

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Missing the Point: In January, Richard Graybill, 42, pleaded guilty in Chester County, Pa., to unauthorized use of a vehicle. He had taken a car that had been parked, awaiting repairs, at a shopping center, but he was later discovered by the car's owner when he happened to pull up to the drive-thru window at the Wendy's restaurant where she worked. She confronted him, and he sped away, but he returned a few minutes later and tried to persuade her to sign over the title to him, in that he had put a lot of effort into fixing the car up after he took it.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is 112th day of 2005. There are 253 days left in the year.

On April 22, 1889, the Oklahoma Land Rush began at noon as thousands of homesteaders staked claims.

In 1954, the televised Senate Army-McCarthy hearings began.

In 1964, President Johnson opened the New York World's Fair.

In 1970, millions of Americans concerned about the environment observed the first "Earth Day."

In 1993, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum was dedicated in Washington, D.C., to honor the victims of Nazi extermination.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Always get the last word in: Apologize.

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Nation's experts talk defense at RAND

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN — A distinguished panel of military experts last week addressed U.S. defense issues at the new RAND Corp. office, where they agreed that the U.S. government is not paying enough attention to nuclear weapon threats, which are building throughout the world.

"Building on a Legacy," the theme for last week's conference, was held in honor of RAND's new West Coast office building at 1776 Main St. and moderated by the think-tank's president, James A. Thomson. Thomson asked a four-person panel of former defense secretaries and national security advisors their thoughts regarding the proliferation of nuclear weapons, future U.S. involvement in Iraq and recent military recruitment challenges — including whether the draft ought to be reinstated.

The four-person panel included



Ryan Hyatt/Daily Press

James A. Thomson (left), RAND Corp. president, mediates as Brent Scowcroft, former national security advisor, explains his view on the war on terror during a RAND-sponsored defense discussion on April 13.

former defense secretaries Robert McNamara, who served from 1961 to 1968, and Harold Brown, who served from 1971 to 1981.

The panel also included former national security advisor Brent Scowcroft, who served from 1975 to 1977 and again from 1989 to

1992. A fourth panelist, Frank Carlucci, served both as national

See **DEFENSE**, page 4

Artful addition



Cynni Murphy/Santa Monica Public Library

A section of 'Underwater Canopy' was recently lowered into place at the new Main Library. Read more about this piece of artwork in Community Briefs on page 3.

Signature sign could become local landmark

BY CORTNEY FIELDING

Special to the Daily Press

Plans to remodel the long-defunct Zucky's Deli building were delayed this week when the city nominated the building's signature sign for landmark status.

The Landmarks Commission on Monday night called for historical preservation of the bright-orange and brown sign, which members say is the most character-defining element of a building that has remained abandoned for more than a decade.

According to chairman Rodger Genser, who was absent Monday night, simply nominating the sign does not automatically render it a Santa Monica landmark. Rather, the structure will be considered for preservation status following a thorough examination by the commission.

If accepted, however, the build-

See **ZUCKY'S**, page 5

Jacquie Banks

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Ever playful, Gemini

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)
★★★★★ Positive energy surrounds you, especially when dealing with others. Your ability to zero in on what is important might tumble to the wayside when eyeing a dream that's about to come true. You understand a lot more than you realize. Tonight: Go along with others' plans.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ What can be pleasurable could also have an element of demand. You might feel totally overwhelmed by all that you have to do. Worry less about pleasing others and simply complete what you need to do. Tonight: Relax — finally.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You are full high energy and ready to grab hold of a longtime desire. Think positively about your options. Many doors will open up to you, if you allow it. Creativity merges with humor. Laughter easily could surround the Twin. Tonight: Ever playful.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ You greet basics with a smile. What might be important to you could easily be irrelevant to others. Indulge family and friends. You might want to buy a new grill or do some landscaping to make your place more homey. Tonight: Set the atmosphere. Let everything else happen.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You finally hear what you want, allowing you to proceed as you would like. Others pitch in, excited to join. They know you will make a difference. If you need to close your door to get some privacy, do just that. Tonight: Wherever you are, smiles abound.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Spending might go overboard. Be sure you are spending your money in a meaningful way. At the same time, eye new ways to make money. You have a lot of talent that you might not have used yet. Address your potential. Tonight: Your treat.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ You are all smiles wherever you are. You might feel like you have a special secret. Laugh and enjoy yourself with others. Express your creativity and imagination. Someone might care about you as more than a friend. Tonight: Whatever puts a smile on your face.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ What someone shares must be kept hush-hush for now. Your secretive style and ways come into play. Make sure you are not deluding yourself about someone close, a roommate or family member. Dump the rose-colored shades. Tonight: Take a break.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Friends and associates greet you with smiles and applause. Working together, you might create a reason for celebration. Your sixth sense comes into play. You know what to do and when. Tonight: Any reason is a good reason to celebrate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Work with others. You have a unique way of commanding. Use your unusual leadership abilities to enhance your public image. Though you ace money situations, use extra care right now. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Information comes back in favor of a decision or key message. You might not want to be where you are. Let your imagination lead you when making plans. How you see someone could change if you detach. Tonight: Follow the music.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Your instincts lead you in the right direction. Remain sure of yourself. Others might appear to have a lot going for them. Someone in particular comes through for you like you cannot believe. Reveal more of what is on your mind. Tonight: Fulfill another's request.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
Phone: (310) 458-PRESS (7737) • Fax: (310) 576-9913
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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

New library comes together with art

By Daily Press staff

The interior of the new Main Library is coming together with new artwork. The preliminary installation of “Underwater Canopy” by artist Carl Cheng was recently placed in the new library, located on Sixth Street and Santa Monica Boulevard.

The site-specific artwork is located over a portion of the café space in the outdoor garden courtyard of the new library, scheduled to open in January 2006. The steel and glass structure is more than 30 feet in diameter and hovers more than 11 feet above the courtyard deck. It is adjacent to landscaping and a water feature that also reflect the underwater theme. For Santa Monica artist Cheng, the “shadow canopy ... is inspired by the marine life in the Santa Monica Bay.” Once the project is completed, seven circular skylights mounted on the canopy will have “transparent images depicting underwater scenery as if the café is an underwater café. One small skylight shows a recent (1996) sonar map of the actual Bay topography,” according to Cheng.

Cheng was chosen as the Main Library project artist through the city of Santa Monica Arts Commission’s juried selection process from a field of 54 California artist applicants. Cheng has received several public art commissions throughout the United States. He also has an extensive roster of solo exhibitions and installations internationally. In 1988, he executed the “Santa Monica Art Tool: Walk on L.A.,” a cast concrete and steel sculpture that is installed on the beach, north of the Santa Monica Pier. Cheng also has received numerous visual artist awards, grants, fellowships and residencies from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Getty and the Flintridge Foundation.

“Underwater Canopy” is a project of the city of Santa Monica’s public art program and was developed through a collaborative process with the Main Library architects Moore Ruble Yudell and the landscape architect for the project, Pamela Burton & Company, both of Santa Monica. The interplay of materials, natural processes and physical phenomena are hallmarks of Cheng’s public art. In addition to the intricate design of the piece, “Underwater Canopy” focuses on the effect of shadows thrown by the canopy as the sun moves across the sky with the patterns reflecting the topography, landscape and sea life of the nearby bay.

Teaching men to be spiritual

By Daily Press staff

A day-long lesson on how men can find strength through spiritual journey will be led by internationally recognized speaker and author Rev. Richard Rohr at St. Monica Catholic Church in Santa Monica on Saturday, April 23.

“Men Matter: A Quest for the True Self” is open to both women and men. Registration begins at 8 a.m. at the church, and the program starts at 9 a.m. and continues until 5 p.m. The \$35 fee will include a box lunch.

Rohr, a Franciscan priest, is founding director of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, N.M., a retreat house where people of all faiths

See BRIEFS, page 9

CORRECTION — The name of the guest columnist in Wednesday’s issue was misspelled. The page 5 commentary was written by Kelly Hayes-Raitt.

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SUNDAY	N/A	N/A	12:26	0.3	4:50	4.1	7:34	3.9
MONDAY	12:35	2.6	1:01	0.2	5:59	4.2	7:47	4.1
TUESDAY	1:12	2.0	1:30	1.0	6:49	4.4	8:01	4.1
WEDNESDAY	1:45	1.5	1:54	0.2	7:31	4.6	8:17	4.8
THURSDAY	2:11	0.9	2:17	0.4	8:10	4.6	8:35	5.2
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The Q Line

Stories of shootings and violence in schools nationwide have increased over the past few years, and last week’s lockdown at Santa Monica High School due to dozens of students fighting brings the issue even closer to home

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sures are in place in our schools? What changes, if any, would you suggest?”

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Panelists: Pentagon too focused on war on terror

DEFENSE, from page 1

security advisor from 1986 to 1987 and as defense secretary from 1987 to 1989.

McNamara said preventing nuclear weapons technology from getting into the wrong hands should be the top U.S. security concern, and he believes not enough is being done to address the issue. McNamara said within 10 years 40 countries could be in the market for nuclear weapons, which will make the world increasingly volatile unless efforts are made to regulate them.

“Let’s make nuclear proliferation our No. 1 problem,” McNamara said. “I don’t think we should just stand around and do nothing about it.”

The panelists said the nuclear issue in regard to North Korea and Iran should be handled through diplomatic channels. McNamara said a military solution was not realistic, especially in North Korea.

“The North Koreans have 2,000 artillery pieces aimed at Seoul and our military forces,” McNamara said. “That’s about the distance from the capitol to the Potomac. Our troops would be annihilated.”

McNamara said the United States needs to strengthen relations with China so the government there can help address the nuclear threat in North Korea. Also,

panelists agreed greater diplomacy was needed with China to help diffuse the dispute for independence with Taiwan.

All of the panelists expressed concern over how nuclear technology will be tracked worldwide among developing nations.

Scowcroft suggested the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) could regulate a future global nuclear energy industry. He said right now Brazil is looking to capitalize on its rich uranium deposits in order to sell nuclear rods to other nations. Scowcroft said the IAEA could be empowered to regulate those kinds of transactions.

Brown shot down the idea by saying the United States would have to agree to such regulation if the program were to be successful, which he said would be unlikely.

Scowcroft also said a proposal was on the table to ban nuclear technology as an energy source, but none of the panelists responded to the idea.

The panelists also discussed the transformation of the military. They said they were in favor of the military becoming more mobile and responsive to new information technology available on the battle field, but they said the role of technology in combat should not be over-emphasized and that technology would never be a suc-

“Let’s make nuclear proliferation our No. 1 problem. I don’t think we should just stand around and do nothing about it.”

ROBERT MCNAMARA
Former U.S. Secretary of Defense

cessful substitution for well-trained troops.

None of the panelists were willing to put a time frame on how long the American military forces will remain in Iraq, but Brown said the military is facing less resistance in Iraq than it did during the Vietnam War, and there were signs that conditions in Iraq were slowly improving. Brown said he believed Iraq would continue to struggle but would ultimately become a democratic society. He said the lack of a long-term economic redevelopment plan since the occupation began more than two years ago was having a serious impact on Iraq’s recovery.

The panelists said reinstatement of the draft to assist troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and help fight the global war on terrorism was unrealistic and wouldn’t be successful from a military perspective. They said it would be more effective if

better educational, housing and pay incentives were in place to beef up recruitment numbers, especially because the economy is slowly improving and the military will have to be more competitive with the private sector.

While Carlucci said the Pentagon’s blanket approach allowed the military to keep an eye on hot spots worldwide, Scowcroft said the Pentagon is too focused on the global war on terrorism, diverting its attention from other issues the military should be addressing.

“There is a split between foreign and domestic operations since 9-11,” Scowcroft said. “It’s a huge problem that’s not being addressed.”

“We now have Homeland Security if it ever gets up and running that will depend on the CIA and FBI, but the question is who is going to do what? The interpretation is very difficult.”

PUBLIC NOTICE OF MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

As required by the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Department of Fish and Game is providing Public Notice of the completion of a Mitigated Negative Declaration for a proposed project to enhance the capability of streams to produce anadromous salmonids by maintaining, restoring and improving stream habitat essential to salmonid production.

Project Location: Various streams in Del Norte, Humboldt, Los Angeles, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Trinity and Ventura counties.

Description of Project: This project will use grant funds approved by the California Legislature to initiate activities that are designed to restore salmon and steelhead habitat in coastal streams and watersheds that historically produced large populations of salmon and steelhead. Activities will improve spawning success for adult salmon and steelhead as well as increase survival for eggs, embryos, rearing juveniles and downstream migrants. Bank stabilization treatments will reduce sediment yield to streams. Upslope road decommissioning or repair will also help address these widespread problems. The replacement of barrier culverts with bridges or natural stream bottom culverts will allow adult and juvenile salmonids access to additional spawning and rearing habitat. The installation of instream structures will recruit and sort spawning gravel for adult salmon and steelhead, and create summer rearing pools and over-wintering habitat for juveniles.

The Negative Declaration is available for review at the Department of Fish and Game, 830 S Street, Sacramento; the Northern California-North Coast Region Office, 1455 Sandy Prairie Ct., Suite J, Fortuna; or the Department of Fish and Game, Central Coast Region Office, 7329 Silverado Trail, Yountville. Additional copies are available for review at the following locations: Department of Fish and Game, Eureka Office, 619 Second Street, Eureka; Department of Fish and Game, Yreka Fish Habitat Improvement Shop, 1625 Main Street, Yreka; Department of Fish and Game, Los Alamitos Office, 4665 Lampson Ave., Los Alamitos; and the Department of Fish and Game, Monterey Office, 20 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Monterey. Written comments are requested on or before May 19, 2005. For additional information contact Mr. Gary Flosi, Senior Fish Habitat Supervisor, at (707) 725-1072, Mr. Bob Coey, Senior Biologist Supervisor, at (707) 944-5582, or Ms. Mary Larson, Senior Biologist Supervisor, at (562) 342-7186.



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Commission plans to review Zucky's sign

ZUCKY'S, from page 1

ing's owners will not be able to alter or change the sign — which bears the Zucky's name in large burnt-orange letters — beyond such touchups as a fresh coat of paint, said landmarks commissioner Nina Fresco.

"It will become the Zucky's building," she said.

The sign, which has stood tall above the building at Fifth Street and Wilshire Boulevard since the 1950s, is the most prominent indicator that a bustling deli once resided there.

The defunct Zucky's restaurant and coffeehouse was once a Santa Monica staple, a well known 24-hour hangout where residents might spot a local politician or visiting celebrity at any hour of the day. Built in 1954, the building is classified as "Googie" — a style of architecture typified by characteristics such as the use of Palos Verdes stone, bold-colored ceramic tile and an expansive use of plate glass walls.

Zucky's closed its doors in 1993 and has since remained vacant. And according to city planner Marika Modugno, the building has not been consistently maintained and is the source of many resident complaints. Modugno contends it gets worse every year.

While the building remains empty and dilapidated, the debate over what should be done with the one-time hot spot was renewed earlier this year, when the building's owners went in front of the Architectural Review Board (ARB) seeking permission to remodel its façade in order to bring new tenants into the space.

However, the building's owners — Carey Testamentary Trust — were met with opposition from the historic preservation group the Los Angeles Conservancy.

The conservancy opposed modifications to the building, referring to Zucky's as a cultural icon and one of the last remaining examples of post-war coffee-shop architecture in the city.

The ARB ordered the two groups to work together, and the parties have since reached a consensus.

Fresco said the Landmarks Commission felt the agreement between the conservancy and the building's owners ensured the "character-defining elements" of the building, such as its signature tile, would be protected.

As a result of the agreement, the commission did not feel it was necessary to pursue landmarking the entire building, said Fresco. The commission voted only to investigate the sign.

Not every commissioner was on board with that line of reasoning. Commissioner and architectural historian Ruthann Lehrer didn't think it was appropriate to



File Photo

The Landmarks Commission will consider preserving Zucky's orange and brown sign as a landmark.

view the building and sign as separate entities, and voted against the proposal.

"That is dismantling the building," she said.

Although voting to nominate the sign along with the majority of the commission, Fresco also disagreed with the commission's decision, saying the Zucky's building has inspired both community and media interest, which indicates it deserves a thorough examination.

Now that the sign has been nominated, the commission must hold a public hearing, after which the commission will consider a report from city staff before making its final ruling.

In a report earlier in the year, staff concluded that neither the building nor the sign needed protection under the California Environmental Quality Act.

But city urban planner Stephanie Reich said staff would look more closely this time around.

Reich said staff did not consider the sign historically significant partly because it did not appear on a 2000 city inventory of meritorious signs. However, that might be an unfair marker, she said, because to be considered for the list, the building's owner had to nominate the sign. During that time, the Zucky's building was abandoned.

Although commission members say they do not ultimately know if the sign will be landmarked, they agreed the restaurant's sign was its most striking element.

City Councilman Kevin McKeown, a liaison to the landmarks commission, spoke on behalf of landmarking the sign and agreed with the commission's ultimate decision.

"The sign is the thing most people notice when looking at the building," he said. "That sign is something everyone recognizes."



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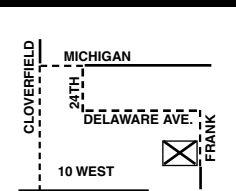
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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A sign of the times?

Editor:

Coming soon to Fifth Street and Wilshire Boulevard: Zucky's Lingerie! Or, perhaps, Zucky's Cell Phones and More! Zucky's Bed and Bath.

Last Monday, the Santa Monica Landmarks Commission decided to investigate granting historic-must-be-preserved status to — not the building that once housed a venerable grease joint that went out of business nearly 13 years ago — but the Zucky's sign.

This is yet another skirmish in the city's struggle to control development, and the Landmarks Commission occupies the front line. Last week it also was decided to require any potential developer or even home remodeler to specifically sign as acknowledging a notice that city preservation laws take precedent over approvals from the Planning Commission, the Architectural Review Board and city staff.

So consider the building that once housed Zucky's: The current owners want to fix up the place and put in a retail business. The city won't allow a restaurant — not enough parking. Now these owners (who have been working with another conservatory group to preserve the building itself, and are deep into a permitting process with other city boards) may have to keep the Zucky's sign, no matter what business ends up there.

It gets more complicated. That sign, according to some vital to the city's cultural fabric, already is out of compliance with current city sign laws. It's too big, bright and gaudy to be built today. So if the big orange letters come down, they can't be replaced. Also, the Landmarks Commission has never attempted to designate as historic a sign, without the building it's attached to.

The owners certainly don't want the sign. It will be much larger and more noticeable than whatever sign a new business mounts. If you were considering leasing prime, upscale Wilshire Boulevard retail space to sell, say, fine art supplies, would you want your establishment known as Zucky's?

The Landmarks Commission, during deliberations Monday, appeared to be leaning toward doing nothing about the matter — meaning the sign as planned would come down — until City Councilman Kevin McKeown weighed in. He's the council representative to that board.

McKeown said the sign is historic and should be preserved. The structure that holds it would look silly without the letters. The board went along with him, though not unanimously. But that raises the question: Should City Council representatives

See LETTERS, page 7

Here's the real story with Delay's debacle



HERE'S THE THING

BY LARA M. BROWN, PH.D

For weeks, House Majority Leader Tom Delay has been under fire for possibly violating ethics rules on travel (allowing lobbyists to pay for his trips) and for his connections to Jack Abramoff (involving gaming laws and casino rights for Native Americans).

While many Democrats are scandalized by these revelations, they shouldn't be. Delay is majority leader, after all. The simple rule in politics is that the higher up you are in terms of power and status, the more people are interested in influencing your decisions. And the more people are interested in taking you down — or in Beltway terms, stirring up a scandal.

Having researched scandals among incumbent members of the House of Representatives, it is clear: Members who hold leadership positions (e.g., Speaker, Majority Leader, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee) are more likely to be involved in scandals than are their colleagues not in leadership.

Over a 30-year period, the total number of members who held leadership positions accounted for less than 2 percent of all House members, but they were 10 percent of the House members who became embroiled in a scandal. What this means is that either members in leadership are more corrupt than their colleagues, or they are easier targets.

Although there is probably some truth to the former because members in leadership have more opportunities to engage in corruption — and as Lord Acton once said, "Power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely" — personally, I am not willing to condemn every elective official.

What I do know and what was plain from my research was that — whether the scandal involved Tip O'Neill (D-MA), Jim Wright (D-TX), Dan Rostenkowski (D-IL) or Newt Gingrich (R-GA) — they all had friends and they all had enemies. This is what it means to wield power in the halls of Congress.

The "clean" little secret that no one ever seems to mention is that most elected officials — no matter what level they are on — would make the same decisions that they do now, even if all money were banned from special interests.

The reason: Money follows votes more often than it buys votes.

People run for elective office because they have beliefs. They are people who take sides in policy debates. Much of the time, the money and the interest groups that support these politicians who run for (and win) elective office agree with them.

Generally, that is why they are called "supporters."

Special interests work to educate (lobby) and fundraise for elected officials, but at a basic level they can't brainwash a politician. The National Rifle Association would never be able to do enough to get Sen. Dianne Feinstein to agree with them on assault weapons. Put bluntly, it's cheaper to fund a candidate who agrees with you than to try to buy a candidate who doesn't.

Now, if Democrats want to whip up a controversy over whether Rep. Tom Delay should remain majority leader, then what they should focus on is his extremist rhetoric on the judiciary. On Tuesday, in a radio interview, Delay suggested that the Congress begin investigating how to interpret the Constitution: "Judges can serve as long as they serve with good behavior."

Wait? Isn't Constitutional interpretation the job of the judiciary and not the legislature?

This is outrageous. Not only is he implying that there should be an ideological litmus test for good behavior, but he is undermining judicial independence and separation of powers.

Even Vice President Dick Cheney thinks he should back off on this rhetoric.

What makes his accusations even more unbelievable is that the Republicans have been in the White House for 25 out of the past 37 years, which means that the vast majority of federal judicial appointees have been Republican.

So, Delay is upset because those Republican judicial appointees are not toeing the GOP line and now he wants to get rid of them?

Here's The Thing

Majority Leader Tom Delay has crossed the line — several of them. But consorting with lobbyists and going on trips that were paid by people he would support even if they weren't paying for it probably isn't one of them.

And while Democrats are still reeling from his Texas redistricting plan and they are hungry for revenge, they should be smart about how they strike. Don't focus on the gifts and the lobbyists. Most people just think that is politics, and they are right.

Concentrate on Delay's bigger crimes — his hypocrisy and his extremism — both of which do not represent this country or its values. If you can show him to be an elected official out of step with his party and the country, he'll lose support as majority leader. More importantly, you'll have learned how to win at the game that Newt taught the Republicans.

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



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS, from page 6

to non-elected commissions — members of which the council appoints — have such an active voice in debates? The public can speak at appointed times for limited duration. Certainly all opinions count, but the end-of-the-discussion timing and force of McKeown's comments swayed the commission majority to vote his way.

And so it goes, as some conservative members of our government look fondly back to days long gone, when Zucky's was a cool place to grab a burger at 2 a.m. after a concert. But some don't seem to recall that Zucky's restaurant near the end was a bit of pit, neglected because it wasn't making much money. No profit plus no maintenance equals no more Zucky's. Even the sign itself today is in rough shape. (Some read the sign as "Three ucky's.")

It's a shame that for so long such a unique building at such a prime location has decayed vacant, attracting rats not customers. And it will remain in that condition for months, possibly years to come. The Landmarks Commission involvement possibly could delay an already tedious development process. But no matter what happens to the building, its owners or tenants, if some have their way, the Zucky's sign will remain — forever.

Mark Shepherd
Santa Monica

'Home of the homeless' needs to move

Editor:

Santa Monica, lovely though it may be, has earned a dismissive nickname over the years that will still elicit a smirk from people: "The Home of the Homeless." For as long as I can remember, this dubious distinction has been attached to the city. We are noted for our progressive policies toward this issue, but to what ends? How is the attitude of our city government benefiting us, the legitimate, tax-paying citizens?

While I have nothing but sympathy for those who have fallen upon such hard times that they are forced to live on the streets, I have no tolerance for a City Council that promises sweeping results and then doesn't deliver. Take the recent crackdown on charitable organizations, for example. We were told that forcing most of the food-donation services to either obtain a permit or get out of Santa Monica would decrease our homeless rates and make the community safer. Two years into the project, the only sign of change is the marked drop in charitable outreach efforts. Santa Monica's homeless may have lost a previous food source, but they're not going anywhere.

It's time for the City Council to admit that the plan didn't work and move on. New opportunities and strategies must be developed and discussed if we are to make any headway against the ever-increasing tide of transients that flow into our city. But, please, don't make me any more promises. Like a secret in Hollywood, it's something you just can't keep.

Matt Brand
Santa Monica



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GUEST COMMENTARY BY MICHAEL S. BERLINER

Ayn Rand: A legacy of reason and freedom

Ayn Rand, a long-time Manhattanite, will be honored by the Ayn Rand Institute with a centenary celebration in New York on April 23. Born 100 years ago in Holy Mother Russia and educated under the Soviets, Ayn Rand became the quintessential American writer and philosopher, upholding the supreme value of the individual's life on earth. She herself led a "rags to riches" life, wrote best-selling novels that championed individualism, and developed a philosophy of reason that validates the American spirit of achievement and independence.

The story of Ayn Rand's life is, in the words of the Oscar-nominated documentary Ayn Rand: A Sense of Life, "a life more compelling than fiction." Born Feb. 2, 1905, she wrote her first fiction at age 8, when she also showed signs of being an intellectual crusader, vowing to refute a newspaper article claiming that school was the sole source of a child's ideals. A year later she decided to become a writer: Inspired by the hero of a children's story, who embodied "intelligence directed to a practical purpose," she had a "blinding picture" of people — not as they are but as they could be.

In high school and college, she discovered two figures whom she never ceased to admire: Victor Hugo, for "the grandeur, the heroic scale, the plot inventiveness" of his stories, and Aristotle, as "the arch-realist and the advocate of the validity of man's mind."

Escaping the tyranny and poverty of the U.S.S.R., she came to America in 1926, officially for a brief visit with relatives. A chance meeting with her favorite American director, Cecil B. DeMille, resulted in jobs as a movie extra and then a junior screenwriter. After periods of near-starvation, she sold her first play to Broadway and her first novel, "We the Living," set in the Soviet tyranny she had escaped. With her first best-seller, "The Fountainhead" in 1943, she presented her ideal man, individualist architect Howard Roark. But it was, she said, "only an overture" to her magnum opus, "Atlas Shrugged" in 1957, a mystery story about the role of the mind in man's existence. With "Atlas Shrugged," her career as a fiction writer ended, but her career as a philosopher had just begun.

Her philosophy — Objectivism — upholds objective reality (as opposed to supernaturalism), reason as man's only means of knowledge (as opposed to faith or skepticism), free will (as opposed to determinism — by biology or environment), and an ethics of ratio-

nal self-interest (as opposed to the sacrifice of oneself to others or others to self). The only moral political system, she maintained, is laissez-faire capitalism (as opposed to the collectivism of socialism, fascism or the welfare state), because it recognizes the inalienable right of an individual to act on the judgment of his own mind. Your life, she held, belongs to you and not to your country, God or your neighbors.

Ayn Rand understood that to defend the individual she must penetrate to the root: his need to use reason to survive. "I am not primarily an advocate of capitalism," she wrote in 1971, "but of egoism; and I am not primarily an advocate of egoism, but of reason. If one recognizes the supremacy of reason and applies it consistently, all the rest follows." This radical view put her at odds with conservatives, whom she vilified for their attempts to base capitalism on faith and altruism. Advocating a government to protect the individual's right to his property, she was not a liberal (or an anarchist). Advocating the indispensability of philosophy, she was not a libertarian.

Despite being outside the cultural mainstream, her novels became best-sellers and her books sell more today than ever before — half a million copies per year. There is a reason that "Atlas Shrugged" placed second in a Library of Congress survey about most influential books. There is a reason that her works are considered life-altering by so many readers. She had an exalted view of man and created inspiring fictional heroes.

A sui generis philosopher who looked at the world anew, Ayn Rand has long puzzled the intellectual establishment. Academia has usually met her views with antagonism or avoidance, unable to fathom that she was an individualist but not a subjectivist, an absolutist but not a dogmatist. And they have thus ignored her original solutions to such seemingly intractable problems as how to ground values in facts. But even in academia, her ideas are finding more acceptance, e.g., university fellowships and a subgroup within the American Philosophical Association to study Objectivism.

Ayn Rand left a legacy in defense of reason and freedom that serves as a guidepost for the American spirit, especially pertinent today when America and what it stands for are under assault.

(Michael S. Berliner is a member of the board of directors of the Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine. The Institute promotes the ideas of Ayn Rand.)

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STATE

Three killed as air tanker crashes in mountains

BY JENNIFER COLEMAN

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — An air tanker that crashed in remote Northern California mountains killing all three crew members was set to begin fighting fires next month after safety concerns grounded it and similar planes a year ago, federal officials said Thursday.

The P-3 Orion crashed an hour before sunset Wednesday during a training flight about 30 miles northeast of the Chico airport where it departed, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Donn Walker.

The FAA and National Transportation Safety Board were investigating the cause of the crash that followed a practice run dropping fire retardant.

There were no distress calls from the experienced crew, said Terry Unsworth, chief executive of Aero Union, a Chico-based company that owned the plane and provides aerial firefighting equipment. The company called 911 when the plane didn't return from the routine mission.

"We have no idea what happened," Unsworth said.

The company identified the three aboard as pilots Brian Bruns, Paul Cockrell and Tom Lynch. Lynch was the company's chief pilot.

The plane, built in 1966 and formerly operated by the Navy, was one of 10 approved this week for a contract to return to the federal firefighting fleet after two fatal crashes prompted the government to terminate contracts last year, said Rose Davis of the National Interagency Fire Center.

Wednesday's crash sparked a ground fire that burned two acres, said Jeff Fontana of the Susanville Interagency Fire Center.

Rugged, steep terrain in the southern reaches of the Cascades prevented a helicopter from landing at the crash site near Brushy Mountain and forced a Tehama County search and rescue crew to hike two to three miles, said Leona Rodreick, spokeswoman for Lassen National Forest.

"It's a fairly remote spot, and it took them a while to find a route in," Rodreick said. "There are no roads or trails."

The plane made seven flights Wednesday as pilots who planned to fly during the upcoming fire season underwent qualification checks, the NTSB said.

While not on contract with any government agency, the plane was expected to get a contract next month following inspections, Davis said.

It was one of 10 tankers the NIFC approved Monday for contracts to return to the firefighting fleet. Aero Union won seven contracts for its P-3 Orions.

Last May, the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of the Interior terminated contracts for 33 large air tankers, citing concerns with public safety after two planes broke up in midair in 2002.

Aero Union fought the government's move to terminate the contracts last year, arguing that it was unfairly lumped in with a Wyoming firm responsible for most of the catastrophic accidents.

Both of the deadly 2002 accidents involved aircraft operated by Hawkins & Powers Aviation Inc. of Greybull, Wyo. Both planes lost their wings in mid-flight while dropping fire retardant.

An Associated Press investigation found Hawkins & Powers had a history of crashes and safety problems. Air tanker pilots, industry experts and a government inspector said Aero Union maintained high standards while competing for government low bids.

Federal officials later agreed to return some large tankers to service if operators could prove the aircraft were safe. Last summer, eight P-3 Orions were returned.

Four of Aero Union's P-3 Orions that are under contract in Arkansas, New Mexico and Tennessee, were ordered Thursday to stand down for at least 24 hours, Davis said, but the order was intended to give the crews time to grieve, not because of immediate safety concerns.

In 1995, an Aero Union air tanker was involved in a fatal crash with a U.S. Forest Service plane as they both prepared to land at a Southern California airport after fighting a fire in a state park.

Davis said the crash Wednesday would not prevent the agency from approving other firefighting contracts until the cause of the crash is known.



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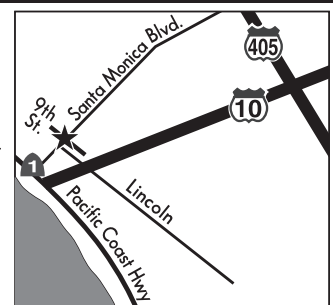
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STATE



Governor apologizes for border comment, Hispanic leaders accept

BY TOM CHORNEAU

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger moved quickly Wednesday to apologize for suggesting that California's border with Mexico should be closed in an effort to solve the nation's illegal immigration problem.

Schwarzenegger said he misspoke in comments to newspaper editors and publishers Tuesday, intending to say the border should be secured. The governor blamed the error on his sometimes flawed use of English — his second language.

"Yesterday was a total screw-up in the words I used," the governor said at a press conference. "Because instead of closing, I meant securing. I think maybe my English, I need to go back to school and study a little bit."

The contrition seemed to quell the issue at the Capitol, where a key Hispanic lawmaker accepted the apology.

"I don't think the governor identifies himself with that kind of rhetoric," said Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles. "I don't know why he said it but I'm very pleased he has totally removed himself from those folks who espouse that kind of hatred."

Nunez's office, however, pointed out that Schwarzenegger said something very similar in a 2003 interview with Fox TV host Bill O'Reilly.

Margita Thompson, Schwarzenegger's spokeswoman, said it was unfortunate Nunez was promoting a "story that has no merit."

On Tuesday, before the annual meeting of the Newspaper Association of America in San Francisco, Schwarzenegger said it was "unfair to have all those people coming across, have the borders open the way it is, and have this kind of lax situation."

The Republican governor backed away

from those statements Wednesday, saying that while securing the border is an important issue — he does not want to close it.

"We have a terrific relationship with Mexico," Schwarzenegger said. "I filmed four movies in Mexico, I love to go on vacation to Mexico. We have a great trade agreement with Mexico."

Thompson said that by securing the border, the governor means that existing immigration laws should be better enforced, and that there should be better security to ensure that people and goods cross back and forth properly.

Although a big bloc of Hispanic voters supported Schwarzenegger in the 2003 recall election, the governor's relationship with California's largest minority group has been uneasy since he took office. Hispanic leaders have criticized Schwarzenegger's unsuccessful efforts to cut public health and social services that would have hurt low-income families.

Most notably, however, the governor forced the Legislature to repeal a bill that granted driver's licenses to illegal immigrants. Although Schwarzenegger since said several times he would accept some form of the legislation if security issues could be resolved, no compromise has been reached.

His latest remark was taken as a further slight by some in the Hispanic community.

"That's not what we expected given the fact that the governor himself is an immigrant," said Francisco Estrada, a spokesman for the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

Harry Pachon, director of the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute at the University of Southern California, said that even though the governor has apologized and retracted the statement, it comes at a time when anti-immigrant feelings are running high across the nation.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

have come since 1986 to "learn how to integrate a contemplative lifestyle and compassionate service."

Saturday's program at St. Monica Church will be built around three points:

- 1) Why do men struggle so often with the spiritual?
- 2) Why do many men reject the inner journey, mistaking it for being soft or weak?
- 3) There is a need for masculine spirituality...that speaks to a deeper core.

In welcoming women to the event, Rohr says: "Patriarchy has no place in...male spiritual development. Women have as much invested in seeing men become more spiritually healthy husbands, fathers, brothers, friends and co-workers."

The theme running through Rohr's writing and teaching events is that men "do not appear to be at home in the world of spirituality." He said one study showed that "80 percent of active church members are women."

Men need to be re-introduced to the ancient rite of initiation, Rohr says. "Coaches and drill sergeants, smoking and driving, money and merit badges, graduation and girlfriends have become our only mentors and rites of passage," he has written. "They all have something to teach us, but no one is there to say, 'You must hear God in this,' or 'Your soul is at stake here.' That is the power of the...transformative space called initiation."

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Entertainment

What's playing

By Dan Dunn

Special to the Daily Press

SIN CITY

A weighty cinematic achievement that personifies the future of film-noir, merging classic sensibilities with the most advanced technology.

Starring: Bruce Willis, Rosario Dawson, Clive Owen

BEAUTY SHOP

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

Starring: Queen Latifah, Kevin Bacon

MISS CONGENIALITY 2

The funniest thing about this slapdash money-grab will be the looks on the faces of gazillions of moviegoers when they collectively realize about 30 minutes into it that they've been Punk'd.

Starring: Sandra Bullock, Regina King

THE RING 2

The only thing remotely frightening about this tension-less sequel is the filmmakers' arrant disregard for its audience's intelligence.

Starring: Naomi Watts

MELINDA AND MELINDA

Woody Allen's new film plays out much like a host of others he's made over the course of his 40-year-career, but alas it's not nearly on par with the revered filmmaker's best efforts.

Starring: Radha Mitchell, Chloe Sevigny, Will Ferrell, Amanda Peet

HOSTAGE

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

Starring: Bruce Willis

THE UPSIDE OF ANGER

A smart, funny, and at times heart-breaking look at one family's struggle to reinvent itself in the wake of a father's sudden, unexplained departure.

Starring: Joan Allen, Kevin Costner

‘Enron’ as riveting as it is infuriating

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

Perhaps what's more disheartening than the events that unfold in this riveting account of one of

Review

the worst business scandals in history is the knowledge that the majority of average Americans — the people hardest hit by corporate crime — probably won't bother to see director Alex Gibney's documentary, opting instead for drivel like "The Amityville Horror" remake or "Guess Who."

And if that sounds like an angry indictment of our "ignorance is bliss" culture, well, it most certainly is. For as "Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room" makes perfectly clear, it is widespread apathy teamed with blind faith in a "free market" economy and the power brokers who control it that made it possible for morally bankrupt rich boys gone wild like Enron's terrible troika of Ken Lay, Jeff Skilling and Andrew Fastow to financially destroy tens of thousands of hard-working people, alter the political landscape and cripple the economy of the nation's largest state (California),

and still pocket hundreds of millions of dollars before bailing from the sinking ship.

"Enron" the movie is not a polemic, but rather a measured, in-depth examination of a human tragedy. Using archival footage — much of it very "insider" — interviews with people at the center of the action (though, not surprisingly, none of Enron's indicted execs participate), and pop cultural touchstones such as a clip from "The Simpsons," Gibney deftly mixes humor, historical background and informed analysis to explore several themes about American culture, among them the

cruelty of our economic system, and the unfair advantages it affords the ruling class. As recounted here, the events that lead to the downfall of what was once America's seventh largest company and a darling of Wall Street are so surreal, it's almost hard to believe it actually happened. But happen it did, and as this impressive documentary repeatedly warns, will do so again and again unless and until the Little Guys start paying a hell of a lot more attention.

(Not yet rated. Running time: 110 minutes)

‘Interpreter’ visually, viscerally charged

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

In a career spanning five decades, Sydney Pollack has helmed a few memorable dramas

Review

("They Shoot Horses, Don't They?" and "The Way We Were") and one comedy classic ("Tootsie"), but it's likely the films for which he will be most fondly remembered when he ultimately folds up his director's chair are smart, white-knuckle thrillers such as "Three Days of the Condor," "The Firm" and his latest stellar effort, "The Interpreter."

Working from an elaborate story credited to several screenwriters, among them A-listers Steven Zaillian ("Schindler's List," "Gangs of New York") and Scott Frank ("Out of Sight," "Get Shorty"), Pollack has meticulously cut and polished a suspense-filled gem that shimmers like the best potboilers of the 60s and 70s, a period many believe represented the genre's Golden Age. "The Interpreter" is an absorbing synthesis of hot-button themes ranging from terrorism to the changing face of international diplomacy to the U.S. intelligence community's role in defusing explosive global situations. The movie is the first ever to be shot inside United Nations headquarters, and veteran cinematographer Darius Khondji ("Seven," "Panic Room") takes full advantage of the complex's distinctive atmospherics. The score, by perennial award nominee James Newton Howard ("The Sixth Sense" "Glengarry Glen Ross"), is portentous — a rich, aural harbinger of peril waiting at every plot turn. Simply put, "The Interpreter" is viscerally and visually charged from beginning to end.

Nicole Kidman and Sean Penn act like the Academy Award winners they are, producing one of the more exciting onscreen couplings of this or any other year. They aren't love interests in a conventional sense, but both stars do an excellent job selling the personal

devastation, single-pointed focus and fear that form the foundation of their connection. Kidman's Silvia Broome is an African-born U.N. translator who overhears a death threat against Zuwanie (Earl Cameron), tyrannical head of a fictional African state who is slated to speak to the U.N. General Assembly. Tobin Keller (Penn) is

the federal agent assigned to investigate Silvia's claim and keep her out of harms way while doing so. Both characters initially hide behind masks of secrecy, but as Zuwanie's speech draws nearer and the specter of a full-blown conspiracy rears its head, they've got no choice but to trust one another. That's when Pollack

ratchets up the intensity with some surprising revelations about hidden pasts that keep his audience guessing 'til the closing credits start to roll.

(Rated PG-13 for violence, some sexual content and brief strong language. Running time: 128 minutes)



Beating the heat, Imbiber-style

THE IMBIBER

BY DAN DUNN



Although it might appear at times to be quite glamorous, the life of an investigative journalist is a demanding one that requires total dedication to the pursuit of Truth. Last Friday, for instance, breaking news came across the wire and The Imbiber immediately dropped what he was doing — which was unfortunate, since I happened to be juggling several Faberge Eggs — grabbed a set of golf clubs and beat a path straight to sunny Arizona. The Arizona Golf Association (AGA) had just released its annual list of the state's Top 10 clubhouse bars, and I had a professional obligation to evaluate their claims. After all, American politics have taught us never to take a bunch of rich white guys at their word, and what could be more important to Santa Monicans than a list of places to get plastered in a desert several hundred miles away?

First stop was the luxurious Phil's Grill at the uber-pricey Grayhawk Golf Club in North Scottsdale. The bar is named for Grayhawk's own PGA spokesmodel, Phil Mickelson, who reportedly spends much of his off-season time at the course honing his game. I asked the bartender to fix me Phil's favorite cocktail, and he looked at me as though I'd challenged him to explain advanced economic theory. "I don't know what he drinks," he said dryly (everything in the state is dry), so I suggested that Phil would very much enjoy a Palmetto Cooler (see recipe below). He then asked if I wanted a Palmetto Cooler, and I slowly uttered the words "Yes ... I ... would," it having occurred to me that the intense Arizona heat had fried the poor lad's brain.

Over at The Silver Spur Grill at the Duke at Rancho El Dorado, the hootch of choice is ice-cold Mexican beer — which is presumably what the course's namesake, John Wayne, used to throw back after a hard day of fighting Injuns on a movie set. There are paintings of the gun-toting Duke all over the Duke, appropriate in a way, because golf is a frustrating game that often makes men want to shoot things. Not me, though. On the contrary, sitting there in the rustic AGA list-worthy 19th hole, I felt as cool as Arizona isn't ... an ace reporter who'd once again gotten the scoop.

Palmetto Cooler (Phil's Favorite)

- 2 oz. bourbon
- 1/2 oz. apricot liqueur
- 1/2 oz. sweet vermouth
- 3 dashes Angostura bitters
- club soda
- fresh mint

In a tall, ice-filled glass, add bourbon, apricot liqueur, vermouth and bitters. Stir well. Fill glass almost to the top and stir again. Throw in lots of mint leaves.

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

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'A Lot Like Love' a lot like others

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

Like its male lead, this romantic comedy has a modest degree of dopey charm going for it, but beyond that, it's pretty ho-hum.

Review

The eminently eyeable Ashton Kutcher and Amanda Peet portray a pair of Urban Outfitter-ed twentysomethings who take seven years to figure out what the audience grasps the moment these two first get it on inside an airplane lavatory: They're soulmates. So what's the holdup on the hookup? Well, for one thing, Ashton's cuddly cute Oliver has dreams of making mad stacks in the brave new world of cyberspace (the action begins midway through Clinton's second term), and alterna-girl Emily (Peet) wants to marry Slash or, at least, a reasonable facsimile. She's a free spirit who wouldn't deign give some strange stiff she shagged in a mile-high john her digits because that, as she'll repeatedly admonish throughout the story, would "ruin it." So she takes his

number and promises to drop him a line someday.

Over the next seven years their paths cross again and again, as he morphs into a dapper dot-commer, and she a budding Annie Leibovitz. Alas, they also harbor an almost pathological aversion to open communication lines and as a result keep slipping in and out of each other's lives. While the characters travel down this hopelessly meandering road, director Nigel Cole and writer Colin Patrick Lynch roll out some romanticomic chestnuts that make "A Lot Like Love" feel an awful lot like a lot of other movies. The ultimate homage/rip-off comes when a lovesick Oliver pulls a "Say Anything" and sets up shop outside Emily's place, serenading her with a lame Bon Jovi power ballad. Therein lies the big difference between a run-of-the-mill flick like "A Lot Like Love," and Cameron Crowe's 1989 classic: Lloyd Dobler would never do Bon Jovi.

(Rated PG-13 for sexual content, nudity and language. Running time: 107 minutes)



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STATE

NASA telescope sees possible asteroid belt

BY ALICIA CHANG

AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES — A NASA telescope has spotted what appears to be an asteroid belt circling a star similar to the sun, a finding that could help astronomers in the hunt for Earth-like planets.

Asteroid belts are littered with remnants of rocky space bodies that sometimes collide with one another, discharging dust. Most asteroids in our solar system orbit in the "asteroid belt" between Jupiter and Mars. If the discovery is con-

firmed, it would be the first asteroid belt detected around a star similar in age and size to the sun.

Two other distant belts have previously been found, but they circle younger, denser stars.

Scientists peering through NASA's infrared Spitzer Space Telescope observed 85 sun-like stars and found one — HD 69830, located 40 light years away — that appears to have an asteroid belt. The belt is thicker than the asteroid belt in our system and holds 25 times as much material. It is also closer to its star than is

the belt in our system.

"Stars like 69830 might hold the key to understanding how rocky planets like the Earth formed," said Charles Beichman, executive director of the Michelson Science Center at the California Institute of Technology and a staff scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The telescope did not see any asteroids, which are the primordial objects left over from the birth of the solar system. But it did detect a thick circle of warm dust in the inner star system, most likely from an asteroid belt where collisions have often occurred.

Beichman said more observations are needed to confirm that the dust came from asteroid collisions and rule out an object like a comet. It's possible that a Pluto-sized comet became trapped in the inner star system and evaporated, leaving behind dust, but scientists say the likelihood of that happening is rare.

Alan Boss, an astrophysicist at the Carnegie Institution in Washington, D.C., said the discovery was exciting, but that trying to image probable planets in the star system may be difficult since the system is so dusty.

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NATIONAL



Waves give aging surfers youth, vitality

BY JAYMES SONG

Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU — Kenneth Chun can't paddle out as fast, nimbly hop to his feet or carve the waves like he used to. But even at 70, Chun still loves to surf.

Wearing a soaking wet baseball cap to protect his graying and partly bald head from the sun, Chun hits the warm, turquoise waters off Waikiki Beach about three times a week. The retired electrical engineer from Honolulu is one of many silver-haired surfers that say the sport keeps them young and sharp — physically and mentally.

"I'm slower now and can't keep up with the younger people, but it's just a lot of fun to ride the waves," said Chun, who has surfed for nearly five decades.

Even a collision at sea where Chun was slashed in the head by a surfboard couldn't keep him out of the waters for long.

"The next week I went surfing with stitches in my head," he said, pointing to his scar.

Chun, like most surfers young and old, is tan and toned. Their primary reason for surfing is not the workout, but their love of the ocean, being at one with Mother Nature and the addicting thrill of riding a wave.

"It keeps you young. It keeps you fresh. It keeps you in shape," said James Panas, 55, who surfs about five days a week before his night shift at a local health food store.

"I feel so comfortable in the water. It's so magical to me. Even if I don't catch a wave, it's still a great day," he said. "The spirit of the ocean, there's something about it."

As surfers age, the hips and knees can get weaker, which prevents them from popping up on their boards as fast and maneuvering, Panas said.

"Some guys stop surfing because they realize they don't have what they used to," he said. "But I figure whatever you got, just go out and do it. Even if you can't rip like you used to, at least you're enjoying yourself."

The exercise resulting from the paddling, kicking and balancing on the board isn't really the main priority for surfers. But the health advantages are undeniable.

"It's a side benefit," said 57-year-old Susie McGuire, of San Diego. "Being in the water is uplifting. It's better than Prozac and beats any anti-depressant on the market."

The petite and energetic McGuire, lugging around a board that seemed nearly double her size, has surfed since she was a teenager and says it gives her "spiritual freedom."

"It's a new canvas every day," she said. "Every ride is different."

Super-fit Nathan Kapule, a Honolulu firefighter, is less than two years away from turning 50, but looks like he still could get carded at bars. The father of an 8-year-old daughter and 6-year-old triplets has been an avid surfer since childhood.

"It keeps you alive," he said. "There's a feeling you get from surfing. I can attempt to explain it. But if you're not a surfer, you can only imagine."

Kapule describes the sensation of being in the water "soothing and refreshing." But for his brother-in-law, Bill Clements of Seattle, surfing is a totally different experience.

"Instead of soothing and refreshing, it's challenging and demanding," said Clements, 47, who started surfing a few years ago. "But that's what I enjoy."

Clements, who has run several 100-mile endurance races, said surfing works out different muscles than running, such as the shoulders and back.

"Even if you're not getting waves, you just sit out on the board and enjoy being out in the ocean and that's great," he said.

During that lull while waiting for waves, surfers chat with each other or just relax.

"When you're waiting for sets to come and staring at the horizon, there's not a thought in your head. It's not about the job. It's not about the rent," said Steve Funk, 53. "Everything clears up. It's sort of Zen like."

Funk, a pediatric nurse, moved to Honolulu nearly two years ago from San Diego — in part — to surf more. He started surfing when he was in his mid-40s and says it's never too late to start.

"I've skied. I've motocrossed. I've skateboarded. I've done all these other sports and I've never done anything like this," Funk said. "You can actually feel nature pushing you."

But the sensation of gliding across the Pacific Ocean is what keeps Funk and others coming back for more.

"It's exhilarating," said. "I think everybody should try it at least once."

Surfing is a necessity for these graying sea warriors.

"Most people that I know that are older, can't quit," Funk said. "If I don't surf for a week or two, I get grouchy. I start whining. There's something missing."

Watching the older surfers is inspiring and educational for some youngsters. Fifteen-year-old Keoni Moore always allows his elders to have first dibs on the prime waves. Even though they don't do "any radical moves," there's lots of respect, he said.

"I see them and say, 'Whoa. That's super cool. I hope I'm like that when I'm older,'" Moore said.

Another major benefit of surfing — over other sports such as golf — is that it's cheap once the board and shorts are purchased. There are no health club membership dues or green fees.

State Sen. Fred Hemmings, 59, author of "The Soul of Surfing is Hawaiian," has surfed competitively and won the World Surfing Championship in 1968. He was also a friend of the late Duke Kahanamoku, considered the father of modern surfing.

"It's a sport without boundaries," said Hemmings, the Senate minority leader. "There's no start. There's no time to it. There's no boundaries on the field. There's no referees. ... You don't have to look at the scoreboard at the end of the day. No matter what, you win when you go surfing."

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New pope keeps old guard for the moment

BY TONY CZUCZKA

Associated Press Writer

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI confirmed Cardinal Angelo Sodano in the Vatican's No. 2 post Thursday and kept all other top officials, avoiding any immediate shakeup in the late John Paul II's administration.

It was a sign that the new pope, a doctrinal hard-liner, wants to show continuity with the popular John Paul.

Sodano, the Vatican's secretary of state, is 77, already two years past the normal retirement age for Vatican officials. The new pope is 78.

One appointment Benedict will have to make is his successor as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Vatican's guardian of orthodoxy.

Among names that have surfaced as possible successors are Cardinal Christoph Schoenborn of Austria and Cardinal Francis George of Chicago.

The Vatican also said the pope confirmed the Holy See's foreign minister, Archbishop Giovanni Lajolo of Italy, as well as the undersecretary of state, Archbishop Leonardo Sandri of Argentina, who had become John Paul's official voice when the late pontiff could no longer speak.

The confirmation of Sodano came a day after Benedict gave his first Mass as pope, pledging to keep reaching out to other religions and leaving no doubt that he senses the large shadow of his prede-

cessor.

"I seem to feel his strong hand holding mine, I feel I can see his smiling eyes and hear his words, at this moment particularly directed at me: 'Be not afraid,'" said Benedict, who until Tuesday was simply Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.

While signaling that he wants to tread in John Paul's ideological footsteps, the pope is a contrast in style to his predecessor, who was 20 years younger when he became pontiff and kept up a grueling global travel schedule even as his health ebbed.

John Paul II, who died April 2, acted, played soccer, went canoeing in mountain streams as a young man in Poland. Benedict is mostly an indoor man, though he is a big walker because of his youth in the Bavarian Alps. He finds relaxation in classical music and likes to play the piano, not take to the stage.

But the Vatican also showed that Benedict intends to follow in the footsteps of John Paul's multimedia ministry. It modified its Web site so that users who click on an icon on the home page automatically activate an e-mail composer with Benedict's address. In English, the address is benedictxvi(at)vatican.va.

Benedict took a cue from John Paul when he pledged Wednesday to work for unity among Christians and to seek "an open and sincere dialogue" with other faiths.

He also stressed he would draw on the work of the Second Vatican Council, the 1962-65 meeting that modernized the

church, an issue important to liberals who are wary of Benedict from his time as the powerful enforcer of church doctrine.

Benedict will be fighting that reputation close to home as he tackles one of the biggest challenges: a Europe of empty churches and growing secularism.

And as the world's 1.1 billion Catholics got first hints of where the papacy is headed, followers of other religions weighed the future of interfaith relations. By and large, reactions were hopeful and expectant.

"I think he has been very open, so I have no worries about the ecumenical route," said British Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor. "It will continue. No doubt at all."

The new pope has been one of the most forceful Vatican voices for Catholic missionary work and other forms of evangelization. He was the intellectual force behind the 2000 document "Dominus Iesus," which outlined the Catholic Church as an exclusive road to salvation and angered Protestants, Jews, Muslims and other non-Christians.

In Israel, admiration for John Paul's tireless efforts to promote Jewish-Catholic reconciliation mixed with unease about Benedict's time in the Hitler Youth as a teenager.

Benedict has written openly about his service, which was compulsory under the Nazi regime. He also was drafted into a German anti-aircraft unit during World War II, though he says he never fired a shot.

John Paul won many Israeli hearts during a trip to the Holy Land in 2000 by apologizing for Roman Catholic wrongdoing over the centuries. He also was praised for promoting interfaith dialogue, establishing diplomatic relations with Israel and aiding Polish Jews during the Nazi era.

"Israel can certainly coexist with him," Oded Ben-Hor, Israel's ambassador to the Vatican, said of the new pope. "But the real test will come over the course of time."

Benedict inherits sometimes testy relations with the Russian Orthodox Church, which has accused Catholics of poaching Orthodox believers. John Paul, the first Slavic pope, saw a visit to Russia as a way to promote greater Christian unity a millennium after the east-west schism, but he never was able to arrange the trip.

"We very much hope that under the new pope those problems will be solved," said Igor Vyzhanov, an Orthodox church spokesman.

Benedict's election was welcomed across the Islamic world, where many people hope he will promote harmony between the two religions and possibly Middle East peace.

The new pope won praise from Muslims by criticizing Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi for comments in 2001 that Western civilization is superior to Islam. "One cannot speak of the superiority of one culture over another, because history has shown that a society can change from one age to another," he said at the time.

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INTERNATIONAL



Helicopter crash in Iraq kills six

BY JAMIE TARABAY

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A commercial helicopter was shot down by missile fire north of the Iraqi capital Thursday, killing 11 people, including six American contractors, officials said.

Bulgaria's Defense Ministry said the helicopter was downed by missile fire and the victims included a three-member Bulgarian crew.

A Toronto-based charter company said there were two bodyguards from Fiji on board, while Bulgaria's Transport Ministry said they were from the Philippines.

The Philippine mission in Baghdad said it had no information that any of its nationals were on the helicopter.

The six Americans worked for security contractor Blackwater USA, the U.S. Embassy said. The North Carolina-based contracting firm provides security for State Department officials in Iraq.

Two U.S. military officials in Baghdad initially said the helicopter was contracted by the Defense Department, but the U.S. Embassy later said that was untrue. It gave no information on the contractor.

It was unclear whether the civilian employees of Blackwater were under contract to the Pentagon or the State Department, U.S. officials in Washington said.

Last year, four Blackwater employees were killed in Fallujah, and their bodies were burned and mutilated. Two of the corpses were strung up on a bridge over the Euphrates River.

The deaths touched off a Marine assault on insurgents in the city.

The Mi-8 helicopter went down about 12 miles north of Baghdad, the U.S. Embassy said. Video on television showed burning wreckage from the Russian-built craft and personal belongings scattered across a wide area.

The helicopter was owned by Bulgaria-based Heli Air and chartered by Toronto-based SkyLink Aviation Inc., said SkyLink air operations manager Paul Greenaway. The helicopter was flying to Tikrit, he said.

Greenaway said the six Americans were "doing some sort of security work." He said the victims included three Bulgarian crew members and two security guards from Fiji.

On March 13, two American security contractors working for Blackwater Security — a subsidiary of Blackwater USA — were killed and a third was wounded in a roadside bombing south of Baghdad on the main road to Hillah.

Elsewhere Thursday, relatives of Iraqis who have disappeared in a Sunni militant stronghold known as the "Triangle of Death" gathered at a police station in Suwayra to examine photographs of the bodies of dozens of Iraqis that officials said were pulled from the Tigris River in recent weeks.

"My cousin was kidnapped by terrorists, and he has

been missing for two weeks," Jawad Hashim Shael said as he scanned the photos. "We have searched all nearby areas, but we still have no information about his whereabouts."

On Wednesday, interim President Jalal Talabani announced that more than 50 bodies were recovered, saying that was proof of claims that dozens were abducted from an area south of the capital last week despite a fruitless search by Iraqi forces.

Talabani did not say when or where the bodies were pulled from the river, but he said all had been identified as hostages.

"Terrorists committed crimes there. It is not true to say there were no hostages. There were. They were killed, and they threw the bodies into the Tigris," Talabani said. "We have the full names of those who were killed and those criminals who committed these crimes."

Shiite leaders and government officials claimed last week that Sunni militants abducted as many as 100 Shiites from the Madain area, 14 miles southeast of Baghdad, and said they would be killed unless all Shiites left town.

When Iraqi forces moved into the town of 1,000 families, they found no captives, and residents said they had seen no evidence anyone had been seized.

Madain and Suwayra are both located in the "Triangle of Death," a region south of Baghdad where there have been numerous retaliatory kidnappings. Police and health officials said victims were sometimes killed and dumped in the river.

As summer approaches and temperatures start to rise, bodies have been floating to the surface, said Dr. Falah al-Permani of the Swera district health department. He said as many as 50 bodies have been recovered in the past three weeks. It was unclear whether they were the bodies referred to by Talabani.

After a week of stepped-up violence, the country's most feared terror group, Al-Qaida in Iraq, claimed responsibility Thursday for a suicide car bombing that targeted interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's convoy but did not harm the Iraqi leader.

The attack on Allawi's convoy occurred Wednesday, a day of multiple bombings and shootings in Baghdad and elsewhere that killed at least 13 people and wounded 21.

The victims included an Australian security contract worker and two other foreign nationals killed by assailants firing at their vehicle in Baghdad, Australian officials said in Sydney on Thursday.

Al-Qaida in Iraq claimed responsibility for several of the attacks, including the one on Allawi, in statements that surfaced on Web sites known for their militant content.

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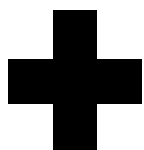
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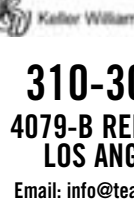
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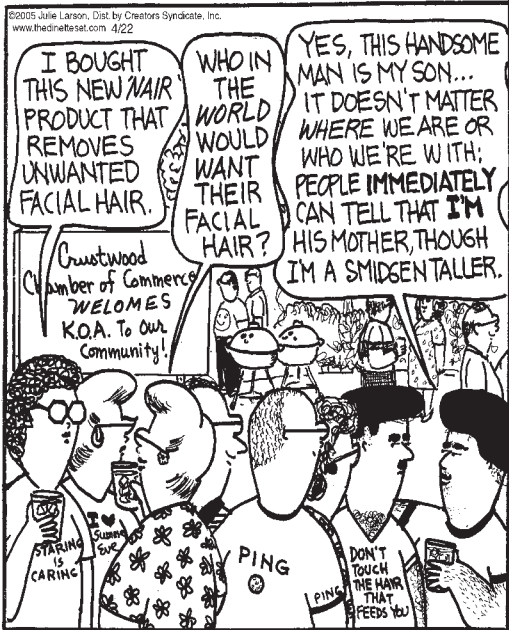
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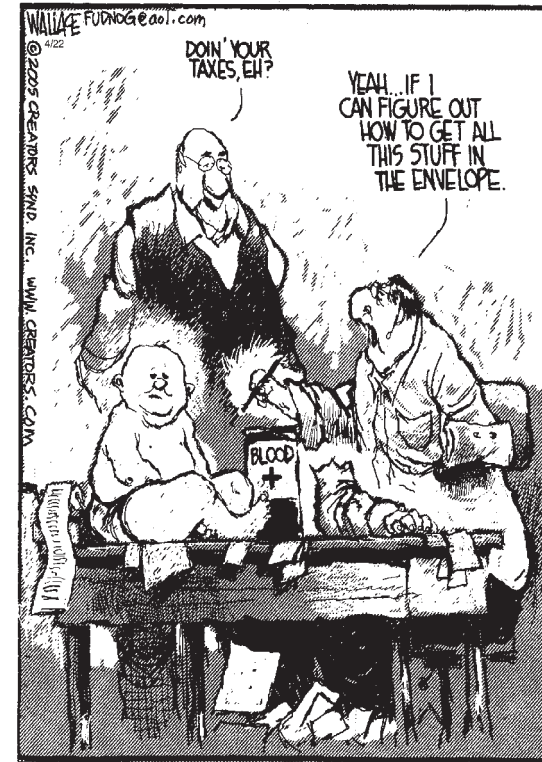


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ACROSS

- 1 Kaaba setting
- 6 Relish
- 11 Uma's "Gattaca" co-star
- 12 Coeur d'—, Idaho
- 13 Poison
- 14 Olympic speeders
- 15 Go for
- 17 Forest home
- 18 Counter-feit
- 20 League division
- 22 Bonanza stuff
- 23 Bitter beer
- 26 Free of suds
- 28 Bower
- 29 "Mandy" singer
- 31 Drop back
- 32 Cart pullers
- 33 "Love —" (Beatles song)
- 34 Bar order
- 36 Melville character
- 38 Mine finds
- 40 "Barry Lyndon" star
- 43 Key
- 44 Chunk
- 45 Wee
- 46 Hotel fixtures

DOWN

- 1 Came together
- 2 H look-alike
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- 4 Camp craft
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- 6 Gal of song
- 7 Four-time Indy winner
- 8 Soup choice
- 9 Folding money
- 10 Take a breather
- 16 Assam export
- 18 IRS publi-cation

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Yesterday's answer

- 19 "Vesti la Giubba," e.g.
- 21 "There ought to be —!"
- 23 Soccer's "Black Pearl"
- 24 Washer unit
- 25 Thus
- 27 Sweet age
- 30 — dime
- 33 Fad
- 34 Open envelopes
- 35 Garden aid
- 37 Brewing need
- 39 Hog holder
- 41 Great serve
- 42 Trumpet-er Elgart

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