, an increase of 9.5 percent from \$568,000 a year ago and up 1 percent from February.

The median home price in Marin County led the state at \$817,000 but the figure rose by less than 1 percent in March compared to the year-ago period. Six other counties across the state also posted appreciation rates in the single digits.

In a six-county area of Southern California, 29,509 homes were sold in March, a 9.7 percent drop from the same period a year ago, DataQuick said. But the sales total marked a 48.2 percent hike from February.

The median home price in the region hit \$501,000 last month, up 14.1 percent from March 2005 and up 4.4 percent from February.

A typical monthly mortgage payment in California in March was \$2,250, a \$296 increase from March 2005 and a \$107 increase from February, DataQuick said.

STATE BRIEFS

D'oh! Doughnut case botched

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — An appellate court reversed a 2003 doughnut store robbery conviction because sheriff's detectives botched presentation of lineup photos used to identify the suspect.

The three-judge 2nd District Court of Appeal ruled Wednesday that the "six-pack" photo lineup used in the case against Saul Rodriguez Carlos was prejudicial and violated his due process rights.

The mug shot of Carlos was the only photo in the half-dozen photo array labeled with his name and identification number.

"The problem is the composition of the photo array and the witnesses' failure to identify Carlos at trial," Justice Miriam Vogel wrote in the unanimous appellate court ruling.

Sheriff's investigators found a fingerprint on the cash register that linked the doughnut store robbery to Carlos. The store owner and her husband identified Carlos in a photo lineup, but a third victim couldn't

At trial, however, all three were unable to point Carlos out in the courtroom as the robber. Carlos was convicted and sentenced to 25 years to life, plus 10 years for prior convictions.

"Although the name placement is not quite an arrow pointing to Carlos, it is plainly suggestive," wrote Vogel, who was joined by Justices Vaino Spencer and Frances Rothschild.

CPR instructor not all that

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — An audit uncovered falsified paperwork by one of the primary CPR instructors at troubled Martin Luther King Jr./Charles Drew Medical Center.

Nearly 500 nurses and other hospital staff members had to be retrained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation after the county inspectors found falsified paperwork by an instructor who gave away answers on at least one test and improperly sold certification cards.

The confidential health department audit report, obtained by the Los Angeles Times, said 482 medical center employees had supposedly been taught lifesaving skills by nurse manager Virginia A. Williams.

But auditors could not verify whether any had received proper training or whether some received any training at all.

"We started retraining people immediately after it was determined that there had been improprieties with that particular instructor," King/Drew chief executive Antionette Smith Epps said.

Williams was escorted off the hospital grounds in November after health officials conducted a sting in which an employee working with authorities pretended to need certification. Williams has denied selling CPR cards or allowing hospital staff to obtain them without passing a test.

The county is taking steps to fire Williams, a 23-year county employee, health department spokesman Michael Wilson said.

The Public Integrity Division of the district attorney's office is also reviewing the matter for possible prosecution, said spokeswoman Jane Robison.

Voters keep mansions out of canyon

By The Associated Press

SANTA PAULA — Voters rejected a ballot measure to allow 495 mansions in Adams Canyon.

Measure Y on Tuesday's ballot — defeated 2,201 to 2,082 — would have expanded the rural Ventura County city's growth boundaries to allow the development. About 41 percent of the city's 10,435 registered voters cast ballots.

Pinnacle Development Group of Scottsdale, Ariz., in partnership with San Diego County landowner Arnold Dahlberg, wanted to build 495 luxury homes on 6,500 acres. The Adams Preserve proposal called for homes on lots averaging 12 acres, a 200-room luxury hotel and spa, and a private 18-hole golf course and country club.

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'Without a Mexican' enjoys revival amid immigration debate

BY ERIN TEXEIRA

AP National Writer

As activists urge work and school boycotts May 1 in what's being called "A Day Without Immigrants," a film with a similar title and the same message — America needs immigrants — is enjoying a revival.

The 2004 independent film "A Day Without a Mexican" made less than \$5 million in theaters, but rentals are up and a new ad campaign is in the works. Some protesters are even sporting T-shirts with the film's logo, a silhouette of a man in a sombrero carrying a duffel bag.

"There's been a lot of talk about the film — it has served as an organizing tool, a kind of reference," said Yareli Arizmendi, who co-wrote the script and whose husband, Sergio Arau, directed the film.

Arizmendi first noticed renewed interest in the film when she went to protests in downtown Los Angeles in March. Not only were people wearing the film's T-shirt, others carried banners with the logo and some chanted variations on a key film line: "How do you make the invisible visible?"

In the last month, rentals of the movie are up 17 percent compared to the month before, said Leigh Savidge, CEO of Xenon Pictures, the distributor.

"It was the right film pegged to the zeitgeist right now," he said, adding that Xenon is planning new billboard ads and radio spots, and will give away T-shirts at upcoming rallies.

An HBO film titled "Walkout" also was prophetic. The feature dramatizes when thousands of Latino students in Los Angeles boycotted classes over poor quality schools. It debuted March 18, a week before hundreds of thousands, including many students, marched in Los Angeles.

"A Day Without a Mexican" is a mockumentary showing what happens when mysterious fog surrounds California and all the Latinos — one-third of all residents — disappear. Arizmendi plays a television news reporter who is the only surviving Latino.

The comedy plays on stereotypes of California's immigrants, who are mostly Mexican, as farm laborers and gardeners. Without them, carts of oranges go unsold beside freeway onramps and leaf-blowers spin in circles with no one to work them. The governor disappears, garbage goes uncollected and public safety is endangered as police departments are decimated.

The filmmakers' point: The state needs immigrants as much as the immigrants need the state.

Many immigration activists are now saying just that as they plan for May 1. Though there is disagreement over the strategy, many are urging immigrants to boycott work, school and shopping that day to show how important they are to the nation.

"One of the arguments is that immigrants take away from the U.S. economy. Then, if they're not here — if they don't work or buy anything — essentially the economy will go up, right?" said Oscar Byanko Sanchez-Quinto, a spokesman for the March 25 Coalition in Los Angeles. "This will be a good marker. Let's show our economic power.

"I think the film made perfect sense from that point of view," he said.

Though nearly everyone involved in the immigration movement seems to have seen the movie, not everybody loved it, or even acknowledges it. Reviews were mixed, with many saying its clever premise fell short. Nearly 2,700 viewers who rated it on Yahoo! Movies gave it an average grade of C.

"What? You mean the really bad movie? No, no, we're not connected to that," said Brad Baldia, spokesman for the coalition in Philadelphia that staged a Day Without an Immigrant boycott on Feb. 14.

Still, the film won festival awards in Mexico and grossed \$4.6 million in theaters — more than twice what it cost to make.

Smuggling gangs doing fine

BY JULIE WATSON

Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY — Sidling up to migrants who arrive at the Tijuana airport and cruising the streets in border towns, "coyotes" in gold chains and dark sunglasses openly find customers for nightly scrambles across the U.S. border.

Mexico's president offered to crack down on smuggling at a recent summit with President Bush. But close to 100 smuggling gangs are still operating, government officials say, in plain sight of Mexican law enforcement.

"While drug smugglers are invisible for the most part, people smugglers are visible, working right in front of authorities," said Tijuana border expert Victor Clark, who has studied the illegal trade for decades.

Smuggling people into the United States from around the world has become a \$10 billion-a-year industry, according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials. Global crime networks use Mexican smugglers to sneak in Cubans, Brazilians, Iraqis, Africans and Chinese, according to Interpol, the international police network.

Border experts say the price for Mexican migrants has quadrupled from \$300 to more than \$1,200 since 1994, when the U.S. last tightened the rules. One migrant told The Associated Press he recently paid \$1,300 to get across.

President Vicente Fox's administration has been caught between promoting itself as the migrants' protector and bowing to U.S. pressure to crack down on gangs sneaking migrants across the border.

Although smugglers have been blamed for abandoning some migrants to their deaths in the desert heat, the Mexican government has been hesitant to move against them, knowing the death toll would climb if people crossed on their own, Clark said.

"Migrant traffickers have become a necessary evil," he said.

Corruption also taints Mexico's efforts to stop human trafficking. Clark, who heads the Tijuana-based Binational Center for Human Rights, said his group interviewed 50 detained smugglers and found 39 of them were simply migrants who were handed over to authorities after the real smugglers paid off police.

Human trafficking is not a priority for Mexican politicians more concerned with kidnappings, drug trafficking and murders, border experts say. Officials from five federal government entities, including the presidency, did not respond to repeated requests for comment for this story over several days.

Since taking office in December 2000, Fox has sought the passage of a migration accord as the centerpiece of his administration. Bush also expressed enthusiasm for

such a measure until his attention turned to border security after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

At the summit last month in Cancun, Fox once again told Bush he would do more to prosecute smugglers, hoping to encourage Washington to legalize millions of migrants. Fox noted that his government already had strengthened enforcement on Mexico's southern border to stem the flow of U.S.-bound Central Americans.

But he made clear that Mexicans would not be stopped from heading to the border, because their right to travel within Mexico is constitutionally guaranteed. "We can't infringe upon the right of people to move freely within our territory," Fox said.

"Migrant traffickers have become a necessary evil."

VICTOR CLARK
Border expert

Critics say Mexico is using that argument as an excuse to turn a blind eye.

In one example, they point to Las Chapas, a smugglers' haven near the New Mexico border that Mexico tried to wipe off the map last September by bulldozing a third of its houses. Six months later, the smugglers were back and doing better than ever, working daily, untouched by police.

Over the past decade, the country has set up federal anti-smuggling units to investigate traffickers. The penalty for smuggling was raised from four years in prison to 12.

In 2004, the Fox administration broke up one of the biggest migrant-trafficking rings ever uncovered in Mexico, arresting 42 current and former government employees in 12 states who allegedly smuggled Cubans, Uruguayans, Brazilians, Asians and Central Americans, first into Mexico, and then into the United States.

In August, Mexico began exchanging intelligence information with officials in San Diego and Yuma, Ariz. In April, they expanded the program, known as OASISS, to El Paso, Texas.

Under the initiative, Mexican and U.S. agents share information on traffickers' movements and provide each other evidence to prosecute them in court. Fox says the program already has helped put 120 traffickers in prison.

"They are trying," said Armand Peschard-Sverdrup, of the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies. "But I still think Mexico's judicial system lacks the integrity to see indictments all the way through to a prosecution."

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Bush, Hu meet amid protests

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush and Chinese President Hu Jintao agreed to cooperate more closely on trade and nuclear tensions over Iran and North Korea but failed to break new ground Thursday toward resolving a host of differences. Their meeting was marred by a protest.

No breakthroughs had been expected during Hu's first visit to the White House as the president of China. And both he and Bush acknowledged at a picture-taking session that much work remained to be done and that the two sides would strive for progress in these areas.

A welcoming ceremony on the South Lawn for Hu's first visit as Chinese leader was briefly marred by the screams of a woman critical of the Chinese president. And hundreds of demonstrators massed outside to protest Beijing's human-rights policies.

Bush, sitting in the Oval Office with Hu before a formal luncheon, praised China for previous progress in what is perhaps the major irritant in the relationship — Beijing's tightly controlled currency.

The United States views the Chinese yuan as undervalued, and Bush said, "We would hope there would be more appreciation" in allowing the currency to rise with market forces.

On Iran, China has resisted the approach favored by the United States and Europe — pursuing sanctions if Tehran does not comply with demands that it halt uranium enrichment. There appeared to be no movement on that issue.

Bush said only that the two sides agreed on the goal of preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons or having the capability to produce them. The United States and China are in a position to "work on tactics" to achieve that goal, Bush said.

"We don't agree on everything but we are able to discuss our disagreements in friendship and cooperation," Bush told reporters.

Hu, aware of the growing U.S. impatience with America's record \$202 billion trade deficit with China, offered general promises to address the yawning gap. But his comments were likely to do little to cool calls in Congress for punitive tariffs on Chinese products.

"We have taken measures and will continue to take steps to resolve the issue," he said.

Bush put a good face on the meeting.

"He recognizes that a trade deficit with the United States is substantial and it is unsustainable," the president said of Hu. "Obviously the Chinese government takes the currency issue seriously, and so do I."

Bush also had been hoping to get Beijing to take on more than a mediator's role in efforts to bring North Korea back to six-nation talks aimed at halting its nuclear weapons program. Asked what more his country could do to resolve the dispute, Hu said that China "has always been making constructive efforts to de-nuclearize the Korean peninsula."

The two presidents had not been expected to take questions. But an agreement to take questions from two reporters from each country came at the last minute and produced more than a half-hour of back-and-forth as the leaders sat in front of a fireplace.

Afterward, the leaders went into meetings with a larger group of aides and officials. Then, Bush was hosting a formal lunch for China's first family, with music supplied

by a Nashville bluegrass band.

The half-day summit got under way with pomp and pageantry on the South Lawn as demonstrators massed outside to protest Beijing's human-rights policies.

The two leaders stood side by side under bright sunshine on the South Lawn of the White House as the national anthems of both countries were played by a military band.

Bush and Hu then engaged in a ceremonial review of U.S. troops, some dressed in Continental Army uniforms.

A woman on the camera stand interrupted the welcoming ceremony, shouting in heavily accented English and Chinese, "President Bush, stop him from persecuting the Falun Gong!" and "President Bush: Stop him from killing." She was forcibly removed from the South Lawn by uniformed Secret Service personnel.

Stephen Gregory, a spokesman for the Falun Gong-affiliated newspaper The Epoch Times, later identified the protester as Dr. Wang Wenyi, a pathologist and Falun Gong practitioner based in New York. She had received a press credential through the newspaper, Gregory said.

"We expected her to act as a reporter; we didn't expect her to protest. None of us had any idea that Dr. Wang was planning this," he said.

Hu arrived in Washington Wednesday night for the first time as China's leader, after two days spent wooing American business leaders in Washington state.

In formal remarks on the South Lawn, Bush spoke more forcefully on the currency issue, saying he would continue to press for China to move "toward a flexible market exchange."

Bush raised other issues with Hu, including complaints about China's human rights record and questions over China's growing military strength and whether it poses a threat to Taiwan.

During his address, Hu pledged China's help in working diplomatically to ease the nuclear tensions with North Korea and Iran. And he vowed in general terms to work to promote human rights. "We should respect each other as equals and promote closer exchanges and cooperation," he said, speaking through a translator.

Hu said that closer U.S.-Chinese cooperation would "bring more benefits to our two people and to the people of the world."

The visit attracted high-profile attention both inside and outside the White House gates. The spiritual movement Falun Gong, condemned by the Chinese government as an evil cult, gathered hundreds of demonstrators on street corners near the White House in the early morning. Marchers banged gongs, chanted and waved American and Chinese flags. Banners denounced Hu as a "Chinese dictator" responsible for genocide and other "crimes in Chinese labor camps and prisons."

The Chinese government had its say as well. In a median in front of the Chinese embassy, the Falun Gong protesters that are nearly always there had been replaced by Chinese supporters holding huge red-and-yellow banners offering to "warmly welcome" Hu on his American visit.

The two sides disputed what to call the visit, with the Chinese insisting that it is a "state visit," which was the designation former President Jiang Zemin received in 1997, or an "official visit," the designation the Bush administration is using for Hu's trip.

Hu has carried on a tradition started by Deng Xiaoping on his first visit to the United States in 1979 — courting American business executives in recognition of the fact that the United States is China's biggest overseas market.

Pentagon releases first list of names being held at Guantanamo Bay

BY BEN FOX

Associated Press Writer

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The U.S. government released the most extensive list yet of the hundreds of detainees who have been held at the Guantanamo Bay prison — nearly all labeled enemy combatants, but only a handful of whom have faced formal charges.

In all, 558 people were named in the list provided by the Pentagon on Wednesday in response to a Freedom of Information lawsuit by The Associated Press. They were among the first swept up in the U.S. global war on terrorism for suspected links to al-Qaida or the Taliban.

The list is the first official roster of Guantanamo detainees who passed through the Combatant Status Review Tribunal process in 2004 and 2005 to determine whether they should be deemed "enemy combatants." Those named are from Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia and 39 other countries. Many have been held at the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay for more than four years.

Some names are familiar, such as David Hicks, a Muslim from Australia charged with fighting U.S. and coalition forces in Afghanistan. He is one of 10 detainees selected to be tried by a military tribunal, on charges of attempted murder, aiding the enemy and conspiracy to commit terrorism.

Hicks allegedly fought for the Taliban, and Australian news media have said British authorities contend he admitted undergoing training with British Islamic extremists, including Richard Reid, who was convicted of trying to blow up a trans-Atlantic airliner with a shoe bomb.

Lesser-known detainees on the list include Muhammed al-Qahtani, a Saudi who reportedly was supposed to be the 20th hijacker in the Sept. 11 terror attacks. Although his presence at Guantanamo had been reported, the military had previously declined to confirm it.

U.S. authorities denied al-Qahtani entry at Orlando, Fla., before the suicide hijackings. But testimony in the trial of Zacarias Moussaoui quoted an al-Qaida leader as describing al-Qahtani as the last hijacker for the mission who would "complete the group."

The list also includes top former Taliban officials such as the ousted regime's former Defense Ministry chief of staff Mullah Mohammed Fazil; Taliban intelligence officials Abdul Haq Wasiq and Gholam Ruhani, who are believed to still be in custody; and the Taliban's former ambassador to Pakistan, Abdul Salam Zaeef, who was released in late 2005.

Fazil, from the former Taliban stronghold of Kandahar, led many battles against Northern Alliance forces during the militia's rule, including the capture of the northern Kunduz province in the late 1990s. He was arrested there following the U.S.-led invasion in 2001.

Also on the list is Khirullah Said Wali Khairkhwa, chief of police after the Taliban captured Kabul in 1996. He later became interior minister and governor of Herat province, from where he commanded the Taliban's military forces in southwestern Afghanistan.

Others on the list, such as an Afghan identified only as "Commander Chaman," remain mysterious.

In all, the detainees on the list came from 41 countries. The largest number — 132 — came from Saudi Arabia. Afghanistan followed with 125, then Yemen with 107. An independent Afghan commission working to free Afghan detainees from Guantanamo Bay praised the release of the list.

"This is very good news and it helps us because now it is easy for us to identify the Afghans in Guantanamo, learn how many there are and from which provinces they come from," said Sayeed Sharif Youssefi, a top official in Afghanistan's peace and reconciliation commission.

Lt. Col. Todd Vician, a Pentagon spokesman, said the list had been previously accessible by the International Committee for the Red Cross, but the Department of Defense had determined it was now "prudent" to release the list to the public.

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Gettin' jiggy with the dradle

By The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — He never got an invitation and he certainly didn't R.S.V.P., but that didn't stop Will Smith from crashing Atir Cohen's bar mitzvah at Jerusalem's Western Wall.

Cohen, 13, was deep into his Torah reading Thursday when he heard shouting and saw girls pushing against the barrier separating men from women at the holy site to catch a glimpse of the Hollywood superstar.

"At first I didn't know who it was," Cohen said. Smith compensated for the interruption by shaking the bar mitzvah boy's hand and posing for a picture with him.

Surrounded by a security detail, Smith approached the wall and put a note in the cracks in keeping with tradition.

Smith and his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, then took a tour of an excavated tunnel alongside the wall. The tour leader was Shmuel Rabinovitch, chief rabbi of the holy site, who said the couple took notes and spent several minutes praying.

"He is a very nice man, he was very excited and showed his emotions," he said.

Smith, star of the "Men in Black" movies, and his actress-wife later visited the nearby Church of the Holy Sepulcher, built on the site where many Christians believe that Jesus was crucified.

LONDON — A judge ordered rocker Pete Doherty to attend an 18-month drug rehabilitation program Thursday and placed him on two years' probation.

Judge Jane McIvor also banned the 27-year-old Babyshambles frontman from driving for six months because of drug possession.

Doherty had pleaded guilty last month to seven charges of possessing drugs including heroin, crack cocaine and marijuana, which police said they found when he was stopped once in December and once in January.

Prosecutors noted the rocker's flippant — yet open — demeanor when he was arrested Dec. 18, one of a long line of run-ins with police.

Court documents said that when police found plastic bags of crack cocaine in his right sock, Doherty told officers: "I didn't think I had it in there."

McIvor told Doherty she would adhere to his pre-planned drug rehabilitation regimen, choosing the dates of his court-ordered drug tests around his lengthy tour schedule.

"It's a long, slow process, but you are showing sufficient signs of compliance and effort," McIvor said. She noted that Doherty hadn't been arrested for drugs since Jan. 14.

Doherty arrived at Thames Magistrates' Court in a leather jacket, blue jeans and white sneakers instead of his customary wrinkled suit

and matching fedora. He was mobbed by reporters and fans when he left court, and police hurried him into a taxi.

His drug problems gained international attention after a newspaper published pictures last year of then-girlfriend Kate Moss allegedly using cocaine at a music studio where Doherty and Babyshambles were recording.

In early February, another judge imposed a 12-month community service order and required Doherty to submit to regular drug tests.

Doherty missed a separate, court-ordered drug review April 12 after he was unable to return from Paris, where Babyshambles had played a concert, his representatives said. That case was adjourned until May.

MIAMI — An invasion of privacy lawsuit filed by a woman who claims she participated in a sex video with Scott Stapp and Kid Rock was dismissed by a judge who said the woman cannot sue if she remains anonymous.

Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Gerald Hubbard on Wednesday told a lawyer for the woman, identified only as "Jane Doe" in court papers, that she could refile the lawsuit within 20 days if she is willing to have her real name included.

"There's no showing on why the claim should be allowed to proceed under a fictitious name," Hubbard said.

The woman claimed in the lawsuit that she was the "star" of a group of women who appear in the video with Kid Rock and Stapp. The lawsuit sought to prevent sale of the video and unspecified damages. It named distributor World Wide Red Light District and Stapp as defendants, but not Kid Rock.

Stapp and Kid Rock have won a temporary court order in Michigan preventing World Wide from distributing it or promoting any part of the 1999 video, which the former Creed singer contends was stolen. Red Light had previously shown a 40-second preview clip on its Web site.

World Wide lawyer Thomas Julin said the woman has no claim because "she's not a child, she's not abused. She can't claim invasion of privacy because this tape was made in the presence of others."

The woman's attorney, Dawn Ausenanger, said her client had been assured the tape would be kept private and that she has already been stigmatized.

"She's not a celebrity. She's not a public figure. She was promised there would never be any intentional commercial use or profit made from the tape," Ausenanger said.

HONG KONG — Jackie Chan, Andy Lau, Alan Tam and other Hong Kong entertainers will record a pop song to promote the 2008 Beijing

Olympics, an assistant to Tam said.

The song, titled "Olympics Beijing," is separate from the official theme song for the 2008 Games, the assistant, who only gave her surname, Lam, told The Associated Press on Thursday.

She said the Mandarin-language song, written by Eddie Ng, will be aired in China. It was unclear if the song would be released on CD.

Lam said Chan has signed on for the project but hasn't recorded his part yet. Others who have already completed their portions are Lau, Tam, Hacken Lee, Shirley Kwan, Andy Hui, William So and Jordan Chan, she said.

Other big names in the entertainment industry are involved with the Beijing Olympics, a major source of pride for the Chinese.

Famed Chinese director Zhang Yimou will oversee the design of the opening and closing ceremonies. American director Steven Spielberg has also signed on as a consultant for the two ceremonies.

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Colombian rock star Juanes performed at the European Parliament as part of his campaign against land mines.

Juanes, 33, was the first musician invited to perform in the auditorium, which is usually reserved for EU parliamentarians and world leaders.

He sang five songs, including "Pay Attention Where You Step," to support the EU's campaign for a mine-free world and to raise awareness about the devastation caused in his homeland.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to use music as a weapon of peace, to get across my message," he told reporters before Wednesday's concert.

"The situation in Colombia is extremely difficult. It's not just a military problem, it's a social problem as well. Many children are affected," said Juanes, dressed in a black jacket and a black T-shirt. "I can't see a short-term solution. Thinking of a mine-clearance program is illusory before the armed conflict is solved."

Thousands of people have been killed by land mines in the past 15 years in Colombia, with a record 1,070 deaths last year, giving the South American country the world's highest number of land-mine deaths for 2005, according to the Colombian government's Land Mine Observatory.

In 2004, Colombia was third, after Angola and Afghanistan, it said. Colombia — which has been divided by conflict among leftist rebels, right-wing paramilitaries and the army — stopped making land mines in 1997 and began removing them from areas surrounding 33 military bases. Warring parties, however, continue to lay more.

The EU is a key world donor in the fight against land mines. Last month, the European Commission adopted a \$21.4 million program to help affected countries.

Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVIEGUIDE

SHOWTIMES FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2006

Broadway Loews Cineplex
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-6232

American Dreamz (PG-13)
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

Brick (R)
2:30, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

The Sentinel (PG-13)
1:30, 4:05, 7:00, 9:40

Somersault (NR)
2:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15

Mann's Criterion Theatre
1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599

Ice Age: The Meltdown (PG)
12:00, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40

La Mujer de Mi Hermano (R)
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20

Lucky Number Slevin (R)
11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:30

Standing Still (R)
12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00

Take the Lead (PG-13)
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

V for Vendetta (R)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:10

AMC7 Santa Monica
1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

The Benchwarmers (PG-13)
11:00am, 12:50, 3:00, 5:30, 7:40, 10:05

Inside Man (R)
12:40, 2:20, 3:50, 7:00, 8:10, 9:50

Scary Movie 4 (PG-13)
12:10, 1:00, 2:35, 3:20, 4:50, 5:40, 7:10, 8:00, 9:40, 10:30, 11:45

Silent Hill (R)
11:00am, 11:30am, 1:40, 4:30, 5:20, 7:30, 10:20, 11:30

The Wild (G)
11:10am, 1:20, 3:30, 5:45, 7:50, 10:00

Nuwilshire Theatre
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8228

The Notorious Bettie Page (R)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Thank You for Smoking (R)
11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50

Laemmle 4-Plex Theatre
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

The Almost Guys (PG-13)
11:45am, 2:10, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35

Friends With Money (R)
12:45, 1:45, 3:00, 4:00, 5:20, 6:20, 7:40, 8:40, 10:00

Kinky Boots (PG-13)
11:45am, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 10:10

Information: calendar@smdp.com

MORE TODAY IN HISTORY

■ **In 1836**, an army of Texans led by Sam Houston defeated the Mexicans at San Jacinto, assuring Texas independence.

■ **In 1910**, author Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, died in Redding, Conn.

■ **In 1918**, Baron Manfred von Richthofen, the German ace known as the "Red Baron," was killed in action during World War I.

■ **In 1940**, the quiz show that asked the "64-dollar question," "Take It or Leave It," premiered on CBS Radio.

■ **In 1960**, Brazil inaugurated its new capital, Brasilia, transferring the seat of national government from Rio de Janeiro.

■ **In 1975**, South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu resigned after 10 years in office.

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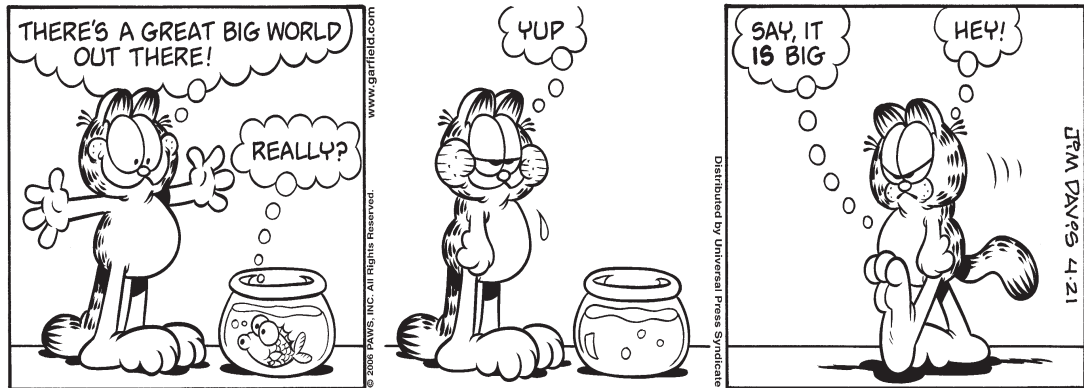
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Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



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- 11 Wear down
- 12 Battery end
- 13 Writer Ephron
- 14 "Atlantic City" director
- 15 "Damn Yankees" role
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- 18 Check
- 20 Maintenance
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- 23 Looks at
- 26 Fall sign
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- 29 Swindled
- 31 Canadian prov.
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- 34 Roll call answer
- 36 "Dog-gone!"
- 38 Cager Patrick
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- 44 Occurrence

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- 46 Bookish, perhaps

DOWN

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- 2 Bonanza stuff
- 3 Machine rotator
- 4 Figure of speech
- 5 Ornamental stamp
- 6 Grier of "Jackie Brown"
- 7 Nominees, for Minnesota
- 8 Theme-park favorite
- 9 Loitering
- 10 Spotted
- 16 Casino card
- 18 Ego
- 19 Plane part
- 21 Mature
- 23 Indy event
- 24 Refuse
- 25 Goes down
- 27 Payback

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Yesterday's answer

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Obituaries



LUZ OSPITIA, Sadly on April 17th 2006 passed away.

Luz Ospitia was a resident of Santa Monica for over 50 years. Her sense of community and giving put her on a professional path which included the City of Santa Monica, Community Corporation, Wise Senior Services, Political Campaigns, Community Interests, Clubs, Social Benefits and Spiritual Affiliation. Within all of these endeavors there was always one common thread, that was to help her fellow man. She is survived by her Son George, Daughter Anna, Daughter Lois and Daughter in Law Suzanne. She is deeply loved and will be greatly missed.

Memorial Services for Luz Ospitia will be held Sunday April 23rd, 2006 at 10:30 a.m. Iglesia Bautista Barrington at 1903 S Barrington Ave in Los Angeles, CA

Funeral Services for Luz Ospitia Set for Monday April 24th, 2006 at 09:00 a.m. Woodlawn Cemetery at 14th and Pico in Santa Monica, CA. You may contact Gates, Kingsley & Gates Moeller Murphy Directors (310) 395-9988

MORAN, JACK

Passed away peacefully April 18. He was born September 13, 1912. He was preceded in death six months ago by his loving wife Martha. Jack lived in Santa Monica for 85 years. He, along with his wife Martha, owned and operated The Domestic Hand Laundry on 14th and Broadway for over 30 years. He attended St. Anne's Catholic School and has always supported his alma mater as well as St. Monica Catholic Church and San Miguel Mission.

He is survived by his daughter Patty Kessey, His grandchildren Katie and Kevin Paris, his three great grand children Kyle, Kailey and Konnor. His sister Margaret Smith, his niece Ellen Tonin, two nephews John and Patrick Smith, the Farnham family and numerous cousins and friends.

Visitation will be Friday April 21 form 4-8 pm at the mortuary. A funeral Mass will be held 11:00 am Saturday April 22 at St. Monica Church.

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RECEPTIONIST TO answer phones, maintain supply room, handle appointment calendar, prepare reports, etc. Poised and polished demeanor a must. \$10/hr. HS diploma a must. Fax resume to 310-914-5495 or e-mail to: asandoval@newdirectionsinc.org. EOE

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SANTA MONICA \$995. Small 1 bed-
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carpets, hardwood floors,
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Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO AD-
MINISTER ESTATE OF HOW-
ARD L. SHUKEN aka HOW-
ARD LEONARD SHUKEN
Case No. SP006803
To all heirs, beneficiar-
ies, creditors, contingent creditors,
and persons who may otherwise be
interested in the will or estate, or
both, of HOWARD L. SHUKEN aka
HOWARD LEONARD SHUKEN
A PETITION FOR PRO-
BATE has been filed by Nettie
Shuken in the Superior Court of
California, County of LOS ANGE-
LES.

THE PETITION FOR
PRO-BATE requests that Nettie
Shuken be appointed as personal
repre-sentative to administer the es-
tate of the decedent.

THE PETITION re-
quests the decedent's will and codi-
cils, if any, be admitted to probate.
The will and any codicils are avail-
able for examination in the file kept
by the court.

THE PETITION re-
quests authority to administer the
estate under the Independent Ad-
ministra-tion of Estates Act. (This
authority will allow the personal rep-
resenta-tive to take many actions
without obtaining court approval.
Before taking certain very important
ac-tions, however, the personal re-
pre-sentative will be required to give
notice to interested persons unless
they have waived notice or con-
sented to the proposed action.) The
independent administration authority
will be granted unless an interested
person files an objection to the peti-
tion and shows good cause why the
court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the peti-
tion will be held on June 9, 2006 at
9:15 AM in Dept. No. F located at
1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA
90401.

IF YOU OBJECT to the
grant-ing of the petition, you should
ap-pear at the hearing and state
your objections or file written objec-
tions with the court before the hear-
ing. Your appearance may be in
person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDI-
TOR or a contingent creditor of the
deceased, you must file your claim
with the court and mail a copy to the
personal representative appointed
by the court within four months from
the date of first issuance of letters
as provided in Probate Code section
9100. The time for filing claims will
not expire before four months from
the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE
the file kept by the court. If you are
a per-son interested in the estate,
you may file with the court a Re-
quest for Special Notice (form
DE-154) of the filing of an inventory
and ap-praisal of estate assets or of
any petition or account as provided
in Probate Code section 1250. A
Request for Special Notice form is
available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner:
PHILLIP L TANGALAKIS ESQ
TANGALAKIS & TANGALAKIS
4264 OVERLAND AVE
CULVER CITY CA 90230
Santa Monica Daily Press
CN752197 SHUKEN Apr 14,15,21, 2006

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Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: SYLVIA R. SEAYER CASE NO. SP006805

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of SYLVIA R. SEAYER.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by TODD F. SADOW in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that TODD F. SADOW be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act with limited authority. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval.

Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.)

The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on 06/16/06 at 9:15AM in Dept. F located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner
ALBERTO J. CAMPAIN
2029 CENTURY PARK EAST 21ST FL
LOS ANGELES CA 90067
4/20, 4/21, 4/27/06
CNS-956133#
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