

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

4 6 17 29 31
Meganumber: 8
Jackpot: \$... Million

FANTASY 5

5 18 24 25 27

DAILY 3

Daytime: 0 2 0
Evening: 7 0 2

DAILY DERBY

1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms

RACE TIME: 1:48.96

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

In January, Canada's immigration minister, Judy Sgro, resigned after pizza parlor owner Harjit Singh accused her of renegeing on a deal she allegedly proposed: that she would help Singh with an immigration problem if he would deliver pizza and garlic bread to her campaign headquarters.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 119th day of 2005.
There are 246 days left in the year.

In 1946, 28 former Japanese leaders were indicted as war criminals.

In 1974, President Nixon announced he was releasing edited transcripts of some secretly made White House tape recordings related to Watergate.

In 1983, Harold Washington was sworn in as the first black mayor of Chicago.

In 1992, deadly rioting erupted in Los Angeles after a jury in Simi Valley, Calif., acquitted four Los Angeles police officers of almost all state charges in the videotaped beating of Rodney King.

In 1996, former CIA Director William Colby was presumed drowned by authorities in Maryland after an apparent boating accident; his body was later recovered.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"Human beings are perhaps never more frightening than when they are convinced beyond doubt that they are right."

SIR LAURENS VAN DER POST,
SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHOR (1906-1996)

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Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Robert Berger is leading a new campaign to curb smoking in outdoor dining areas.

Smoking and outdoor dining do not mix, officials say

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

MAIN STREET — A movement to snuff out smoking in Santa Monica outdoor dining areas has ignited.

The "Fresh Air Dining Program" was officially launched this week and encourages area restaurants to be smoke-free on their outdoor patios.

Thirteen restaurants in Santa Monica have signed on to the voluntary program, which forbids anyone from lighting up when dining al fresco.

"We are honoring restaurants for taking a leadership position," said Robert Berger, the project director of the program. Berger and about a half-dozen speakers announced the launch of the program at Urth Caff  on Main Street, which is a smoke-free environment.

Berger has been at the forefront of previous successful efforts to ban smoking from public areas in Santa Monica.

See **SMOKING**, page 7

City to hire liaison for homeless

Shriver takes his first big step on council

BY RYAN HYATT
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Elected officials here plan to hire a high-profile liaison with a salary of as much as \$200,000 and whose sole purpose will be to solve the problem of chronic homelessness in the region.

In a 4-2 vote, the City Council on Tuesday approved the hiring of what it hopes will be a consensus-

building leader to enlist nearby communities and find more resources to effectively address homelessness on the Westside.

Councilmen Robert Holbrook, Herb Katz, Kevin McKeown and Bobby Shriver voted in favor of creating the new position. Mayor Pam O'Connor and Councilman Richard Bloom voted against it. Councilman Ken Genser was absent from the meeting.

"Some person needs to be able to make this (issue of homelessness) their 24/7 business, working on this issue on a regional basis," said Shriver, who suggested the

new position. "When you undertake a big project, you need someone who eats, sleeps, breathes this kind of issue."

Citing the need for the regional liaison, Shriver pointed out that \$10,000 contributed by Santa Monica last month to secure a lease for a sobering center site at 1000 Venice Blvd. fell through.

Julie Rusk, the city's one full-time local homeless assistance coordinator, said the sobering center fell through because residents living near the site were opposed

See **LIAISON**, page 6

Sinking feeling



Austin Raishbrook/Special to the Daily Press

An uninsured boat sank on Thursday afternoon in the Basin G area of the marina. It went down following attempts of several men on board to replace a motor at the rear of the 30-foot vessel. No one was injured in the incident, which happened at about 3 p.m.

Poll: Schwarzenegger's approval rating down

BY TOM CHORNEAU
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Less than half of California's likely voters approve of the way Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is doing his job, according to a new poll from the Public Policy Institute of California.

The findings released Thursday reflect a negative trend that began

in January when the governor announced plans for a special election this year and proposed a series of controversial ballot measures.

The poll found voters are split over two of Schwarzenegger's three proposed initiatives — a majority support his plan to make it harder for public school teachers to gain tenure but a similar number oppose his proposed restric-

tions on the state budget.

For the first time since taking office, Schwarzenegger is on the down side of a major statewide poll: 47 percent of likely voters surveyed by the Public Policy Institute disapprove of his job performance, while 45 percent approve, and 8 percent are undecided. In January, the poll found 60 percent approval

See **APPROVAL**, page 10

Jacquie Banks

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Happy Birthday, Kelley Schamel

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)

★★★★ Do your best to juggle the different pressures that enter your day. You must answer to a boss or someone you have made a key commitment to. You might feel stretched beyond your limits. Tonight: Let go of stress. Treat yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You might need to adjust your plans more than once. It seems that you want to be everywhere or that a lot of news or information comes forward. You could be exhausted. Keep smiling. Your gentle ways make a difference. Tonight: Do something unique.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Financial swings might only appear to be on paper, but they affect you. You might want to change your plans or do something a bit different because of what occurs. Don't kid yourself about the implications of a situation. Tonight: Choose a mental escape.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You might want a situation to unfold in a way that pleases you. However, you don't have control over others. Let go, and you might be delighted by what happens. A special person plays a role. Tonight: Don't buck plans.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You might be more reactive than usual because you are very tired. Get as much done as you can, but make time for a break by yourself. You don't always have to be superman or superwoman. Others appreciate you. Tonight: Cocoon.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You can handle whatever comes across your path. You might find a meeting a bit too much and want to reschedule. Know your limits. Express your caring in a way that others can hear. You don't have to have a passionate display. Tonight: Let your guard down.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Understand your priorities. If you can, stay close to home. You have a lot to deal with, and your hands are full. Your imagination comes up with a wild scheme that might help you make money — careful, please. Tonight: Enjoy those around you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Don't feel bad if you need to screen your calls. A lot comes at you all at once. You might need to postpone a trip in order to handle everything. A loved one delights in your company. Let this person share his or her feelings. Tonight: Enjoy the moment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Be more in touch with your financial needs. You could be overwhelmed by someone's demands. A bill could throw you off. Regroup. You'll find answers once you calm down. You are in much better shape than you realize. Tonight: Follow your instincts.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Someone might be a lot tougher than you'd anticipated. Know when to give up and head in a different direction. You won't find a resolution right now. Solutions come forth for those who are innovative and open. Tonight: Add some magic to your life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★ Know when you have had enough. Though you have many ideas, others are not ready to listen right now. Get done what you must. Take plenty of time for yourself. You need to relax and perhaps get a catnap. Tonight: Be unavailable.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You get what you want, but at what cost? Someone could be very difficult or touchy, most likely a child or new friend. Surround yourself with positive people. You instinctively say the right thing at the right time. Tonight: The more friends the merrier.

Santa Monica Daily Press

AUDIT PENDING

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Photo Courtesy

May Faire in bloom at Waldorf

By Daily Press staff

Celebrate the arrival of spring this weekend with a day of games, crafts, music and dancing.

The Westside Waldorf School’s is holding its annual May Faire on Saturday, April 30. Children will dance around a Maypole, decorated with ribbons and flowers. In addition to Scandinavian folk dancers, a gospel choir and musical performances by local artists, there will be food, face-painting, mehndi-tattooing, craft supplies, craft-making opportunities and handmade toys and goods for all ages. There also will be raffle prizes, an all-day silent auction and a live auction of 20th century fine art works. Proceeds all go to support nonprofit education.

The Waldorf philosophy dates back 80 years and is one of today’s fastest-growing educational movements, school officials said. Its approach of integrating all of the child’s faculties into education harmonizes with contemporary research in early childhood development and education, officials said.

The May Faire is an opportunity to explore the Westside Waldorf School’s centrally located campus near the beach. The nonprofit independent school is now in its 17th year. The school offers preschool, kindergarten and elementary classes through the seventh grade. The school also conducts after-school and summer enrichment programs.

The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Westside Waldorf School campus, at 1229 Fourth St. Parking is available in Fourth Street public garages.

Admission to the May Faire is free. Tickets are sold separately for crafts and activities. For information, call (310) 576-0788.

Save a life, give blood

By Daily Press staff

This weekend you could give life for free.

Brentwood Presbyterian Church is hosting an American Red Cross blood drive. In Southern California, 60 percent of the blood needed is imported from other parts of the United States, and only 3 percent of Southern Californians donate blood, according to the American Red Cross.

The blood drive will take place this Sunday, May 1, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome, and refreshments will be provided. Bring a photo I.D.

See BRIEFS, page 6



SURF REPORT

Our next SW swell is due from a small but ideally angled (190-200 degree) system tracked near Tahiti last week. As expected, this one moved northward, providing less loss from angular spreading decay. The fetch on this one wasn't all that big (producing periods around 15 seconds), but it should still produce waist-to chest-high surf today, increasing on Saturday.

Because of Wednesday night's rains, there will be concern of increased bacteria levels from runoff. As a reminder, there is a risk of increased bacteria levels through a period of at least 72 hours following the end of any measurable rain event. Water contact should be avoided during this period, especially within 100 yards of drainpipes, creek outlets, river mouths, etc.

Today the water is:

60°

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

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	3:31	-0.1	3:10	0.9	9:35	4.3	9:25	5.7
SUNDAY	4:08	-0.5	3:36	1.2	10:18	4.1	9:51	5.9
MONDAY	4:49	-0.7	4:03	1.6	11:06	3.8	10:22	6.1
TUESDAY	5:35	-0.8	4:32	1.9	12:00	3.5	10:58	6.0
WEDNESDAY	6:28	-0.8	5:03	2.3	1:08	3.2	11:40	5.8
THURSDAY	7:31	-0.6	5:43	2.7	2:40	3.0	N/A	N/A
FRIDAY	8:07	-0.4	6:24	2.9	3:02	2.8	12:35	5.4

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Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger apologized last week for suggesting that California’s border with Mexico be closed in an effort to solve the nation’s illegal immigration problem. Schwarzenegger insisted that he misspoke to newspaper editors and publishers, intending to say the border should be secured.

The comments thrust the issue of illegal immigrants in the United States back to the fore, so this week, Q-Line wants to know:

What steps, if any, should the United States take to quell the rush of illegal immigrants into the United States via the southern border?

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Not a homeless 'hater,' just fed up

Editor:

Regarding Randy Walburger's letter to the editor, "Give 'em shelter," (SMDP, April 25, page 4) he says "to all the homeless haters who feel comfortable living in a society that allows its poor to live and die on the street." If I'm not mistaken, Santa Monica city's budget last year spent over \$2 million on the homeless situation, and they spend more every day. Who is allowing the poor to die on the streets? Any time a homeless person is lying injured or intoxicated on a street, the fire department and paramedics arrive and spend their time to take the person to the hospital. Who pays for that? The taxpayers of this city. I think he misunderstands the people he calls "haters" are actually Santa Monica residents who are tired of the 15-year homeless situation that affects the quality of life for everyone. We want solutions — not more money thrown at the problem. Yes, there are homeless that are mentally or physically disabled, but I have seen a vast majority as able-bodied people, some in full health, digging in the trash to recover bottles and cans to make their living. I wonder if a survey was taken, how many homeless actually lived in Santa Monica and became down on their luck for whatever reason, and now are on the streets of the town they once lived. I'll bet the percentage would very low as most of the homeless are migrating here from other cities and states. Santa Monica is known world-wide as a haven for homeless and its many outreach programs. That's why there's so many in this city.

As for the working poor's "paltry minimum wage," isn't the idea to gain marketable skills or education to get a better job and thus make more money and not be forever poor? You'd have a law passed forcing the city to pay \$12 an hour to everyone working at any business regardless of skill. Think what you'd pay for your food or any retail item when the employees are making that kind of money. The business owner would surely pass that cost on to the consumer in higher prices. A nice subsidy for the working poor. When people stop looking to the government for hand-outs and to take care of all of their problems, and paying for all of their problems, we'll be a better place. Personal responsibility, folks. It's an easy formula. Get an education, stay off drugs, keep your focus and set goals, don't start a family until you can afford to feed them, and you'll go far.

Mark Sanderson
Santa Monica

Dogs don't help water quality

Editor:

If passed, Assembly Bill 359 (AB 359) would convert a one-mile portion of Dockweiler Beach from Imperial Highway to Grand Avenue into an off-leash dog beach managed solely by volunteers using safety cones, not fencing.

This area is not in the flight path of LAX. It is south of the airport. Nearly 100,000 people used this beach in August 2004 (one month) according to LA County Lifeguard statistics. It would take approximately one-third of the licensed dogs in Los Angeles County to equal that number. Why displace nearly 100,000 users to allow a much smaller number of dog owners to show they can responsibly co-opt a beach by cordoning it off with safety cones?

The current dog beach pilot program in Los Angeles County is on a remote stretch of beach in Long Beach. After its trial run, the pilot program was not given permanent status because of official reports of irresponsible behavior on the part of dog owners, lack of volunteer participation and dog attacks on cyclists.

Proponents of the dog beach point to no adverse impact to the water quality at the Long Beach dog beach. The Long Beach dog beach, however, is in an area that received poor B and C grades in a 2003/04 report by Heal the Bay. Most LA County beaches received an A grade during the same period. The only conclusion to be drawn from the Heal the Bay grade is that the presence of dogs doesn't improve water quality.

If you use Dockweiler beach or bicycle through it or just support the efforts of Los Angeles County to provide clean, safe open beach area, please write, e-mail or call your state senators. For more information, see www.nodogbeach.com.

Tom Babbitt
El Segundo



OPINION

Cities need a vision, great architecture



OUR TOWN

BY TED WINTERER

In my last column I lamented that Santa Monica's extensive public review and codified design standards scare away some architects and dilute and undermine the individual expression of those who continue to work here. You know the old aphorism that a camel is a horse designed by a committee? Well, over the years what we've often gotten here are dull and sturdy beast-of-burden buildings instead of provocative thoroughbreds.

While much of my thesis derives from my curmudgeonly perspective, I also spoke with many local architects who believe Santa Monica is not a hospitable place to practice their craft. As I'm just a loudmouthed lay person, I sought the opinions on these issues of our Architectural Review Board (ARB), whose members are our arbiters on matters of building design. Michael Folonis, an accomplished architect, ARB member and as gracious a man as you'll meet, was kind enough to chat with me.

Folonis believes city officials have gone to great lengths in the last year to make City Hall more user friendly for architects and that recent reforms to the planning process have made it less time-consuming and labyrinthine. He's also convinced the ARB is striving to encourage good design in the projects it reviews and, in particular, lauds its chair, Joan Charles, for her leadership and the city staff that assists the board for "doing an incredible job."

So perhaps there are reasons to be optimistic about the future of architecture in our town. However, I still believe we ought to take the following steps to stimulate better architecture in Santa Monica and to persuade architects who have been alienated by past experience to once again work here:

■ City officials are now seeking a new director for the planning department and should hire someone who has the vision and intellectual pedigree to recognize and cultivate better architecture, and the courage and self-confidence to not interfere with its creation. He or she should reach out to local architects to assure them their designs will be nurtured and respected.

■ The ARB should not just reject or approve projects but instead actively promote fine design. City officials already waive permit fees for landmarked build-

ings and are moving toward expedited permits for green buildings, so why not similarly reward great architecture by having the ARB designate a certain percentage of designs as meritorious and granting these projects fast-tracked approvals or other incentives? At the very least, the ARB should foster the best possible architecture by awarding commendations to public and private works and acknowledging these designs in the local media and the city's Web site.

■ When our new zoning ordinance is written in the next two years, it should be streamlined to be easier for architects to navigate and should eliminate all design standards, sticking instead to its fundamental purpose of shaping land use rather than aesthetics. There should be no more of this malarkey about how you can build only a flat roof or a pitched roof with a specified rise and run, so that the result is a cookie-cutter design. If you want a sloped roof without a peak or a minaret, or an onion dome, you should be able to build it as long as it conforms to the required height and mass. Likewise, parameters such as the Ocean Park guidelines, which stipulate that buildings in that neighborhood must comply with one of three dated styles of architecture, should be tossed out. While these sort of well-intended constraints may be appropriate for places like Nantucket, their unintended consequence here is a mediocre uniformity.

■ City officials should initiate a competition among the best architects available to oversee the remaining buildings in the Civic Center makeover, to assure that this critical component of our town's future benefits from a singular and harmonious vision. Our current approach, with architects hired ad hoc for each component as it's funded, runs too great a risk the final result will be an ungainly hodgepodge. Likewise, if city officials must proceed with a development agreement to remodel Santa Monica Place, they should insist on a competition among architects to seek out the best possible scheme for a project that will define our city for decades to come.

Ours is a progressive city that celebrates diversity, fosters the arts and cultivates freedom of expression, yet it seems to me when it comes to the art of architecture we have encouraged homogeneity, stifled individual autonomy and have been overly cautious — dare I say even conservative. Why exactly are we afraid? Great cities are defined by many measures, one of which is great architecture.

(Ted Winterer is a writer who lives in Ocean Park. He can be reached at ourtownsmdp@aol.com.)

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

Do you have community news?

Submit news releases

Email to: editor@smdp.com or fax 310.576.9913

LOCAL



CRIME WATCH

By Daily Press staff

AT 11:45 A.M. ON APRIL 13, Santa Monica Police responded to the 2500 block of Lincoln Boulevard regarding suspicious activity. The reporting party called police and provided a license plate, at which time he was informed it was a stolen vehicle. When officers arrived at the scene, the reporting party said he saw a male and female get out of a vehicle and walk away quickly. Responding officers checked the area and eventually stopped two subjects in the 600 block of Olympic Boulevard. A field show up was conducted, and the reporting party positively identified two suspects. Alvin Kelly, Jr., 43, a transient, and Kellie Elaine Hawkins, 28, were arrested. Kelly and Hawkins were booked for auto theft and parole violation. Kelly had no bail. Hawkins' bail was set at \$20,000.

AT 11:06 P.M. ON APRIL 14, Santa Monica Police responded to the 1400 block of the Third Street Promenade regarding a theft. When officers arrived to the scene, they spoke to a store employee, who said two suspects entered the store, removed security sensors from clothing and attempted to leave the store without paying. An anti-theft security alarm activated, and two suspects were stopped and found to be attempting to steal \$1,114 of clothing. Brian Buzby, 21, of Santa Monica and Tracy Meara, 27, of Santa Monica were arrested and booked for grand theft. Bail was at \$30,000 each.

AT 9:09 A.M. ON APRIL 15, Santa Monica Police responded to 20th Street and California Avenue regarding a non-injury traffic accident. When officers arrived to the scene, they spoke to one of the parties, driving a Ford Expedition, and asked for a driver's license and insurance information, at which time the driver said she had neither. Officers asked the driver who owned the vehicle, and the driver replied she did not know, that she had stole the vehicle the day before in Carson. A computer check revealed the vehicle was in fact stolen, and the driver was arrested for grand theft auto. Connie Star Tran, 23, of San Diego was booked for grand theft auto and a parole violation. No bail was set.

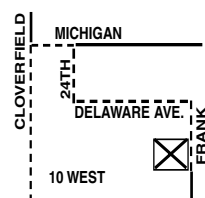
AT 10:30 P.M. ON APRIL 16, Santa Monica Police responded to the 1300 block of the Third Street Promenade regarding an assault. When officers arrived to the scene, they contacted a movie theater employee who said the suspect attempted to gain entry into the theater without a ticket. The suspect was refused entry and was involved in a fight with employees, and bit one of them on the hand. He was taken into custody and later released to the SMPD. Ali Hasson Jones, 33, a transient, was booked for assault and two parole violations. He had no bail.

AT 12:13 A.M. ON APRIL 18, Santa Monica Police responded to the 1400 block of Pacific Coast Highway regarding a robbery investigation. When officers arrived to the scene, they spoke to the victims who said they were walking to their parked vehicle when four suspects approached them and demanded their purses. Suspect one and two, both females, struck the victims and stole her purse. One of the suspects simulated a weapon. However, no weapon was seen, and the suspects fled in a two-door 1997 black Thunderbird with tinted windows. The first suspect is described as a 20-year-old black female, about 5 feet, 4 inches tall, 200 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes. The second suspect is described as a 17-year-old black female, 5 feet, 5 inches tall, 120 pounds, with black hair and blue eyes, wearing a white tank top. The third suspect is described as a 19-year-old black male, 6 feet tall, 190 pounds, with black hair and having a dark complexion, wearing a black baseball cap with a yellow "P", a black long-sleeve shirt and pants, with two ears pierced. The fourth suspect was described as black male, in his 20s, 6 feet tall and 230 pounds, with dark hair and having a dark complexion, wearing a dark blue or gray short-sleeved shirt with a tattoo of his name on the left side of his neck. Property taken were two purses with miscellaneous identification and \$90 in cash.

AT 3:40 P.M. ON APRIL 19, Santa Monica Police responded to the 1300 block of Fourth Street, Bank of America, regarding a forgery suspect there. When officers arrived to the scene, they spoke to the employee, who said the suspect was attempting to cash a fraudulent check at the bank. The suspect was still at the bank when the officers arrived, and he was taken in to custody. Curtis Dale Sanders, 42, of Downey, was arrested for forgery, commercial burglary and parole violation. No bail was set.

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LOCAL

Santa Monica to lead homeless charge

LIAISON, from page 1

to it after reading about the proposal in the newspaper. She said Santa Monica's partner in the program, Exodus Recovery, a nonprofit rehabilitation and treatment group, is considering other locations for the center.

The regional liaison will be hired on a contractual basis, and the position's effectiveness will be reviewed after a year, Shriver said. The person will likely be hired for one year, paid as much as \$200,000 and will report his or her results directly to City Manager Susan McCarthy. The regional liaison would be responsible for advancing programs such as the sobering center, a mental health and drug court, year-round housing through the Veterans Administration, and chronic homeless outreach.

Only a handful of top administrators get paid between \$100,000 and \$200,000 within City Hall. Santa Monica spends about \$2 million a year on its homeless social-service programs, and officials discussed that the liaison's salary could come from that budget.

Shriver also suggested a City Council ad hoc committee be created to help oversee the liaison's efforts.

The mayor and city councilmembers each expressed an interest in the need for a regional homeless liaison, but some differed on how the position should be approached. Councilman Bloom, who has long advocated for social-service programs for the homeless, voted against the new position because he said the person filling it needed to be appointed from a regional level.

"Santa Monica is seen as doing everything right (on this issue)," Bloom said. "What's wrong is that other cities are not following suit. What we need is a galvanizing force for a regional approach. My concern is that having a Santa Monica staff member to coordinate between Beverly Hills and Culver City to cooperate on these issues would backfire."

Bloom said a more appropriate body to choose the regional liaison would be Bring L.A. Home, a group representing 84 jurisdictions charged with ending homelessness in the Los Angeles area

**"When you undertake
a big project, you need
someone who eats,
sleeps, breathes
this kind of issue."**

BOBBY SHRIVER
Councilman

within a decade.

However, some councilmembers were skeptical of leaving the task up to a bureaucratic body. Councilman Holbrook, who has supported a homeless funding services cap in the past, supported the new position because he felt a well-respected and admired leader could better coordinate homeless efforts with more effective regional results.

"I agree the homeless population needs immediate and intensive attention," Holbrook said. "To try figuring out the sharing of responsibilities and solutions, I feel like we need to do something new. Although other cities may feel we are handling (the homeless issue), if you ask Santa Monica residents, they'll tell you we are not doing it right. We need to have somebody with charisma. Bring L.A. Home ... who is running that, does anybody know?"

Shriver said homelessness was one of the key issues he ran on during his campaign last fall, but since being elected it has been difficult to do much about the issue, mostly because of the lack of a regional liaison to address the problem.

"People have been coming up to me in the streets, saying, 'What are you doing about the homeless? You're a bum,'" said Shriver, who works full time as a philanthropist. "This is the third discussion we've had about this issue in the last five months. It's always bumped to one of the last agenda items. People are looking for a leader on this issue. There is an appetite to do regional things, a go-to person. If (former White House Chief of Staff) Leon Panetta were available, I'd ask him."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

Brentwood Presbyterian Church is located at 12000 San Vicente Blvd.
Call (310) 874-0898 or visit www.givelife.org for more information.

Bookmark movie night at SMC

By Daily Press staff

If you're going to the movies tonight, scratch the \$15 grade-B horror and come see a classic for free.

"Woman in the Dunes," a 1964 Japanese film, will be the featured movie in Santa Monica College's "Made Into Movies: Literature to Film" series at 6 p.m. today, April 29, in room 214 of the SMC art complex, 1900 Pico Blvd. Ample free parking is available.

The evening will begin with a scholarly introduction to the film, and the screening will be followed by a moderated discussion led by SMC cinema professor Josh Kanin and SMC English professor David Zehr. The film is the second of four films in the series, which combines scholarly insight with entertainment.

The last film in the series will be "The Taming of the Shrew" (1967) on Friday, June 3. The film series is co-sponsored by the SMC communication and English departments. Call (310) 434-4588 or (310) 434-4098.

LOCAL



Program will promote smoke-free restaurants

SMOKING, from page 1

The City Council in 2003 passed a law banning smoking from the city's 15 parks, and in 2004 the council passed a law banning smoking on the beach and in most places on the Santa Monica Pier. The ban also outlaws smoking at public waiting areas, such as bus stops. Once fines, penalties and other court costs are totaled, violators can expect to be out of pocket \$750 or more, prosecutors said.

Shortly after Santa Monica passed its law, the city of Los Angeles banned smoking on four beaches — Cabrillo, Dockweiler, Will Rogers and Venice. And the city of Malibu also followed Santa Monica's lead in 2004 by banning smoking on its beaches.

"Robert has been the linchpin of this movement," said City Councilman Richard Bloom, who has said in the past that one of his top priorities as an elected official is public health. "It sends a message that smoking is dangerous ... when we do things together, we achieve great things."

Officials said there are no current plans to force businesses to become smoke-free.

"I'm very proud Santa Monica has been on the forefront in public health and the environment," said City Councilman Kevin McKeown. "Today is a turning point ... until today, government has had to intervene on public health."

"The beauty is that we've turned the corner, and I think this (voluntary program) will spread widely," McKeown said.

Berger hopes more restaurants buy into the program and a new law won't be necessary.

"We are conscious of the business community and involving them," he said. "When the time comes when it is discussed as a policy, it sets the stage."

Louise Rishoff, who represents 41st District Assemblymember Fran Pavley, commended the group for taking a lead role in promoting smoke-free dining establishments.

"Where else but Santa Monica to launch something like this?" she said, adding a bill is currently being considered that would add a 10 cent per pack tax on cigarette manufacturers to fund anti-smoking education and outreach.

Officials are concerned that second-hand smoke will inadvertently kill more

people if proper measures are not taken. Recent studies suggest second-hand smoke contains more chemicals that are suspected carcinogens than previously believed.

Second-hand smoke is the third leading cause of preventable death, and its toxic, particulate concentrations are similar to what is dispersed from the exhaust of diesel buses, Berger said.

Urth Caffé owner Sal Calderon said a bad dining experience in Beverly Hills with his family prompted him to make his restaurants smoke-free.

"It hasn't hurt business, it's helped business," he said. "There is no sense in dining al fresco if you can't breath fresh air."

California is at the forefront of anti-smoking legislation. Perhaps the fiercest bans exist in Davis, Berkeley, Palo Alto and San Ramon, where smoking is illegal within 20 feet of any smoke-free area.

Outdoor dining areas are smoke-free — by law — in Davis, Berkeley, Santa Barbara, San Ramon, Laguna Hills, Los Gatos and Dublin. Smoking is also prohibited in non-public waiting areas — such as ATM and movie theater lines — in Davis, Palo Alto, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Goleta, Carpinteria, Buellton and Dublin. Davis and Berkeley have upped to 75 percent the ratio of rooms that must be set aside as smoke-free in every hotel. State law requires 35 percent, officials said.

Berger said a 2004 survey shows 88 percent of diners supported smoke-free dining.

He also said 84 percent of adults in Los Angeles County don't smoke and prefer dining outdoors without subjecting themselves to second-hand smoke.

"They have a right to enjoy outdoor dining without smoke," Berger said.

Restaurants that participate in the program will be rewarded with public recognition and free marketing. The program will actively market their businesses with window certificates promoting that it is a smoke-free environment, as well as direct e-mail to area diners and newspaper advertising, to name a few benefits.

The program was developed in partnership with the American Heart Association, American Lung Association, American Cancer Society and the Los Angeles County Medical Association.

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Entertainment

Should be a smooth road for 'Hitchhiker's Guide'

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

The late author Douglas Adams once claimed, "All it takes to fly is to hurl yourself at the ground ... and miss." Director

Review

Garth Jennings' long-awaited film adaptation of Adams' beloved five-part "trilogy," "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," may not soar like a bird, but it certainly doesn't land with a thud either ... or miss very often, for that matter. Adams' mind-bending epic adventures in the cosmos are brilliantly imaginative and laugh-out-loud funny, yet not the sort of source material very easily translated to the big screen. Though the books were begat from a highly successful play on BBC Radio, very few Hollywood producers were keen on backing a story that is equal parts science-fiction extravaganza (expensive), biting satire (risky) and whimsical view of the surreal side of an ordinary man's life (surreal doesn't guarantee big box office). Adams, who died of a heart attack in 2001 at the age of 49, once famously remarked that the process of making a movie was "like trying to grill a steak by having a suc-

cession of people coming into the room and breathing on it."

Though a long time in coming, the end result is well done and juicy — certainly the funniest and most outrageous film of the year to date. The story revolves around Arthur Dent (Martin Freeman), an ordinary Englishman who awakens one morning and is informed by his pal Ford Prefect (Mos Def) that the earth is about to be demolished to make room for an intergalactic highway. Turns out Ford isn't the out-of-work actor he purported to be, but rather an alien from a distant planet who's a staff writer for the electronic travel tome for which the film is named. The two escape to the vastness of space where they team up with the rock-star-like Galaxy President Zaphod Beeblebrox (Sam Rockwell, channeling Jim Morrison and riffing heavily on George W. Bush), a brainy, beauteous earth girl named Trillian (Zooey Deschanel) and Marvin the paranoid android (exceptionally voiced by Alan Rickman). As they travel the galaxy searching for the meaning of life, the universe and everything in a ship propelled by an Infinite Improbability Drive, the group encounters bureaucratic



creatures called Vogons, a disembodied religious cult leader (John Malkovich), and a super-computer voiced by Helen Mirren. Bill Nighy is also on hand as a planetary construction engineer named Slartibartfast, in cahoots with a couple of

talking mice. Now, doesn't that all sound like great fun?

(Rated PG for thematic elements, action and mild language. Running time: 110 minutes)



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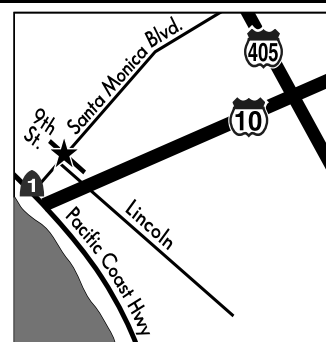
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THE IMBIBER

BY DAN DUNN

Jean Marc XO: Takin' it to the nines

Space, or more accurately a lack thereof, precludes your Imbiber from offering anything but a compendary explication of distillation. That's OK, really, since the process — unlike, say, highfalutin word combos such as “compendary explication of distillation” — is pretty easy for the average drinker to wrap one's head around. In a nutshell (or, better yet, a shot glass), distillation is a procedure that utilizes the disparate boiling points of water and alcohol to separate them. As things heat up in a still, alcohol, which boils at a lower temperature than H₂O, evaporates and rises to the top, where it is collected and cooled, causing it to return to liquid form. Often, the initial distillate is then redistilled one, maybe even two or three times to remove impurities known as congeners.

Then there's the unique case of Jean Marc XO, a new “small-batch” vodka from France that is distilled an unheard of NINE TIMES! When the Imbiber first got wind of this madness, I immediately placed a call to a representative of Daucourt Martin Imports to see what gives, leading to the following “Spinal Tap”-esque exchange:

Me: “Why not make the second or third distillation more concentrated and save yourselves all those extra steps?”

The Rep: (genuinely perplexed) “Because this one goes to NINE.”

All kidding aside, these obsessive-compulsive French folks are on to something, because Jean Marc XO may very well be the smoothest vodka on the market. Again, no kidding. Perhaps nine is the magic number, or maybe the fantastic finish has something to do with micro-oxygenation or charcoal filtering. Whatever the case, Jean Marc XO is so scrumptious, it almost makes the exorbitant price tag (\$50 per bottle) seem reasonable. For that kind of scratch, I recommend you drink the stuff chilled, straight-up. But if you must mix, try the attached recipe courtesy of Chef Anders Barsoe Nielsen, who will be opening a modern Scandinavian restaurant named Bestik in NYC this fall/winter. Until next time, à votre santé.

DILL

- 2 parts of Jean-Marc XO vodka
- 1 part Aquavit
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1-2 stem of dill

Pour all ingredients into an ice-filled shaker. Shake. Strain into a highball or rocks glass filled with ice. Top with 2 parts club soda or seltzer and stir.

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

‘XXX’ a state of failure

BY DAN DUNN

Special to the Daily Press

“XXX: State of the Union,” the follow-up to 2002's testosteroneous blockbuster, represents a dubious milestone for the modern action movie:

Review

the simultaneous convergence and eventual exhaustion of every last nonsensical and obnoxious staple of the genre. The plot is preposterous, even by dopey action-flick standards. Popular centrist U.S. President Sanford (veteran TV character actor Peter Strauss) and several of his immediate underlings are targeted for assassination by hawk-like Secretary of Defense Gen. George Deckert (Willem Dafoe), who commands a secret army of special ops insurgents armed to the teeth and ready to overthrow the government. Deckert wants to kill the doves above him in the chain of command, seize control of the Oval Office and carry out an imperialistic plot for world domination, all with the full support of the American people. Impossible (and ludicrous) as that plan might sound to even the craziest of neocons or your average 6-year-old, Deckert seems utterly confident in his ability not only to pull off mass-murder at the Capitol during the State of the Union address, but to avoid any suspicion as well. (You know, there might be a place for a guy like him in the current administration.)

Samuel L. Jackson returns as Augustus Gibbons, the stalwart National Security Agency agent who guided operations in the original “XXX.” To foil Deckert and his henchmen, Gibbons enlists a former protégé, Darius Stone (a perpetually scowling Ice Cube), to be the new XXX — America's 007. Stone's a gangbanger turned crackerjack Navy Seal who's doing serious time in a

Federal pen after running afoul of a corrupt, high-ranking government official (can you guess who that might be?). Of course, even after he's sprung from the slammer, Stone is reluctant to help Gibbons — they've got “a past” — but the promise of serious firepower, big-busted babes and customized urban assault vehicles is tough to resist, and before you can say “That is one chubby secret agent,” Cube is saving America. It's worth mentioning that he does so by teaming up with Scott Speedman and a band of homeboys from the hood led by “Pimp My Ride” host, Xzibit. No, I'm not kidding.

The dialogue is tailored for simpletons and delivered by actors who are either disinterested or wholly uninteresting. Whatever their reasons for doing so (and you can be damn sure “money” was the primary motivation), Cube, Jackson, Dafoe, et al, should be ashamed at having signed on for this orgy of violence, jingoism, sexual objectification and too-far-fetched action sequences, all set to a cacophonous skull-rattling soundtrack with the potential to induce brain hemorrhages. Granted, it's the rare action film that combines thrills and a high IQ like, say, “The Bourne Supremacy,” but even with the bar set so low, “State of the Union” is still nothing more than patently absurd rubbish.

(Rated PG-13 for sequences of intense action violence and some language. Running time: 101 minutes)

Horror flick will open film festival in Santa Monica

By Daily Press staff

Filmmaker Paul Tarantino's independent horror film “Headhunter” has been selected as an opening night film for the Dances with Film Festival in Santa Monica.

“Headhunter” will screen at midnight, May 6, at the Laemmle's Monica Fourplex Theaters.

The film follows Ben (Ben Parrillo, “A Better Way to Die”) as an everyman in search of a better job. When he is led to a high-end corporate headhunter by one of his clients (Mark Aiken, “Alias”), the headhunter turns out to be a head turner named Sarah (Kristi Clainos, “Bewitched”), who hooks him up with a job that's too good to be true ... and it is.

Soon Ben finds himself involved in a supernatural trap, where he must find the head of the long-dead Sarah by the anniversary of her death, or perish himself. For more info and a trailer of the film, visit Headhunterthemovie.com.

Tarantino (writer/director/producer of “Courting Courtney”) recently directed the comedy pilot presentation “The Nelsons” for Fremantle Media. He is currently developing his screenplay, “Christmas Robot,” with Red Giant Entertainment for production as a CGI animated holiday special. Tarantino also has his original comedy screenplay “Stretch” in development with producer Vincent Newman (“A Man Apart”).

Jazz is on Main Street

By Daily Press staff

Looking for some jazz in an old-school venue?

The Vic on Main Street continues with its 2005 Jazz Series with two shows every Thursday at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Late jazz is offered from midnight to 2 a.m.

Here's this month's line-up:

May 5, 2005

Judy Wexler: Wexler is known on the West Coast jazz scene for her warm voice, inventive approach, excellent phrasing and tasty repertoire. A natural storyteller, Wexler discovers seldom-performed, first-rate songs to share with her audiences. Her debut CD, Easy on the Heart (Rhombus Records), arranged by Alan Pasqua and produced by Barbara Brighton, was released in March 2005 to critical acclaim and is receiving extensive radio airplay.

Late night jazz: Alan Hampton Sextet: Alan Hampton, Tzumo Olah, James Alsanders, Gilad Ronen, Donta Winslow and James Westfall.

May 12, 2005

Luther Hughes and the Cannonball/Coltrane Project: This is a worthy tribute to these legendary musicians. Get a taste of what it was like in the day. Tom Ranier, Luther Hughes, Paul Kreibich, Glenn Cashman and Bruce Babad.

Late night jazz: Perry Smith Quartet: Perry Smith, John Kirby, Zach Harmon and Gabe Noel.

May 19, 2005

Anthony Wilson Nonet: Nine musicians playing composition by Wilson. Anthony Wilson, Donald Vega, Mark Ferber, Darek Oles, Matt Otto, Matt Zebley, Adam Schroeder, Alan Ferber and Gilbert Castellanos.

Late night jazz: Sandro Albert Latin Jazz: Sandro Albert, Katisse Buckingham, Marco Luciani, Carlos Del Puerto and Tom Brechtlein.

May 26, 2005

Billy Childs Quartet: Back by popular demand with quartet. Billy Childs, Bob Hurst, Bob Sheppard and Peter Erskine.

Late night jazz: Raya Yarbrough: Yarbrough is making her debut at The Vic with some heavy hitters. Josh Nelson, Dan Lutz, Takeshi Akimoco and Aaron Sersaty.

The Vic has dinner service from 7 p.m. to midnight, with a full bar and wine list. \$20 cover and two item minimum for 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. shows. Reservations are required. \$5 cover and two drink minimum from midnight to 2 a.m. No reservation is needed.

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Advocacy group reports less air pollution

BY RYAN PEARSON
 Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Rules limiting power plant emissions in the East and other cleanup efforts have reduced air pollution from smog and microscopic soot nationwide in recent years, the American Lung Association said in its annual air quality report.

The number of counties with unhealthy air recorded by monitors dropped to 390 from 441 in the last report — the first significant decline in six years, according to the group.

In its report Thursday, the ALA attributed the dip to cool and wet weather in the years studied, government controls on eastern coal-fired power plants and improved vehicle emissions standards.

But Janice Nolen, the group’s director of national policy, emphasized estimates that half the U.S. population continues to live in areas covered in blankets of unhealthy smog, and one in five Americans face year-round unhealthy exposure to tiny soot from diesel-burning trucks and other sources.

“People’s lives are shortened by months to years because of the air they’re breathing,” she said. “The trend has gotten a little bit better in the last few years ... but

we’re not out of the woods.”

California remains the nation’s ozone capital, with 14 of the 25 most smog-choked counties, as determined by a weighted average number of days per year with unhealthy ozone pollution.

While the five most soot-polluted counties are also in the Golden State, that problem is more widespread, according to the ALA. Five counties in Ohio and three in Pennsylvania were among the 25 worst for unhealthy concentrations of microscopic soot.

“America’s air is cleaner than it’s been in 30 years, and it will continue to improve,” the Environmental Protection Agency said in a statement.

The EPA cited its 1998 rule requiring 21 eastern states and Washington, D.C. to reduce power plant nitrogen oxide emissions, and said its Clean Air Interstate Rule issued in March will speed such efforts in those states.

The agency also noted so-called Tier 2 emissions standards that the agency said will produce “a more than 90 percent cleaner new generation of vehicles.”

Conservative and energy industry-backed advocacy and research groups have attacked the ALA methodology and focus on distributing school-style ‘A’ through ‘F’ grades on air quality in individual counties.

“They are a little too fast and loose in handing out these flunking grades,” said Ben Lieberman, a senior environment and energy policy analyst at the Washington-based Heritage Foundation. “I wish they would do more informing and less scaring.”

The report, which is based on EPA data from 2001-2003, found that San Bernardino County had the worst smog, followed by Kern, Fresno, Riverside, Tulare, Los Angeles and Merced counties. The county surrounding Houston — Harris — was ranked 8th, the only making the top 10 outside of California.

Last year’s ALA report used EPA data from 2000-2002. On Thursday, the ALA also estimated of the number of people most at risk from pollution — including the elderly and children and those with breathing problems.

In a conference call arranged by the group’s California branch, 9-year-old Jonah Ramirez blamed his asthma problem over the past two years on air pollution where he lives in San Bernardino, about 65 miles east of Los Angeles.

Ramirez said he keeps his inhaler nearby when exercising outside up to four times a week — swimming, skateboarding, and playing on hockey and baseball teams.

“If I forget it, it could mean my life,” he said.

Governor’s approval rating dropping since January

APPROVAL, from page 1

for the governor and 33 percent disapproval.

While the numbers indicate growing disenchantment with Schwarzenegger, the poll’s author said a lot could change in the coming weeks. Two big events could give Schwarzenegger a chance to clarify his goals for the state — the release of his revised budget plan expected in mid-May and his pending decision on whether or not to hold the November special election.

“We’re seeing now several months of growing doubts about the governor’s leadership,” said poll director Mark Baldassare. “It’s been a period in which the governor has not been able to get his message out as effectively as some of his opponents.”

After enjoying enormous popularity during most of his first year in office, Schwarzenegger’s standing has slipped since he proposed the special election, which is opposed by Democrats and their primary supporters in the labor movement.

Public employees unions — including nurses, firefighters and police groups — have come out strongly against his spending cap; while the state’s powerful teacher’s union is equally opposed to the tenure plan. The

governor’s third proposal, which would give the authority for drawing legislative districts to retired judges, is attracting opposition from the labor groups as well as the state’s majority party, the Democrats.

Reed Dickens, spokesman for Citizens to Save California — a committee organized by Schwarzenegger supporters to back his initiatives — said the poll results showed the influence of big spending by the unions on a statewide media blitz criticizing the governor and his ideas.

“This is very early and we are being out spent in a major way,” he said, estimating unions are spending \$3 million a week on TV and radio ads.

Baldassare said that Schwarzenegger has proved in the past to be capable of changing voter sentiments, but the challenge now will be much harder now.

The slide shown in the new poll is similar to that measured in the Field Poll over recent months: In September, the Field Poll measured approval for the governor at 65 percent with disapproval at 22 percent. In February, the survey found 54 percent of voters favor his job performance with 35 percent disapproving and 11 percent had no opinion.

The new Public Policy poll found 55 percent of likely voters supported the governor’s ballot measure to lengthen the time it takes teachers to gain tenure. The poll found,

however, that 44 percent support Schwarzenegger’s measure to impose a cap on state spending.

Another major focus of the survey was gauging voter attitudes on a variety of education issues. Baldassare said the perception of most residents is that California’s schools are underachieving.

The poll found that just 19 percent of residents believe progress has been made since 1982 on education issues while 31 percent said the school system has declined in quality.

Schwarzenegger also drew criticism for his education policies: 51 percent disapprove while 28 percent approve and 21 percent are undecided.

The solution to many of the problems, education officials and some lawmakers have said, is more spending. On Tuesday, Senate Pro Tem Don Perata proposed new taxes to increase spending for schools by \$4 billion a year.

The poll, however, found that while residents are concerned about funding for schools — new taxes are not popular. Seventy percent of voters are opposed to raising the sales tax while 60 percent said they oppose extending the sales tax to goods and services not currently taxed such as legal and accounting services. A strong majority — 60 percent of residents — said they supported raising income taxes on the state’s highest wage earners to support schools.



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Town shocked that slaying suspect is a 10-year-old boy

BY CARL MANNING

Associated Press Writer

HUMBOLDT, Kan. — When Carolyn Moore answered the light knock on her front door Sunday night, she was greeted by a boy wearing only burgundy underwear and holding a shotgun.

"There stood this poor, scared, half-naked little boy saying 'Help me, help me. Hide me. They're after me,'" Moore said. "I could see the fear in his eye. He said, 'They're going to get me and spank me hard.'"

On Wednesday, Allen County authorities said the 10-year-old boy was charged with first-degree murder in the shotgun slaying of his father. Robert D. Hamlin, 43, was found dead Sunday night at his home near Humboldt.

"The child said, 'I done something really bad,'" Moore said, recalling their conversation. "And I said, 'What did you do?'"

"He said, 'I shot my dad.'"

The boy, whose name was not released, was charged as a juvenile and could be held until age 23 if convicted. A closed juvenile court hearing was conducted in the county seat of Iola, eight miles north of Humboldt, and a judge ordered the case sealed.

The father, according to Moore, "would do anything in the world for you. He was an extremely hard worker and took care of his family." She said he worked at a local factory.

Hamlin was sitting on the living room couch when he was shot in the back of the head with a 20-gauge pump shotgun.

His wife, Debbie, and two younger children fled to another neighbor after the shooting. Two other children were coming out of the house when deputies arrived, Sheriff Tom Williams said. He said he did not know the

other children's ages.

The boy then walked up the road to Moore's home, carrying the shotgun with one unfired shell, authorities said.

"We believe it to be the weapon and we'll be testing evidence to show conclusively that it was the shotgun," Williams said before the hearing Wednesday. "We are investigating this as a criminal offense. We are looking at anything that relates to motive."

During Wednesday's hearing, windows on the courtroom door were covered with paper, Judge Dan Creitz ordered all parties not to talk about the case.

Allen County Attorney Jerry Hathaway said the order would prohibit any public comments about the matter and that no announcement would be made of court proceedings.

The boy did not stand out at Humboldt Elementary School, according to Superintendent Bob Heigele.

"He fit in well with our school and he didn't have any more problems than any other student in the fourth grade," Heigele said. "He was a typical boy. I saw him around and it appeared he was well-liked."

Until now, this town of nearly 2,000 was known mainly as the birthplace of pitching legend Walter "Big Train" Johnson, inducted in the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1936.

It's a quiet town, about 100 miles southwest of Kansas City, where people have trouble remembering the last murder. Some say it was in the 1960s; other think it was earlier.

Many residents expressed sympathy for the boy, as well as the family.

"The little guy did something really wrong, but he needs help," said liquor store owner Janie Hutson. "He probably needs treatment more than he needs punishment."

Iraq's interim parliament approves a partial Cabinet

BY QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHARA

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The interim National Assembly approved a partial Cabinet on Thursday, breaking months of deadlock and political wrangling. But disputes remained over key ministry positions and two deputy prime minister slots.

The legislators approved a list of 27 ministers and five acting ministers, ushering in Iraq's first elected government since the fall of Saddam Hussein. The Cabinet was approved by 180 lawmakers out of the 185 present in the 275-member parliament, Speaker Hajim al-Hassani announced to applause.

Prime Minister-designate Ibrahim al-Jaafari submitted a Cabinet that includes members of Iraq's main Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish factions.

But Al-Jaafari himself, a Shiite, will be acting defense minister, a position that was supposed to go to a Sunni Arab, and disputes remained over two deputy prime minister slots and the defense, oil, electricity, industry and human rights ministries.

Ahmad Chalabi, a former Pentagon favorite from al-Jaafari's Shiite-dominated alliance, will be one of four deputy prime ministers and acting oil minister. Kurdish official and former Vice President Rowsch Nouri Shaways will be another deputy and acting electricity minister.

Al-Jaafari has struggled to reconcile the competing

demands of Iraq's myriad factions since Jan. 30 elections.

Shiite leaders rejected his initial choices for a Sunni deputy prime minister and defense minister because of suspicions they had ties to Saddam Hussein's Baath Party, which brutally repressed Iraqi's majority Shiites and Kurds.

Al-Jaafari also faced infighting within his United Iraqi Alliance, the largest bloc in parliament, over the oil and electricity portfolios.

Lawmakers earlier said the Cabinet would include 17 Shiite Arab ministers, eight Kurds, six Sunnis and a Christian. Among them are six women, responsible for seven portfolios, according to Thursday's announcement.

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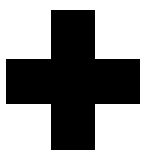
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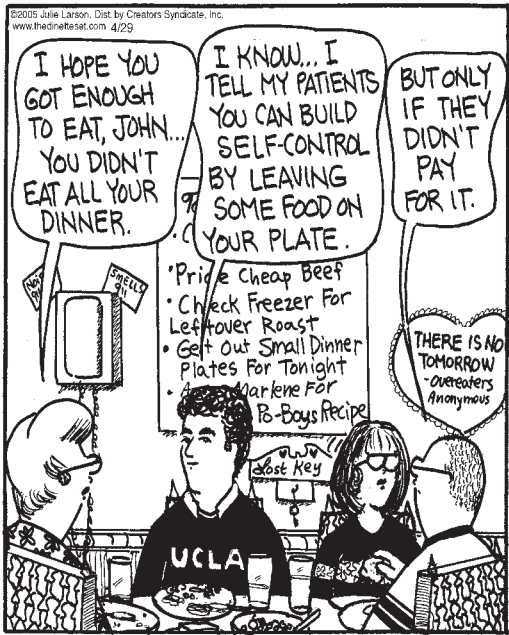
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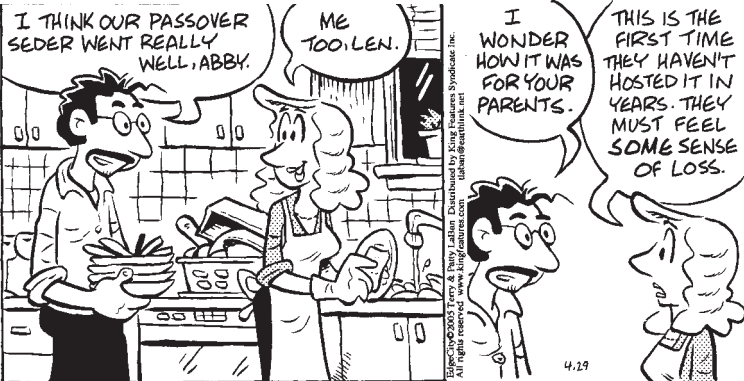


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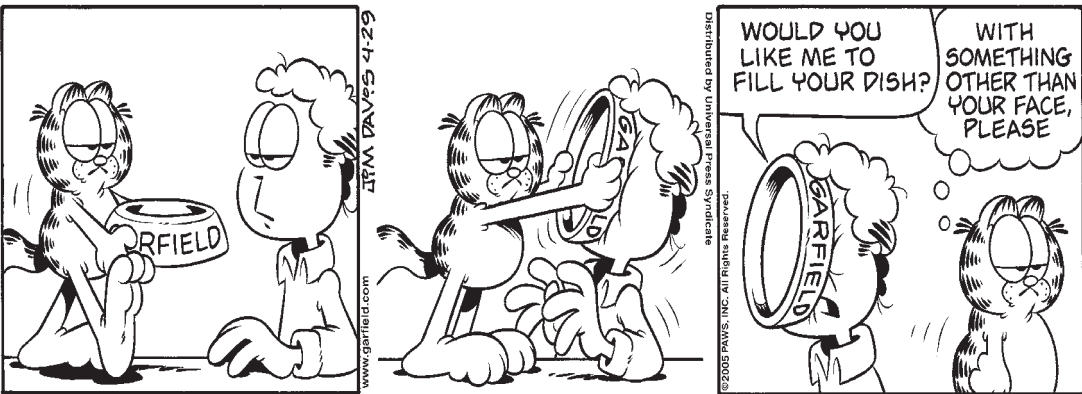
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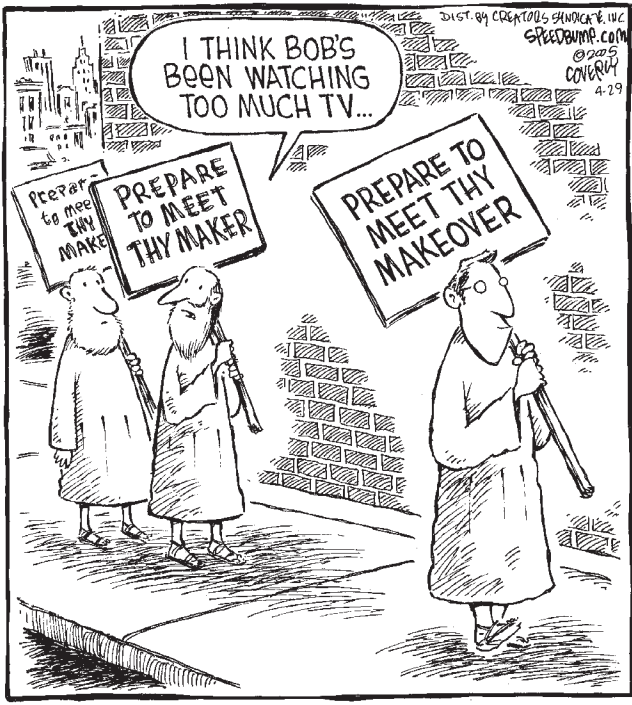
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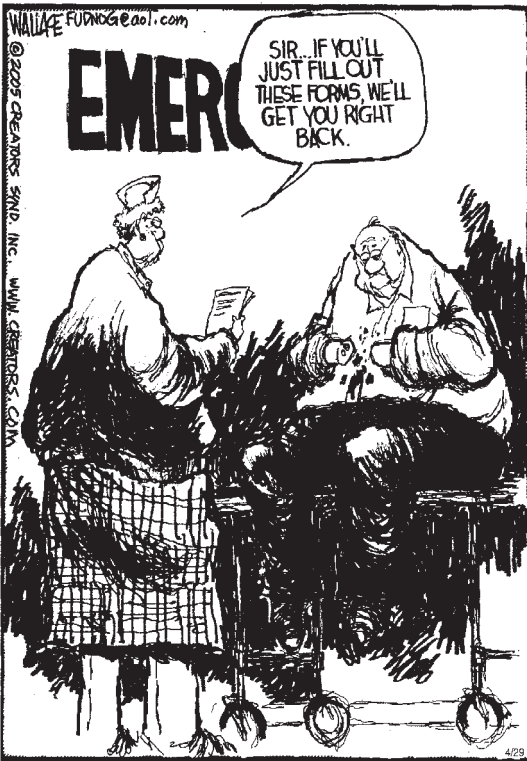


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- 11 Christine of "Jack & Bobby"
- 12 Needed a massage
- 13 Fold
- 14 What's here
- 15 TV alien
- 16 Dazed
- 18 Rascal
- 19 Compass dir.
- 20 Ones with power
- 21 Like peas in —
- 23 Metal waste
- 25 Jupiter or Neptune
- 27 Acad.
- 28 Ignore the limit
- 30 Till compartment
- 33 Polite address
- 34 New England catch
- 36 Regret
- 37 Parrot
- 39 Krazy —
- 40 In shape
- 41 Be rude, in a way

- 43 "I surrender!"
- 44 Pound part
- 45 Disrobes
- 46 Go-getter

DOWN

- 1 Llama's cousin
- 2 Evoke
- 3 Grimm tale
- 4 Acting legend
- 5 Climber's spike
- 6 Is important
- 7 Canyon sound
- 8 Jeff Bridges movie

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- 10 "Golden Boy" playwright
- 17 Sturm — Drang
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- 24 Hallo-ween mo.
- 26 Historic periods
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