



FREE

Santa Monica Daily Press

April 30-May 1, 2005

A newspaper with issues

Volume 4, Issue 145

DAILY LOTTERY

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DAILY 3

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RACE TIME: 1:46.36



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

More Ironies: (1) A large portion of the materials on plagiarism on the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh's Writing Center Web site was revealed in February to have been taken verbatim from Purdue University's Web page on plagiarism. (2) And a February report from the White House's Office of Management and Budget (OMB), grading federal departments and agencies on five administrative performance criteria, concluded that the second-worst-performing agency was OMB.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 120th day of 2005.
There are 245 days left in the year.

On April 30, 1945, as Russian troops approached his Berlin bunker, Adolf Hitler committed suicide along with his wife of one day, Eva Braun.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"Upper classes are a nation's past;
the middle class is its future."

AYN RAND

RUSSIAN-BORN AUTHOR (1905-1982)

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Students unite to cool tensions

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

SAMOHI — In response to an outbreak of school violence, black and Latino students here have come up with an aggressive plan to unify.

Student representatives from the Black Student Union and MEChA, a Latino student group, presented to school district administrators on Friday their "unity plan," a 10-point plan that spells out both a short- and long-term

approach to address the current wave of violence.

What has been labeled as a conflict between Latinos and blacks is really an outcome of institutional racism — which is the fault of school officials, not students, said a group calling itself the "Unity Coalition."

The coalition — comprised of Santa Monica High School students, pastors and activists of both African American and Latino

See **UNITY PLAN**, page 4



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

School board member Oscar de la Torre is surrounded by Santa Monica High School students on Friday during a press conference in which a unity plan was unveiled to quell violence on campus and within the community.

Residents are divided over area code split

BY KIM CALVERT

Special to the Daily Press

MALIBU — There's a battle brewing between the north and the south — but this time it's over a proposed change in the 310 area code.

Public meetings were held this week by the California Public Utilities Commission in El Segundo, Redondo Beach, Malibu and Culver City over a petition filed by six telephone companies requesting permission to issue a new 424 area code overlay plan to new subscribers in the 310 area. Reactions from those who attended a meeting in Malibu on Wednesday indicate that people who live south of Imperial Highway prefer an overlay instead what's known as a "split."

Under the split plan, anyone

See **TOUGH CELL**, page 5

End of days



Fabian Lewkowicz/Special to the Daily Press

A throng of passersby stop along the Santa Monica Pier to watch the sun set over the Pacific Ocean one recent evening.

Woman dies after being struck by bus

By Daily Press staff

OCEAN AVENUE — An unidentified woman was killed Friday morning after she was hit by a Big Blue Bus.

The Santa Monica Police Department responded at 7:56 a.m. to Ocean Avenue and Pico Boulevard, site of the accident.

A preliminary investigation revealed that the bus was driving westbound on Pico Boulevard and had stopped for a red light at Ocean Avenue. When the traffic signal for westbound traffic turned green, the bus waited for a pedestrian to cross Ocean Avenue to the west. After the pedestrian had crossed, the bus made a right turn and struck a different pedestrian.

The woman was transported to a local hospital and later died. Her name is being held pending notification of next of kin.

The bus driver was interviewed at the scene and was released pending further investigation. The cause of the collision is under investigation.

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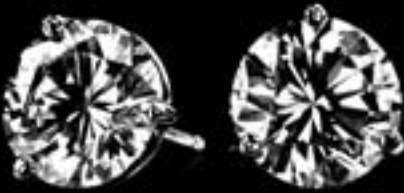
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Out on the town, Cap

Santa Monica Daily Press



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ You need to be where the crowds are. Add lightness where others are serious. Express your caring so that others can hear it. Sometimes actions speak louder than words. Use care with someone you meet today. Avoid negativity. Tonight: The party follows you.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You might want to let your hair down and be more carefree. Responsibilities call, be it work or an older relative. You might feel that you don't have a choice. The good news is that when you decide to swing into weekend mode, others are delighted. Let go of a heavy feeling. Tonight: A must appearance.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Your vision and perspective help not only you, but many other people. You can manifest far more caring if you relax. Take in new information without making judgments. More facts will follow. Use care with spending. Tonight: Enjoy yourself.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Work with individuals rather than groups. You could get into a game of Scrabble or some other favorite pastime. Quality time enhances a relationship much more than you'd anticipated. Go out for an early dinner. Tonight: Catch up on others' news.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Unexpected events toss you into the limelight. How you see someone else could change because of a development involving a key friend or loved one. Enjoy being indulged. Tonight: Play follow-the-leader.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Slow down and get into a favorite hobby or pastime as soon as you can. Clear out errands and calls. Share news and visit with people who add to the quality of your life. A little routine helps you relax. Tonight: Let someone else do the work.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Allow more playfulness into your life. Everyone gets dragged down by the banality of his or her life sometimes. Initiate a change. Make your daily life more enjoyable by infusing lightness into it. Tonight: Do what is good for you.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Center activities on your home. Enjoy yourself with others, be it a child, a relative or new friends. Someone shares a more caring side with you. Getting to know him or her better could be a delight. Tonight: Share and be more open.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Look toward unexpected changes on the home front. Review recent decisions with an eye to a more dynamic approach. Though you might need a change, how you instrument it could be different from the norm. Tonight: Favorite place, favorite people.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ How you deal with someone could change because of new information. Be more accepting of the follies and problems of others. Indulge and buy that new item you have been thinking about. Give up being so budget-conscious. Tonight: Out on the town.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ The Moon bestows energy on you. You no longer have a problem where there previously was one. Invest in your security rather than be so carefree. A purchase today could be very special but also expensive. Tonight: As you like it.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Know when to say little and simply be responsive. You have a tendency toward bold action. Know when to call it quits and head in another direction altogether. You draw many people. Be discerning. Tonight: How about some privacy?



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LOCAL



Deadly corner



Fabian Lewkowicz/Special to the Daily Press
Emergency personnel inspect the intersection of Pico Boulevard and Ocean Avenue, the scene of a fatal accident on Friday morning. (See story on page 1.)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Gala to help homeless is heating up

By Daily Press staff

Ready to get dressed up and party to help the homeless?
St. Joseph Center's 20th annual dinner dance and auction is going to be held at the Beverly Hills Hotel. The gala night will include a cocktail reception, silent auction, dinner, awards, live auction, live music and dancing. Proceeds support homeless and low-income men, women and children on the Westside.
The event will take place Saturday, May 7, from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Tickets: \$275 per person. Call (310) 396-6468 x328.

Singing praises for mom

By Daily Press staff

Your love will be music to her ears.
Mother's Day is Sunday, May 8, and the Santa Monica Chorus wants you to tell your mother that you love her in four-part a cappella harmony. For \$15, the Santa Monica Chorus will sing: "Heart of My Heart," "My Mother's Eyes," "That's What Sons (or Kids, Girls, Friends) Are For" and either "Wind Beneath My Wings" or "You Are My Sunshine." The chorus also will include a personalized message.
The Santa Monica Chorus is the 2005 Region 11 Small Chorus Champions of Sweet Adelines International, a worldwide organization of singers committed to advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony through education and performance.
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See BRIEFS, page 9



SURF REPORT

Weather and winds are on the mend, but by Sunday another low will be passing through the region. On Saturday, the SW is expected to bring most south-facing breaks into chest- to head-high surf. Standouts can expect some overhead sets, bigger on the occasional set wave when conditions are just right. On Sunday, look for the SW to back down a bit.

Today the water is:

60°

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	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
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SUNDAY	11:10	-0.4	11:20	2.6	3:24	4.7	6:23	4.0
MONDAY	N/A	N/A	12:05	-0.3	4:57	4.6	6:55	4.4
TUESDAY	12:32	1.8	12:49	-0.1	6:14	4.6	7:25	4.9
WEDNESDAY	1:28	1.1	1:28	0.1	7:17	4.5	7:54	5.4
THURSDAY	2:15	0.4	2:02	0.5	8:12	4.4	8:22	5.8
FRIDAY	2:40	0.6	2:32	0.8	8:40	4.7	8:42	5.4

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WE HAVE THE QUESTIONS.
YOU HAVE THE ANSWERS.
CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S Q-LINE RESPONSES ON PAGES 6-7.

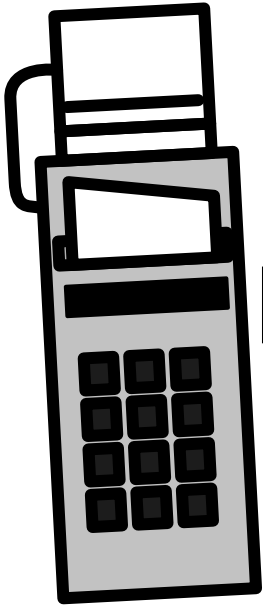


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LOCAL

Principal is 'hopeful' for unity at Samohi

UNITY PLAN, from page 1

descent — held a press conference at the school Friday morning to unveil the plan.

"We are here to put our best foot forward to show an example of how to work with each other, not against each other," said Jules Bagneris, the meeting moderator and a parent.

The students contend their accomplishments have been overlooked in the wake of recent violence on campus. That's why they have banded together with the hope that the coalition can bring to light issues of racial inequality at the school.

"The media and school officials have not revealed the root cause of the problem," said Steven Fleming, a parent who has a child attending Samohi. "The real problem is not the students. The administration must also be held accountable. We need to ask why there is no representation of people of color in the administration while black and Latino students make up 42 percent of the student population."

The 10-point plan calls for new protocols that would address intercultural conflict with peer mediation so that students can help lead the effort. The plan also includes diversity in hiring and developing a new curriculum, and using a student-centered approach with school administrators in an effort to make education relevant for all students.

William Smart, a local pastor and parent who has a child in the school system, said he is concerned that students' commonalities aren't addressed in the current curriculum. Subjects taught at the school, such as history, fail to provide relevant and meaningful content for students of color, he said.

"It's time they have a curriculum that they understand and see themselves in," Smart said, adding the history of African Americans and Latinos needs to be taught at Samohi.

While coalition members call for all parties to unite with each other, they place blame on school district officials who they say have ignored racial tensions at Samohi for years, and have done little to embrace diversity and promote intercultural relations among students.

The coalition was formed in response to an April 15 incident at Samohi when at least six fights broke out on campus during the lunch hour, requiring a schoolwide lockdown in which three police departments were called in to secure the campus. Dozens of students were involved in the fights. They involved mostly Latino and Black students — although whites and Asians also participated in the melee.

"There has been a systematic bias with an administration that has been insensitive to the needs of black and brown students," Bagneris said. "This was simmering for some time and it was at a point of boiling over. The administration didn't have a system in place and we need to place the blame where it should be."

Tensions had been brewing for months and the fights were supposed to occur before Christmas break, according to

Samohi senior Nicole Barnes, a member of the Black Student Union.

Some say tensions between the races have been a problem at Samohi for years.

"The minute I got here, there was racial tension," said Gina Clay, a senior who has attended Samohi for the past four years. "The problem has never been taken care of."

Ana Maria Jara, a local activist and parent, said she has attempted to work with school officials in the past to address racial tensions and issues of social inequality. She served as chair of a group called "Equity and Equality in Education" when the school district was creating its strategic plan, but the group's recommendations were never accepted.

Jara suggested on Friday that those recommendations be revisited, a master plan be created and that schools superintendent John Deasy should provide an annual report on its progress.

"We all have a piece in this and there has been years and years of neglect," she said. "We have made recommendations ... and now we are putting that action into place."

Fleming suggested that the mindsets of school administrators must change in order to improve educational opportunities for all races.

"I believe, in my experience, that the teachers and administration have basically failed our children, they are failing academically," he said. "Instead of being proactive, they are being reactive."

"Let's plan something better and work together."

School board member Oscar de la Torre said issues of poverty remain the key problem to racial tension among youth. And it's not just economic poverty, it's also poverty in education, family life and government.

"We want to end the divisiveness that has torn our community apart," de la Torre said. "Our unity plan is designed to address the root cause of racial tensions in our schools. We are showing that Latinos and African Americans can work together to solve the problems that plague our community."

"The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District must commit to the 10-point plan."

The plan will be presented to the SMMUSD school board on Thursday, May 5.

School administrators weren't present for the press conference, but Samohi Principal Ilene Straus earlier this week told the Daily Press that she has been spending a lot of time with students on campus since the fights broke out two weeks ago.

"The cool thing is that African American and Latino youth leaders have come forward and want to work together," she said. "In every crisis comes growth and this is a really good opportunity to working with kids and building community."

"I'm hopeful."

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?

CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 2!



New area code a tough cell

TOUGH CELL, from page 1

living south of Imperial Highway would be forced to use a new 424 area code while those to the north would keep the 310 area code. The overlay would mean that any new number issued would be a 424 area code and existing customers would keep their 310 area code. Under the overlay plan, everyone would have to dial an 11-digit phone number.

The only issue both sides really agree on is they that would prefer no change at all, said Mary Jo Borak, the CPUC policy analyst who led the five CPUC hearings this week.

"Whether you want the split or the overlay pretty much depends on where you live," said Borak at a public meeting held at Malibu City Hall on Wednesday. "People south of the proposed split line are asking 'Why do the rich people in the north get to keep the 310 area code while all of us have to change to the 424?' They want to keep the phone numbers they've had for years."

Borak said the general consensus at meetings held in the northern section of the 310 area was that the geographical split plan was the preferred solution.

"But there is one unified message in all the meetings," she said. "The phone industry is driving this when it should be the people. They think the phone companies are driving them to make a choice between the split or the overlay, rather than taking responsibility for managing their phone numbers more efficiently."

Borak told the 75 attendees on Wednesday that since the phone companies first requested implementation of a 424 code overlay in 1998 — a request that was denied and later replaced with a 2000 plan to create the geographical split — the commission had embarked on a number measures in order to hold off the split for as long as possible.

"We've been baby-sitting this area code since then," Borak said. "We petitioned the FCC for special consideration, and we've done a lot to conserve numbers, to prevent number hoarding and to make sure that phone number banks are used efficiently — but when the numbers are gone, they're gone. It's only a matter of time before it happens."

James W. McTarnaghan, an attorney who represents Verizon, which is one of the petitioners for the overlay plan, said there was no question about numbers eventually running out.

"The CPUC has done a great job of conserving numbers, but we don't think we can go longer than two years before some kind of area code relief will have to be implemented," McTarnaghan said.

Susan Lipper, who represents T-Mobile, told the group the telecommunications companies realized area code changes were disruptive to consumers, but pointed out that a new area code could only be put in place once they had shown they had used up 75 percent of their number inventory.

"When that happens, we think that an overlay is the preferred solution to a split," Lipper said. "With an overlay you don't have half of your customers losing the area code they've had for years."

Lipper acknowledged the necessity to dial an 11-digit phone number, even when dialing from one 310 number to another, was problematic, but added, "Our experience shows that the consumer can adapt."

Joe Cocke, representing NeuStar, a private contractor retained by the FCC to assign phone number prefixes and to coordinate area code relief efforts, said based on his information, the 310 area code would be exhausted by the end of 2005.

Cocke would not say which was better, the overlay or a split, because NeuStar is not allowed to influence public policy.

"Either way, it's up to the CPUC," he said. "They're the ones that make the decision."

Michaela Pangilinan, who works with the CPUC, wouldn't provide her estimate of when 310 numbers would run out but did say that Neustar's projections had proven to be inaccurate in the past.

Pangilinan said the trigger for the overlay plan currently being considered would be when the remaining prefixes are reduced to six. Currently, there are eight.

Borak said she didn't know when a decision about the overlay versus the split would be made.

"It will be a few months before we have something to vote on," she said. "And in either case, it won't happen until numbers reach a certain level of depletion."

A representative from the office of State Sen. Sheila Kuehl read a statement in which the Kuehl expressed doubt that area code relief was even necessary, and if it was, she preferred a split.

"The telecommunication companies claim they're running out of numbers ... the split was already decided on back in 2000 ... why are they trying once again to get an overlay? That was an option we already decided we didn't want," Kuehl's letter stated.

Kuehl's letter also noted that the telecommunication companies said they were out of numbers five years ago when in reality, they weren't.

"The phone companies seem to be revisiting an issue just because they were not satisfied with the split result," read Kuehl's representative.

Jack Allen, representing the Pacific Palisades Community Council, said he applauded the CPUC for keeping the 310 area code intact for as long as it has.

"But I'm still not convinced it's time for a split, and the people in our community are still very much opposed to an overlay plan," Allen said.

"It might sound good on paper, but it doesn't work that great," he added. "An overlay will be trouble for businesses and trouble for kids and seniors who have to dial 11-digit numbers."

"Instead of half of us being miserable, we're all going to be miserable."

A representative from the city of Malibu said the city was opposed to the split and the overlay, and instead wanted continued number conservation.

But not all "northerners" are opposed to the overlay plan. Santa Monica businessman George Lim told attendees that the split might be good for people north of Imperial Highway, but noted they weren't being very considerate to people who lived south of the split line.

"I already dial 818, 323 and 213 many, many times throughout the day," Lim said. "So what if I have to start dialing 310 or 424? The overlay is the simpler option."

Gaylene Toccoli addressed the CPUC on behalf of the California Small Business Association.

"Our position prefers the overlay to the split," Toccoli said. "Our organization understands how much people hate change, but we survived the 'tragedy' of the 213 split, and we can survive this."

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The Q Line

ALL IN ALL, PUT MORE BRICKS IN THE WALL

This past week, Q-line asked:
“What steps, if any, should the United States take to quell the rush of illegal immigrants into the United States via the southern border?”

Here are your responses:

© “The ridiculous, dangerous, lack of security on the border between the United States and Mexico has gone on long enough. It is unconscionable of our leaders to permit this. The border should be secured in its entirety by the military. May sound extreme, but the times are extreme.”

© “Immigrants come to America due to America being the land of opportunity, and is where the jobs are available. These border-crossing individuals are willing to do the work that inane, greed inspired, status-seeking yuppies are unwilling to do. A yuppie will not do the toils for the spoils because they are spoiled. These border-crossing individuals are now doing the work that the Africans, Chinese and Irish were willing to do 100 years ago — 7,000 Irish men with one Jewish boss built the New York subway in the early 1900s. Now the children and grandchildren of those immigrants are running America’s federal government. This has opened an opportunity for our neighbors to the south to fill this manual labor void. To make my point: The next time you see a person doing hard labor, take a close look at that person, trust me, he or she will be a Latin American or of Latin American descent.”

© “Forget the government, let’s start with the media: Stop the use of the P.C. term ‘illegal immigrant’ and use the correct form ‘illegal alien.’ Then have the media stop attacking any politician who simply aims to have a frank and honest discussion about controlling the border, protecting our economy, national security and employees. The government needs a multi-pronged approach to fixing our border crisis: First we need to build a wall that spans the entire length of the border. Not a fence, but a wall. Sure, some will still get through, but nowhere near as many as walk across today. Second, we need to actually deport those who are here illegally. Third, we need to sanction employers. None of these acts will occur however, because big business wants check on labor cost, and the Democrats foolishly think they’ll win more votes by patronizing Latino voters.”

© “A number of steps can be taken to get rid of illegal aliens. For example, any time anybody is arrested, even if they turn out to be innocent of the crime they were arrested for, check their immigration status. If they’re an illegal alien, they should be turned over to the INS, or whatever the INS calls itself these days. As far as hospitals are concerned — all the illegals come here for free medical care — put the INS in the hospitals, if they show up, or if they’re illegals, arrest them and deport them. Same with the schools. If there’s an illegal alien in the school, and they’re here illegally, ship them out, round them up and send them back. Hirers need to be punished

also: Anyone found hiring illegal aliens has to be heavily fined. That would deter them from hiring illegal aliens. Perhaps illegal aliens provide work that nobody else would do. If all these steps are taken and plenty of jobs are available, then maybe we can let some of them back in and they’ll be here legally. As far as keeping them out, we need to put the troops on the border. Seal that border up, don’t let anybody in, if they can’t do it, hire the East Germans to do it. They built the Berlin wall to keep the East Germans out of West Berlin, and build a wall over there and keep the Mexicans out. Any country has the right to defend their borders, we have a right to do so too. If Mexico doesn’t like it that’s their problem.”

© “As we all know, most of our elected officials, from the president on down, does not uphold our immigration laws, but advocate an open border policy. Therefore, we must take matters into our own hands by supporting the efforts of the minutemen, and by withholding all political party donations. Those two steps alone should wake up our elected officials to the fact that we demand a secure border and expect them to do whatever is necessary to stop illegals from invading our country.”

© “I know that we’re in a quandary about what to do with illegal immigrants, but years ago, when I had a house here in Santa Monica, I had a lot of illegal immigrants working for me, because some of the legal immigrants didn’t want to do a bloody thing. So I hired a lot of these ‘illegals’ and they did a beautiful job and I treated them well too. So that’s my announcement. OK, God bless you all.”

© “For some time, the United States has been closing military bases throughout this wonderful country of ours. My recommendations are to open new armed forces bases along the southern borders of California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. The personnel stationed at each location, including the National Guard, while on annual training exercises, as well as Korean soldiers, should be utilized in safeguarding and protecting the borders from the Pacific Ocean on the West to the Gulf of Mexico on the East. This would not only stop the mass infusion of illegal immigrants, migrating from the South, but would also be a boon to the economy for each state in the surrounding areas along our borders.”

© “You should follow the lead of the minutemen: Localize it, have Santa Monica capture the minutemen project. And start at 11th and Colorado, where they are so entrenched as day laborers that they’ve got their own catering truck out there. Time to act on it.”

See Q-LINE, page 7

OPINION

GUEST COMMENTARY BY JOHN MARCIANO

Lessons learned? Recalling Vietnam 30 years later

Thirty years ago, on April 30, 1975, the US-Vietnam War ended, leaving a legacy of death, destruction and shame.

Total war dead: Nearly 2,300,000, including 1,921,000 Vietnamese, with 3,200,000 wounded and 14,300,000 refugees overall. About 15,500,000 tons of bombs, ground and naval munitions landed on Vietnam, compared to 6,000,000 tons of air and ground munitions the U.S. used in all of World War II and 18,000,000 gallons of poisonous herbicides were sprayed over South Vietnam, according to the Indochina Newsletter, spring-summer 2000.

There has long been a concerted effort to portray the Vietnam War as a noble effort that went astray. Anthony Lewis, former columnist for the New York Times, asserted that it began with “blundering efforts to do good” but by 1969 it had become “clear to most of the world — and most Americans — that the intervention had been a disastrous mistake.” Noam Chomsky, our leading intellectual-activist, disagrees, siding with the U.S. public that concluded the war was “fundamentally wrong and immoral.” The revised history has cast the “liberal” media that steadfastly supported the crusade as staunch opponents of the conflict. The mainstream media advocated U.S. military policy, and their criticism largely focused on failed tactics to achieve victory.

Opposition to the Vietnam War did not begin with student protests in 1965, but with shipboard GIs in 1945 that were diverted from their homecoming to transport French forces to Vietnam. Crewmen vigorously condemned the transport of those troops “to further the imperialist politics of foreign governments” and the entire crews of four ships condemned the government for helping to “subjugate the native population of Vietnam.”

The locus of the antiwar movement was within the U.S. military. Writing in the Armed Forces Journal in 1971, Colonel Robert D. Heinl, Jr. concluded that “by every conceivable indicator, our army that now remains in Vietnam is in a state approaching collapse with individual units avoiding or having refused combat, murdering their officers ... drug-ridden and dispirited where not near-mutinous.”

U.S. military resistance within the ranks, coupled with the Vietnamese struggle against foreign aggression ended the war — not the domestic antiwar movement.

The devastating effects of the war went far beyond human losses. Arthur Westing, a leading expert on the U.S. military’s ecological damage in Vietnam, reveals that the “unprecedentedly massive and sustained expenditure of

herbicide chemical warfare agents against the fields and forests of South Vietnam ... resulted in a large-scale devastation ... to the (ecosystem), and in a variety of health problems among exposed humans.”

Historian Howard Zinn writes that one of the fundamental lessons of the Vietnam War is “the U.S. lost its good name ... not only in the rest of the world but also among Americans ... Many Americans learned that government leaders ... could not be trusted. They began to suspect the most reputable of national institutions ... of moral failure.”

Writing in 1975, Chomsky predicted the political reaction to military failure, saying that the U.S. imperialists who “suffered a stunning defeat” in Vietnam would now attempt to ensure that no “wrong lessons” are learned from the war or the resistance to it. “It will be necessary to ... reestablish the basic principle that the use of force by the U.S. is legitimate, if only it can succeed.” Intellectuals and political leaders “may concede the stupidity of the American policy, and even its savagery, but not the illegitimacy inherent in the entire enterprise.”

Bruce Franklin, Vietnam War scholar and Air Force veteran, posits imperialism as the root cause in the war which began in 1945 when U.S. global domination faced its most direct challenge in Vietnam, the first European colony to emerge from WW II a claim of independence, a national government, and its own army. “The ‘imperialism’ story is the only one that adequately accounts for (U.S.) military, political and economic warfare against Vietnam and hostility toward every other colony and former colony that has resisted” the U.S. empire.

Daniel Ellsberg, former Pentagon analyst and Marine Corps veteran who exposed The Pentagon Papers, states he “understood at last that the war was one war; there wasn’t a French war followed by a Vietnamese war and an American war — there was one war that we had participated in from the beginning, and it was a war that we never had any right to be in at all, any more than the French did.”

Finally, the preeminent 20th century war scholar Gabriel Kolko concludes that we view the 10,000-day Vietnam War for “how devious, incorrigible, and beyond the pale of human values America’s rulers were throughout this epic event in U.S. history.”

(John Marciano, professor emeritus, State University of New York, lives in Santa Monica.)

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OPINION



The Q Line

Q-LINE, from page 6

© “Here is my response: Mexico and Canada have enforced borders. The U.S. has check-point borders with huge gaps. A country without borders is not a country. Mexico and Canada are very protective of their sovereignties. The U.S. isn’t. That being said, Mexicans and Latin Americans wouldn’t be here if they had a way to make it at home. But because of lagging economies, and the disparity between wages here and wages there. They are here. Our president and congress haven’t tackled the issue fairly for everyone. Yes, it is a federal issue, and must be resolved by the federal government.”

© “Align the border with roach traps.”

© “In addition to our border patrol and citizen-assisted arrests, detentions and deportations of these law breakers, the huge financial costs, the bills for all of these detention, detainment, and deportation services, ought to be sent to and paid for by Mexico and all the other countries of these offenders’ origins, as well as the offenders forfeiting any future opportunity to enter the U.S. legally and get future citizenship.”

© “All it would take is a simple citizen policy change. Inasmuch as, just because an illegal has a child in this country, does not make that child a United States citizen. The parent has to be a citizen in order to have that child automatically have United States citizenship.”

© “First of all, they should make illegal entry into this country a felony, then they should not make illegal immigrants’ children automatically be Americans, and third they should enforce the law that says no legal immigrant can be a burden on the government. As it is now, the minute they become legal they’re now qualified for assisted housing and there’s 64,000 people waiting to get on the housing list in Los Angeles alone. So if you do all of these things, I think it would discourage illegal immigration.”

© “This week’s question is going to anger a segment of our society, but something needs to be done about the abysmal failure of our immigration policy and the impact on our quality of life. First, you need to backstop the border patrol with military units. Next, you need to get rid of this silly law that anybody born here is an automatic

American citizen and entitled to bring over 20 of his relatives. Next, you need a Social Security card that is tamper proof and heavy fines for business people that knowingly hire illegals. And last, you need to investigate and write about professional immigration deniers and apologists that only look out for their own political and monetary well being at the expense of illegal immigrants, and most of all at the expense of American citizens.”

© “I think that for the illegals, for the immigration problem we should put troops on the border, and also we should put the National Guard on the border, and we should also enforce the laws that we have — have high penalties for workers who work and also for the employers who employ them. We should also do like the Governor of New Mexico did and make it so they can be reported and get rid of these ridiculous laws where you can’t report a person as an illegal alien to the police if they are. Most of the emergency room closures and most of the gang problem and crime problems, a huge amount is illegal aliens.”

© “Arnold had it right the first time, close the borders. Then he caved to the demagogic, sycophantic illegal Mexican lobby. Close the borders.”

© “We need to make it as difficult as possible for illegals to wire money made here out of this country. We need to make it so financially hard so you charge \$1.50 to wire \$1 from here to Mexico so that the majority of that money is spent and recirculated here instead of used to finance more human and drug smuggling from Mexico.”

© “For years now Mexico has charged a substantial head tax on all visitors who travel further down into their country than Rosarita. We should tax all Mexicans heavily for visiting the U.S.”

© “Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger apologized for being unsure of the language and using the wrong words — “closed,” “secure” — you know, he’s a bright man, and I’ll bet you he might not know how to pronounce it, but I’m sure he knows the meaning of the words he utters. So anyways, as far as the ... illegal immigrants issue that’s causing everyone such heartache, you know, in the Statue of Liberty it says ‘give me your poor, your hungry.’ I guess we should change that to ‘give me your rich European white people.’ That’s the only ones that we don’t get upset about.”

Full of soup: Fed up with food for thought



MODERN TIMES

BY LLOYD GARVER

The government recently released its latest “food pyramid.” They felt the old pyramid was too confusing, so to make things simpler, they came up with not one, but 12 different color-coded pyramids. It doesn’t sound less confusing to me. Then again, we all know from history that it takes a long time to build a good pyramid. Some other nutrition-related information also was in the news. Surprisingly, those who are “slightly overweight” may live longer than those of “normal” weight. And scientists discovered that some people are actually drinking too much water. Nutritional guidelines keep changing. What’s the next one going to say, that smoking is good for us?

If you go online to mypyramid.com, you’ll be told how to find the right pyramid for you. I guess the new health guidelines only apply to people who use the Internet. Anyway, you have to answer questions about your caloric needs, and then you’ll be guided to the pyramid that fits you. Trying to find the right pyramid is probably a healthy activity, because you won’t be eating while you’re spending all that energy trying to figure this thing out.

Those responsible for the “slightly overweight” research found that slightly overweight people may live longer than those of “normal” weight. Before you break out the pie and whipped cream, I should tell you that they may live longer, but they will probably not have a healthier life. Being overweight still leads to all kinds of serious medical problems. But that’s the kind of hard truth that gets buried in the story. People who struggle with their weight are just going to concentrate on the “slightly overweight equals greater longevity” headline. This sounds a bit dangerous to me. It’s going to lead to a lot of rationalizations like, “Give me another piece of cake. It’s just going to add years to my life.”

And what is “slightly overweight?” Five pounds? Ten pounds? My guess is it’s going to turn out to be the exact weight that people who don’t want to lose weight weigh.

If it becomes more desirable to be slightly overweight, there will be all kinds of cultural ramifications. Slightly overweight people will no longer be anxious about wearing a bathing suit. At the beach, those of “normal weight” will probably hear the snickering of those with bulging bellies on the next blanket. Pudgy people will become much more attractive as dates and potential marriage partners. And they will be especially motivated to have children, figuring that their genes will produce slightly overweight kids who will have a long, long life.

The other surprising nutritional statement is that it’s possible to drink too much water. This applies mainly to athletes who over-hydrate themselves while exercising. However, I won’t be surprised if the general public overreacts to this information by cutting down on their water. So, based on these recent studies, those health-conscious folks who always carry a bottle of water with them may start carrying a pack of Twinkies instead.

Since recommendations keep changing, many of us tend to ignore them. Fat is bad one year, fat is good the next. Carbohydrates are evil, carbohydrates are not so bad. Eggs are good for us, eggs aren’t healthy. Red meat is a killer, red meat is healthy. Since all of this is supposed to be based on science, it seems like their pronouncements should be more definite. I know that rewiring a plugged-in lamp while standing in a puddle of water is dangerous today, and it will be dangerous in 50 years. But who knows what nutritionists are going to say is a healthy diet 50 years from now. Maybe only the “slightly overweight” will be around to find out.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from “Sesame Street” to “Frasier.” He also has read many books, some in hardcover. He writes the “Modern Times” column for CBSnews.com and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com.)



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SPORTS

Recycling our leaders will take time for sure

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT

BY THADDEUS REICHLEY

My condolences go out to Christian cyclists everywhere. I know this has been an especially rough month filled with loss. In just a short period of time you have lost two important leaders. First and foremost, Pope John Paul II, spiritual leader of over 25 years, passed away. And just recently, Lance Armstrong, spiritual and physical leader for the past six years, announced this week that he is planning to retire after this years’ Tour de France. It is hard to imagine how lost and confused many of you must be feeling.

The passing of Pope John Paul II, though devastating to many, seems somewhat manageable because there are historic systems in place designed to facilitate a fairly seamless transition. Whether you are a Christian or not, and whether or not you agreed with his leadership over the past quarter century, it is hard to say that anyone will easily fill the hat of the late pope. Still, there is a finely tuned system of checks and balances that is immediately set in motion when the pope dies, designed specifically to choose a qualified successor.

If only there was such a system to select a successor to Armstrong. For the past six years, Armstrong has dominated the cycling world. More than this, he has brought the sport into mainstream America and served as an inspiration to millions. People who have never even ridden a bike know his name and whether you watch the Tour or not, it is hard to argue that Armstrong is not one of the greatest athletes to ever walk or ride on this planet.

Besides his athletic prowess, he seems to be something that few athletes of his caliber are — a genuinely good person. This is not to say that he is without faults, but as Catholics say, “Let he without sin cast the first stone.” Sure, he has made mistakes, but he faces up to them and gets

on with his life. Though he may not appear to be of this world when he gets on his bike, it is important to remember that he is only human.

Unfortunately, he is held up to standards that are almost impossible to reach. Not only do people want him to be the best athlete in the world, they want him to be the best husband and father as well. Oh yeah, he needs to be humble, gracious and a snappy dresser, too. I am not making excuses for anything that he has done because I don’t think that he would either. I just think it is important to remember that to be the best in the world at anything requires sacrifice. For the past 20 years, Armstrong has sacrificed to get where he is. Through it all he has learned from his mistakes, given graciously of his time and money, and been more of a role model than many leaders of our time, athletic, religious or political.

I personally will mourn a good nine days following this years’ Tour de France, whether Armstrong wins or not. I will mourn the loss of a great, inspirational leader, the likes of which I might not see again in my lifetime. As Armstrong leaves the sport to spend more time with his family, and reassess his priorities, I wish him luck. He has taken on a role that he never applied for, and was never voted into, and has filled it better than could have been expected of anyone. He will be missed in the sporting world.

I only wish there was some way that we could vote on someone to take his place. Who would even be in the running? If I was sitting on the panel for that decision I would be even tougher on prospective candidates. Unfortunately, there is no system in place for this decision, and in the end, the world will just have to wait for someone to come along and don that yellow jersey for us all. Eventually, someone will come along, and I can’t wait to see who it is.

(Thaddeus Reichley is a middle school teacher and triathlete living and training in Santa Monica. Look for his columns on the weekends and send comments to thadsthoughts@yahoo.com.)

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Santa Monica Daily Press

LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

Calling all Samohi alumni and students

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Civic Light Opera, Santa Monica High School's theatre alumni organization, invites Samohi students, theatre-alumni, and community members to audition for chorus/ensemble/dancer parts for this summer's production of "My Fair Lady." Auditions are on Sunday, May 1, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., and Monday, May 2, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. There is no pay.

Participants are asked to prepare 16 bars of a lyrical, music-theatre style song. An accompanist will be provided.

Auditions will take place on a first-come, first-heard basis, and there are no appointments. Auditions will take place at the Barnum Hall Theater, a 1,200-seat venue on the Samohi campus.

Memory serves: Elks win district competition

By Daily Press staff

For the eighth straight year, Santa Monica Elks have won the district ritual competition.

Six of the seven Santa Monica Elks officers took first place in the contest. Exalted ruler Ray Beers, leading knight Mona Young Lopez, loyal knight R. A. Pickett, lecturing knight Frank Frazier, esquire Ken Miller and chaplain Hank Allen all scored more than 90 points in their performance. The overall team score was 92.6. Any score over 90 is considered excellent.

For the competition, the exalted ruler must memorize more than 5,000 words and the leading knight must memorize more than 3,000 words. Every body motion, hand motion and eye motion must be synchronized with the words and with the other officers. Each officer starts out with 100 points. If they miss a word, or make an incorrect gesture, points are lost.

The team will compete on the state level in May.



Architecture students draw top honors

By Daily Press staff

Two Santa Monica College students competed against more than 30 students from a wide variety of universities — including top architecture and design schools — to capture the first-place award in a prestigious Southern California design competition.

The SMC team of James Butterly and Carlos Munoz won the American Institute of Architects/Los Angeles Interior Architecture 2005 Annual Design Competition for four-year universities and two-year colleges in Southern California. The top honors came with a \$10,000 prize.

Butterly and Munoz were among 36 students competing from 18 schools, including the Southern California Institute of Architecture, Otis School of Art & Design, USC, Art Center College of Design and San Diego State University.

Students were given six hours to design an unusual project — an entertainment venue that would attract young people in their 20s but would also secretly be used by the American intelligence community to recruit the nation's "best and brightest young talent." The 6,000-square-foot venue was to be located on the Third Street Promenade in Santa Monica.

Butterly and Munoz designed a hip cyber restaurant/bar/café that included computer stations for Internet access and sophisticated video games. They created an elaborate scenario in which the computer game players were monitored by members of the CIA and other intelligence agencies to find potential recruits. Those who displayed special decoding abilities would be given access to a VIP mezzanine area to meet with recruiting agents.

Butterly lives in Los Angeles and Munoz lives in Santa Monica.

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STATE

California adopts toughest ozone standards

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — The state Air Resources Board unanimously adopted a new limit on ozone levels Thursday that gives California the toughest air pollution guidelines in the nation — a standard that critics argue is largely symbolic.

Supporters estimate that, if fully effective, the new standard could save Californians millions of dollars each year in medical costs and productivity losses

linked to smog-induced illness.

They insist that while it may take years for the state to meet the new standard, its existence will force individual air quality districts to implement long-term strategies to reduce pollution.

The majority of the state currently doesn't meet the less stringent federal standard.

The eight-member board met for nearly 2 1/2 hours before approving the new limit. California has no authority to impose sanctions for violations of the rules.

Several board members said they supported the change but expressed concerns about the as-yet-unknown cost of implementing it statewide.

Bonnie Holmes-Gen, spokeswoman for the American Lung Association of California, said the new ozone standard is based on the latest research.

New evidence suggests pollution can cause a host of illnesses — heart and lung disease, asthma, premature death — and can exacerbate the symptoms of diabetes, she said.

Before the vote, she stressed to board members that they should only consider public health — not expense — when considering the new guideline.

"Today your job is to determine the level at which public health is protected," she said. "We should not settle for anything less."

Ozone pollution occurs when hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides — released as fossil fuels burn or chemicals evaporate — combine with heat and sunlight.

Pepper-sprayed activists are awarded \$1 each by jury

BY JUSTIN M. NORTON
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Humboldt County and Eureka law enforcement officers were found liable Thursday of using excessive force when they swabbed pepper spray on the eyes of nonviolent logging protesters during a 1997 protest.

The jury only awarded the eight plaintiffs \$1 each in the case. The was the third trial after the first two ended in deadlocked juries in 1998 and 2004.

The plaintiffs laughed and hugged in the courthouse hallways after the verdicts were read and applauded when jurors left their chambers.

"They did the right thing," said plaintiff Terri "Compost" Slanetz, a 42-year-old naturalist from Oakland. "We've been trying all along to get a statement that this

was illegal. It's a positive step toward people treating each other decently."

The protesters claim their civil rights were violated when Humboldt County sheriff's deputies and Eureka police officers swabbed pepper spray directly in their eyes during the 1997 protest.

The protesters argued the pepper spray was used to illegally punish and intimidate them for chaining themselves together and making it difficult for authorities to arrest them.

Attorneys said the verdict would prevent the use of pepper spray on nonviolent protesters, the motive for sticking with the case when it seemed futile.

"The plaintiffs were never in it for the money they were in it for the principle," attorney Tony Serra said. "And we won this on principle. This will deter the use of pepper spray on protesters."

Plaintiffs attorney Dennis Cunningham said he thought the decision, which came after a roughly two-week trial, was tough for the jurors but called the verdict "a step forward."

"One is forced to a conclusion that this is a compromise," he said. "It's an imperfect verdict in an imperfect world."

The defendants in the case were Humboldt County, the city of Eureka, retired county Sheriff Dennis Lewis and current Sheriff Gary Philp, who was chief deputy sheriff at the time of the protest.

"It's nice to have someone come in with some kind of resolution of the case," Philp said. "The nominal damages show that the jury thought no one got hurt."

Despite the low damage amount, one of the plaintiffs said she was still pleased with the precedent.

"I don't even care about the money," said Maya Portugal, 23, who now lives in

Northern Ireland and works in a coffee shop. "This is a victory for us. If this is going to stop them from doing this to nonviolent people then it was worth it."

Portugal was just 16 when she was swabbed with the pepper spray.

Police have said they swabbed the protesters to get them to unlock their shackles so they could be removed from private property.

The protests took place in the fall of 1997, one at then-Rep. Frank Riggs' Eureka office, and another at the Scotia headquarters of the Pacific Lumber Co.

Juror Athene Aquino, a 35-year-old Citibank employee, said she was convinced the force was excessive by watching a video showing the deputies swapping pepper spray in the protesters' eyes.

When she viewed the tape, Aquino said she "started crying. It was just very emotional."

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BY FABIAN E. PADILLA
PRESIDENT SAFE GAS SERVICES

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STATE

Hemp farming bill falls two votes short

By The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — A landmark bill that would allow California farmers to grow hemp — a genetic cousin to marijuana — fell two votes short of passage before a key legislative committee this week.

Long recognized for its utility on the production of a long list of marketable items from food to clothing, hemp cannot

be legally grown in the United States without a permit from the Drug Enforcement Administration. Supporters of the crop said the agency has issued only one permit.

But a recent appeals court decision may have weakened the DEA's position, prompting Assembly Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, to propose a state law that would allow the state Department of Food and Agriculture to issue licenses to grow and process hemp.

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NATIONAL



A plane in every garage? Plane makers inching closer

BY RUKMINI CALLIMACHI

Associated Press Writer

BEND, Ore. — Nancy Huntsman uses her small plane the way some mothers use their Volvo.

She straps in her two children, yells at the golden retriever to hop in the back, then pops in a DVD for the kids to watch as she pilots the plane over soaring mountains and parched deserts. Three hours later, they land at an airstrip near grandmother's house in northern California.

A decade ago, owning a private plane was a dream that few could realize — and not just because of the steep price tag.

"It used to be that you had to do a geometry exercise to navigate a plane," said Lance Neibauer, the inventor-turned-entrepreneur who founded Bend, Ore.-based Lancair Certified, one of a handful of companies helping transform the way Americans use private planes.

But innovations in aviation technology are making it possible for virtually anyone to fly a small airplane.

For decades, cockpits of small aircraft were cluttered with an intimidating array of steam-gauge dials that indicated, among other things, altitude, air speed and compass direction.

Those dials have been replaced in the latest planes by a "glass cockpit," a set of computerized screens that let the pilot fly the aircraft without having to do constant mental calculations. It is the same kind of equipment that is used in commercial airliners.

"You can literally read a book up there," said Neibauer, who sold Huntsman her first four-seater plane for \$326,000 three years ago.

And read is exactly what she does.

"Last year, we got through Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn," said Huntsman, 50, who lives in Salt Lake City, Utah, and uses the plane in the summer to ferry her children to her parents' house in Crescent City, Calif. — a 3 1/2-hour trip which would suck up an entire day if she were to fly commercially.

Lancair's sales have been growing exponentially. This year, the company expects to ship upwards of 180 planes, more than twice as many as it delivered last year, when it built 78 — a number which already represented a 53 percent increase over 2003, when Lancair built 51 planes.

The company's sales mirror the nationwide trend in shipments of piston-powered planes, which have grown

nearly fourfold since 1994. That year — the industry's worst on record — just 455 piston-powered planes were shipped in the United States. Last year, the total was up to 1,758, a spurt of 385 percent, according to the General Aviation Manufacturers Association.

Easier-to-fly airplanes are in part a result of changes in legislation.

In 1994, President Clinton signed the General Aviation Revitalization Act, which created an 18-year statute of limitation on lawsuits filed against small airplane manufacturers. Before that, investors had been scared off by the prospect of unlimited liability and had stopped backing small plane manufacturers.

Another factor in the rising interest in small piston-powered airplanes is that people who can afford them are able to avoid the potential hassles and increased security checks of flying on commercial airlines to major airports.

"That's why people are buying their own planes — they found a way to take command of their lives," said scientist Bruce Holmes, the director for strategy and partnerships at NASA's Langley Research Center.

Holmes founded NASA's Advanced General Aviation Transportation Experiment, which is trying to turn private planes into a mass transit system.

Even though there are around 5,000 airports open to the public in the United States, only a fraction of them are used by commercial carriers. According to the Federal Aviation Administration, nearly 70 percent of the nation's commercial air traffic coursed through just 31 airport hubs in 2002, the last year when such a study was conducted.

It's a system that is inherently inefficient, Holmes said.

To get from Point A to Point B, Holmes said, travelers are almost always funneled through Point C, one of the 31 hubs.

Pilots of small airplanes are able to fly into whatever small airport is closest to their home.

In 1958, aviation enthusiast Daniel Zuck published a book titled, "An Airplane in Every Garage." It was a vision that caught the imagination of many, including car manufacturer Henry Ford, who manufactured a model for a "flying car" in preparation for what he thought was the coming boom in private aviation.

"There have been dreams of a plane in every garage for decades," Holmes said.

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NATIONAL

Republicans outline plans for Social Security

BY DEB RIECHMANN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — House Republicans announced plans Friday to draft Social Security legislation by June as President Bush warned Democratic critics not to "play politics as usual" with his call for sweeping program changes including curtailment of some benefits.

Rep. Bill Thomas, R-Calif., chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, told reporters he envisioned legislation that "won't just be a Social Security bill."

"It will be a retirement bill," Thomas said, indicating it would also include steps to encourage private retirement savings. He also signaled that the legislation could include provisions to ease the cost of long term or chronic health care for the elderly.

Thomas talked with reporters in the Capitol as Bush made his first public appearance since prodding lawmakers to consider reducing the benefits guaranteed to future middle and upper income retirees as part of a plan to assure the solvency of the Depression-era program.

"I have a duty to put ideas on the table, and I'm putting them on the table," the president said in suburban Falls Church, Va.

The outing was a follow-up to a prime-time news conference on Thursday, and he told his audience that "those who block meaningful reform are going to be held to account in the polls."

The president wants Congress to enact legislation that gives younger workers the ability to create voluntary personal accounts as well as place Social Security on a sound financial footing.

He used his news conference Thursday night to pivot away from stressing personal accounts and placing greater emphasis on steps needed to make the program more solvent.

Democrats and their supporters seemed unfazed by Bush's political warning.

Under Bush's approach, future Social Security checks would increase more quickly for the lowest-income retirees than for everyone else. Though Bush promised that middle- and upper-income retirees would get benefits "equal to or greater than the benefits enjoyed by today's seniors," they would be smaller than what the system is now promising for the future.

"If you've worked all your life and paid into the Social Security system you will not retire into poverty," Bush said. "If Congress were to enact that, that would go a long way toward making the system solvent for the younger generation of Americans."

His spokesman, Scott McClellan, criticized critics of the president who accused him of endorsing cuts.

Democrats on the House Ways and Means Committee did so anyway, issuing a paper entitled "Sliding Scale Benefit Cuts."



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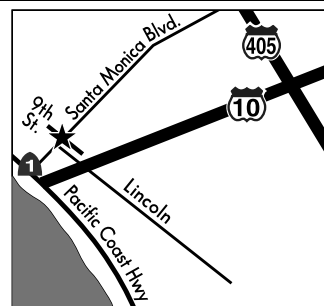
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Budget plan has cuts in Medicaid for poor

BY JIM ABRAMS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A \$2.6 trillion budget barely approved by Congress will cut projected spending on Medicaid for the poor, lock in tax cuts and — Republicans claim — put the country on a path toward lower federal deficits.

Democrats unanimously opposed the spending outline passed late Thursday. They said the budget reflects the president's misplaced priorities by freezing or trimming health, education and agriculture programs while cutting taxes by as much as \$106 billion over five years.

The vote was 214-211 in the House and 52-47 in the Senate.

The budget resolution is nonbinding, but it sets critical guidelines for lawmakers as they make decisions on taxes and specific spending programs for the 2006 fiscal year that begins October 1. Equally important, tax and spending legislation passed under direction from the budget is immune from Senate filibusters.

That could make it easier to open the way for oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and facilitate GOP efforts to reduce spending increases in Medicaid and other entitlement programs. About \$70 billion of the \$106 billion in tax cuts would be protected by resolution, meaning it could be approved by a simple majority in the Senate rather than the 60 votes needed to break a filibuster.

President Bush, in a statement, said the budget plan

“protects America, helps economic growth, funds our priorities and keeps us on track to cut the deficit in half by 2009.”

Senate Budget Committee Chairman Judd Gregg, R-N.H., said it was a first step toward confronting the “massive problem” of meeting the nation's defense and domestic spending needs while coping with relentlessly rising baby boomer health and retirement costs. “The president sent us a budget which for the first time in seven years stepped on the sacred ground of trying to address the entitlement costs of the federal budget,” he said.

It was the effort to control spending on the Medicaid health program for the poor — one of the three big entitlement programs, along with Medicare and Social Security — that created the biggest obstacle to agreement on the budget. Medicaid was last cut in 1997.

Democrats and some Republicans, led by Sen. Gordon Smith of Oregon, objected that cuts in projected spending for Medicaid would impose a hardship on states that rely heavily on federal grants to care for the poor.

The final agreement accepted by Smith would shave automatically increasing benefit programs by \$35 billion over five years, with Medicaid singled out for a \$10 billion reduction in the four-year period beginning in 2007. That would give a new commission and the nation's governors time to recommend cost savings.

The budget resolution also directs lawmakers to cull about \$3 billion from agriculture programs and as much as \$6.6 billion from federal pension programs, in part

through higher fees paid by employers.

“It has been a difficult process,” Smith said.

Gregg pointed out that the savings accounted for only about 1 percent of Medicaid's projected spending of more than 1.1 trillion over the next five years. “You would think we were scorching the earth when we originally proposed it,” he said.

House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, said it's time to look closely at benefit programs that are “popular but rife with waste.”

But Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., said her state alone would lose \$1.37 billion in Medicaid funding. “It is unconscionable to balance the budget on the backs of our most vulnerable Americans.”

Republicans said the budget would put the government on a course of cutting the yearly deficit in half, from \$521 billion in fiscal 2004 to \$254 billion in fiscal 2008.

But Democrats argued that the national debt, the total amount owed by the federal government, would continue to rise. “I believe it is a profound mistake for this country to stack additional debt upon already record levels of debt that I believe puts the long-term economic security of our country at risk,” said Sen. Kent Conrad of North Dakota, top Democrat on the Budget Committee.

Insurgents vow to ‘avenge’ their dignity

BY THOMAS WAGNER

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Insurgents unleashed a series of car bombings and other attacks across Iraq on Friday, killing at least 41 people, including three U.S. soldiers, and wounding dozens of people a day after the country's first democratically elected government was approved.

Iraq's most-wanted terrorist, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, purportedly threatened more violence in an audiotape on the Internet, warning President Bush the insurgents “will not rest until we avenge our dignity.”

At least 11 car bombs exploded in and around Baghdad on Friday, including four suicide attacks in quick succession in the Azamiyah section of central Baghdad.

The first one hit an Iraqi army patrol, the second a police patrol and the third and fourth at separate barricades near the headquarters of the police special forces unit, police chief Brig. Gen. Khalid al-Hassan said. Col. Hussein Mutlak said those attacks killed at least 20 Iraqis, including 15 soldiers and five civilians. At least 65 were injured, including 30 troops and 35 civilians, he said.

“We see these attacks as another desperate attempt by the terrorists to discredit the newly formed Iraqi government,” the U.S.-led coalition said in a statement, adding the violence was failing “to drive a wedge between the Iraqi people and their right to choose their own destiny.”

Ambulances sped to hospitals and policemen crouched in fear after the explosions in Baghdad, which set fire and caused heavy damage to the special forces headquarters.

A U.S. soldier was killed and two others from the 1st Corps Support Command were wounded Friday in a car bombing about 20 miles north of the capital, the U.S. military said.

A car bomb attack near Diyarrah also killed two U.S. soldiers assigned to the 155th Brigade Combat Team, II Marine Expeditionary Force, the military said. The statement did not provide additional details.

U.S. military spokesman Greg Kaufman said earlier that seven other U.S. soldiers had suffered minor injuries in other attacks around Baghdad.

Late Thursday, another American soldier was killed and four wounded in a roadside bombing in Hawija, a city about 150 miles north of Baghdad, the U.S. military said. At least 1,575 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

Insurgents also hit Iraqiforces with a coordinated

assault in the southeastern town of Madain, less than two weeks after Iraqi forces raided the region to clear it of insurgents in an operation praised by the U.S. military as evidence of the progress made by Iraq in assuring its own security.

A roadside bomb was detonated, then two suicide car bombers drove from different directions into police special forces as they arrived to investigate, said police Lt. Jassim al-Maliky.

A third car bomb targeted another police patrol and a fourth detonated near the city hospital, according to Iraqi police, who said the attacks killed 13 people and injured 20.

Many of the wounded arrived covered in blood at the emergency section of Madain's al-Kindy hospital. Hospital staff ran to ambulances to assist as a crowd gathered outside.

A suicide attacker also blew up an ambulance packed with explosives near a police special forces patrol in Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, killing four Iraqis, including two policemen, said police Brig. Gen. Adel Molan. Twenty Iraqis were injured, he said. Maj. Steven Warren, a U.S. military spokesman, said the bomber drove his vehicle up to a truck carrying the Iraqi troops.

Also in Baqouba, a Sunni cleric believed to be a senior member of al-Zarqawi's Al-Qaida in Iraq terrorist group blew himself up as Iraqi security forces surrounded the city's al-Aqsa mosque, Ali Fadhil of the joint operation center said.

“Imam Abdul Razaq Rashid Hamid ... came out from the mosque with two hand grenades as our forces were surrounding the mosque,” Fadhil said. “He threw one of the grenades at the forces while blowing himself with the second one.”

Ten others inside the mosque were detained for questioning, he said.

Warren, the U.S. military spokesman, could not confirm the identity of the man killed, but said he was shot after walking out of a mosque suspected of sheltering insurgents carrying a grenade. The conflicting accounts could not immediately be reconciled.

A roadside bomb targeting an Iraqi border guard patrol also killed one soldier and wounded two west of the southern city of Basra, said Iraqi Lt. Col. Abdul Hadi al-Najar.

The violence came after Iraq's National Assembly approved an interim Cabinet lineup on Thursday, laying the groundwork for the first elected government in Iraq's history to take office.

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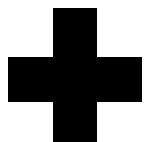
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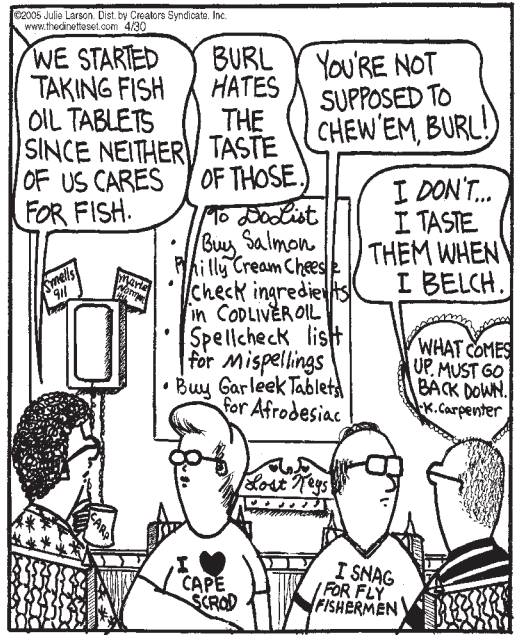
ComeSearch.com/LiveTaxChat.htm

Consultations 310 395-0603

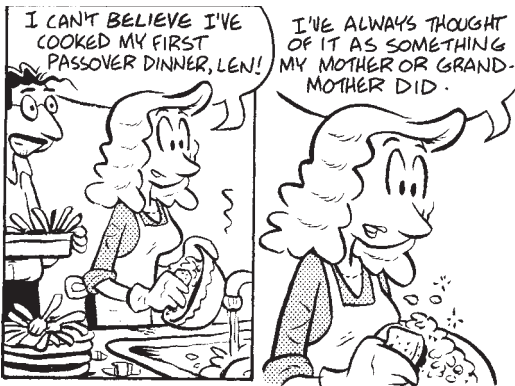


COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



edge city by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



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ACROSS

- 1 Ammo holder
- 5 Grave
- 10 Gave an edge
- 12 Short poem
- 13 Words of support
- 14 Incites
- 15 Vulgar
- 16 Bad review
- 18 Young one
- 19 Use for effect
- 21 Debt notes
- 22 Hole in the head
- 24 Blasting stuff
- 25 Be approved
- 29 Nerve
- 30 Spring holiday
- 32 Diamond VIP
- 33 Sleeve fill
- 34 Course start
- 35 Singer Rimes
- 37 Stay away from
- 39 Did some modeling
- 40 Moved the boat

DOWN

- 41 White
- 42 Bankrolls
- 1 Nest sound
- 2 Place
- 3 Sort of
- 4 A pop
- 5 Eschew
- 6 Galley need
- 7 Oft-stubbed item
- 8 Barely make
- 9 Shows disuse
- 11 Account addition
- 17 One more
- 20 Streisand film

A	C	T	U	P		M	E	T	R	O
L	A	H	T	I		A	C	H	E	D
P	L	E	A	T		T	H	E	S	E
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I	M	I	T	A	T	E		K	A	T
T	O	N	E	D		P	O	I	N	T
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P	E	E	L	S		T	I	G	E	R

Yesterday's answer

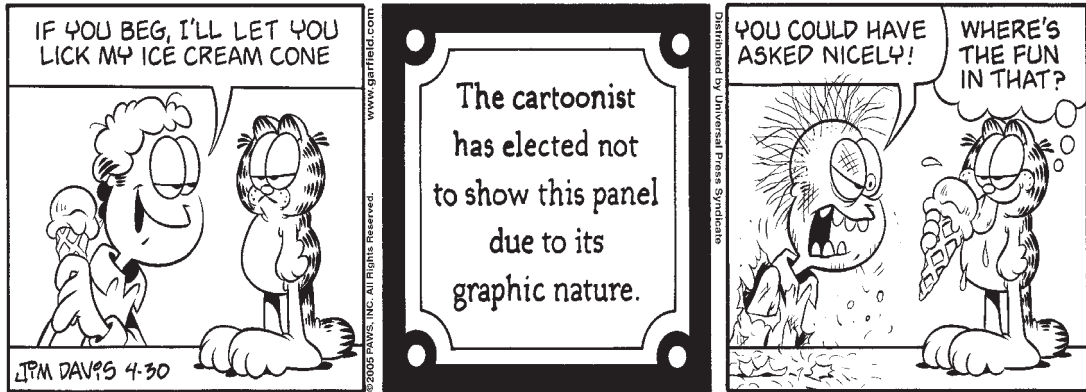
- 21 Sacred images
- 23 Coffee additive
- 25 "Now the competition is serious!"
- 26 Rio Grande city
- 27 Senators' home
- 28 Signed over
- 29 Swallows
- 31 Marsh growths
- 33 Tennis star
- 36 Fresh
- 38 Oath

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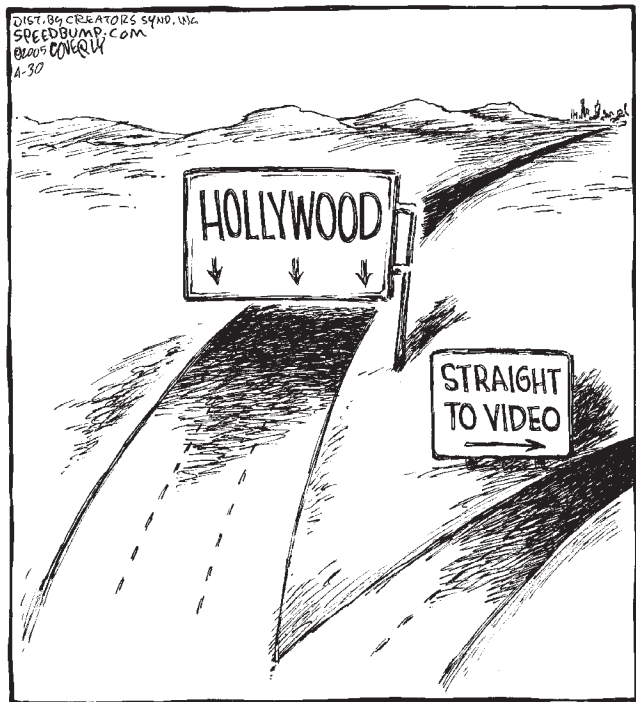
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32			33				34		
35			36			37	38		
39						40			
41							42		

4-30

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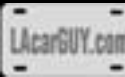
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