



FREE!

Santa Monica Daily Press

May 1-2, 2004

A newspaper with issues

Volume 3, Issue 147

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

10, 17, 28, 29, 39

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 3, 1, 4

Evening picks: 7, 0, 7

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 06, Whirl Win
2nd Place: 11, Money Bags
3rd Place: 05, California Classic
Race Time: 1:42.93

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ From a January "Parenting" column by John Rosemond in the Providence (R.I.) Journal: Reader: "I can't keep my 20-month-old daughter out of the dog's food. I've tried scolding, distracting, time-out, nothing has worked." Rosemond: "(F)rom a strictly nutritional standpoint (a nutritionist told me), most dog food is superior to the diets of many Americans." "(A pediatrician said) he has yet to see a child who suffered ill effects from eating dog food," except for chunk-type that might get stuck in the throat.



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Lifeguards brace for Jr. Guards crush

By Daily Press staff

SMC — The mad dash to obtain the coveted position of junior lifeguard this summer will ensue here as hundreds of teenagers wait for their turn to try-out.

Last year, anxious hopefuls started arriving the afternoon before, and by 5 a.m., a line of 400 kids stretched four blocks from the Mira Costa High School swimming pool. But it'll be different this year.

The first try-out swim for the popular Junior Lifeguards summer program will be held at 9 a.m. today at Santa Monica College. But camping overnight was forbidden — and lifeguards will be handing out wristbands between 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m., taking the youngsters by lottery. Anyone who arrives after 8:30 a.m. must take a place in line.

"Hopefully this will stop the mad rush," said lifeguard spokesman Garth Canning, who added last year's crowd disrupted a championship volleyball match and caused unneeded anxiety.

"In order so that the schools aren't negatively impacted by all this and also so the parents don't have to sleep on the pavement all night ... we have signs up and the Santa Monica police will be patrolling to make sure the neighborhood is not

See LIFEGUARDS, page 5

Obey Giant



Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II/Daily Press

As part of a weekly contest, the Daily Press will give away two movie passes to Loews Cineplex Broadway on the Third Street Promenade to the first reader who can accurately describe where this photo was taken. E-mail answers to sack@smdp.com.

Benita Haley appointed to CCC board of governors

Former SMC administrator joins college trustee Quiñones on state board

By Daily Press staff

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger announced this week he has appointed former Santa Monica College counselor and administrator Benita Haley to the California Community Colleges Board of Governors.

The Republican was appointed to a two-year term.

The appointment comes less than three

weeks after Schwarzenegger named SMC Board of Trustees Chair Dr. Margaret Quiñones to the 17-member board.

The Board of Governors oversees and makes policies for the statewide community college system, the largest higher education system in the world with 2.8 million students at 109 campuses.

"Benita Haley has years of experience as a counselor, former administrator and government relations expert," said SMC President Dr. Piedad F. Robertson. "She will be an asset to the Board of Governors."

See CCC, page 7

Women in SM still jockey for prime position

But many sit in positions of power throughout city

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

When it comes to women in power, Santa Monica is ahead of the curve.

Females sit in many highly visible and influential posts in Santa Monica — from the city manager to the president of the community college to the presiding judge at the local courthouse.

The city attorney and city clerk are both women, as is the head of the planning department. Both public high schools in Santa Monica have female principals. Women head both the local chamber of commerce and the visitor's bureau,

and two local newspapers are edited by women.

Females also chair boards overseeing local public schools and the pier, and direct the non-profit organization that manages downtown. Another woman oversees City Hall's real estate assets. The list goes on.

But when it comes to women as a whole, Santa Monica's better half still lag behind men. At 52 percent, females make up the majority of Santa Monica's 84,084 residents. Although women overall achieve similar education levels and even outnumber men in some advanced academics, women earn far less, and are more likely to live in poverty and rely on government assistance, a recent study shows.

Twenty-seven women and City Councilman Mike Feinstein packed into a small room at the Ken Edwards Center this week to pore over the results of what's believed to be the first-ever study on women in Santa Monica. The report was delivered by City Hall's Commission on the Status of Women.

City Councilwoman Pam O'Connor, who spoke at the event, said women have made important inroads but still face an uphill battle — especially because their wages are significantly lower.

"I think that's the crux — the economics of it,"

See WOMEN, page 5

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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)
 ★★★★★ Trust that another's interest is real. Take your time visiting someone you feel a bit responsible for. Your attention and nurturing will bond the two of you even more. Still, schedule time to get together with others. Tonight: Others cannot be without you; after all, you make the party.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ This morning you express your friskiness, but by the afternoon, you decide to work on a project or something you deem important. A serious talk takes you in a new direction with a child or a budding relationship. Allow yourself to be more expressive with this person than you have been in the past. Tonight: Play it low-key.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ Deal with family and home first. Your discomfort with a domestic issue can be resolved, but don't be surprised if some anger bubbles up. By the afternoon, be more kidlike in your self-expression. Tonight: Dance the night away.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ Run errands early, as you could be overwhelmed by friends and/or a request in the afternoon. Sometimes being too serious right now hinders the flow within your home life. Loosen up and let others know that you care. Do some spring cleaning. Tonight: The action is at your pad.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ Conquer a money issue early in the day. You might feel like you need to cut back and spend less for a while. Follow through on that idea. Balance your checkbook and work on your budget. In the afternoon, visit with neighbors and catch up on news. You might like hanging out. Tonight: Use good sense.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ Investigate more of what you want from a loved one or dear friend through an exploratory conversation. You don't need to push each others' buttons. Deal with a friend who could be touchy. Plans change. A friend could be unusually difficult. Tonight: Indulge each other.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ A call in the morning could energize you. You might need to handle some personal matters quietly. Change plans willingly. Pressure from a family member or older authority figure could cause you a problem. Tonight: Smile. Be social.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ News comes your way that could shake you up. Friends surround you. Count on them. A partner could be a touch difficult. Aim for more of what you want. Take your time making a decision later in day. Test your ideas on someone else. Tonight: Do for yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ Someone might be quite difficult to deal with right now. Investigate what could be ailing this person, and don't react to his or her initial onslaught. You can and will see a situation differently after a talk. This person could be uptight. Tonight: Party away.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ A surge of energy might start your day, but understand that you could easily wear yourself out. A must appearance or a visit with someone you feel like you have to answer to could be a bit touchy. Handle only what you must. Tonight: In the spotlight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ Deal with emotional issues involving a partnership in the morning. Let this person know when you have reached your limit. Refuse to risk right now. Detach if you cannot resolve the problem right now. Don't carry it around with you. Tonight: Where the music is.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ Others seek you out, which could irritate someone who is close to you. A family member, roommate or pet wants and needs your attention. The fur could fly otherwise. Schedule some quality time together late in the afternoon. Tonight: Add some romantic spice to your life.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
 Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913
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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Waldorf school celebrates May today

By Daily Press staff

Westside Waldorf School has declared May Day.

Today, the school will host a free day of games, music and fun on its campus, 1229 Fourth St., from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Called the "May Faire Fundraiser," high-lights will be maypole dancing, Japanese folk tale performances, Japanese drums, Irish dancers, jazz performed by parents, music from the Andes, as well as strings and flutes from the students.

On the playground, people will partake from Earl's grill, balance beam skill games, flower arranging, a dunk tank and Henna body art. In the classrooms, you can make your own sundae in the ice cream parlor, listen to stories and be part of a Japanese tea ceremony. And from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., there will be fencing workshops for 9-year-olds and older.

Letting go of the past

By Daily Press staff

An award-winning playwright is putting her talents to use for a local nonprofit.

Playwright and master trainer Akuyoe Graham will launch a creative writing workshop series on behalf of the Spirit Awakening Foundation at 5601 W. Slauson Blvd., #237, in Culver City.

Graham is offering the workshop as a fundraiser for SAF, a nonprofit organization founded in 1995 that is rooted in the healing power of discovering one's true identity.

The organization has helped close to 1,300 at-risk youth, including some from Santa Monica High School, in schools, juvenile camps and halls, and crime-ridden areas in Los Angeles to release negative expectations and find a higher purpose.

The workshop is based on "Spirit Awakening," Graham's acclaimed play about the spiritual journey that released her from the chains of the past, including experiences with sexual abuse and racism as an African immigrant in London and New York.

The SAF writing-life-skills program evolved as she witnessed first-hand even the most hardened offenders transform when they rewrote their story in the voice of productive, positive citizens instead of victims or burdens to society.

Graham was inspired to create and lead the 12-hour workshop after she received hundreds of letters and calls from people who said her play gave them the courage to let go of the conflicts and pain that come from sublimating one's true identity.

The workshop is May 15 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and May 16 from noon to 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$350 per person. For information, contact Susan at (310) 338-0529 or susan@spiritawakening.org.

Santa Monica goes green

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monicans can learn to go green.

The inaugural event of the green building seminar series created in partnership with Global Green, USA will be free to Santa Monica residents and businesses.

Lynn N. Simon, AIA, president of Simon & Associates, Inc., will discuss the selection of green building materials and products that conserve resources, reduce pollution and waste, are low-toxic or meet other green criteria during their lifecycle. Workshop topics include how materials impact health and environment, green selection criteria, life-cycle assessment, green specifications, resources and tools.

Green materials and products also will be on display. The event will be held from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., May 3, at the new Green Building Resource Center, 2218 Main St. on the second floor.

Those interested must reserve a space by e-mailing gbrcc@globalgreen.org. For information, visit <http://greenbuildings.santa-monica.org/mainpages/whatsnew.htm>.

surf report

A mix of leftover SW and WNW energy will hang around today. The good summer breaks in Northern LA through the north half of the South Bay will see knee- to waist-high surf, while the standout combo spots go slightly larger. High tide rolling through mid-morning will likely bog down many areas ... plan your session accordingly. Expect light winds in the morning with NW winds 10-15 knots through the afternoon.

Sunday starts on the slow side. Expect mostly knee-high surf in the morning. A building mix of S-SSW swell starts to fill in slowly through the day and mixes with a new pulse of WNW swell. Looks like many spots will build back up into the waist-high range. This swell mix looks stronger on Monday as the WNW'er fills in a little more.

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

Today the water is:

63°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	- 1:42	1.0	1:42	0.3	7:32	4.5	8:03	5.2
SUNDAY	- 2:21	0.3	2:12	0.4	8:20	4.5	8:28	5.7
MONDAY	- 3:01	-0.4	2:44	0.7	9:09	4.5	8:58	6.1
TUESDAY	- 3:44	-0.1	3:17	1.1	9:59	4.3	9:31	6.4
WEDNESDAY	- 4:30	-1.3	3:51	1.5	10:52	4.1	10:08	6.5
THURSDAY	- 5:20	-1.4	4:29	1.9	11:52	3.7	10:49	6.4
FRIDAY	- 6:16	-1.3	5:12	2.3	1:02	3.5	11:37	6.1

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CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S Q-LINE
RESPONSES ON PAGE 4



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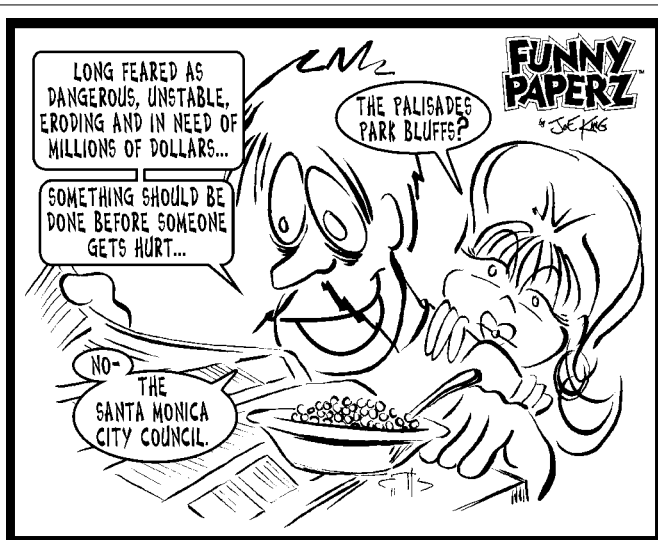
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OPINION

LETTERS



Member: AAEC, NCS, SCCS

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The future of Iraq is bright

Editor:

In proposing to install former Saddam strongman and erstwhile general Jassim Mohammed Mihindi as head of an all-Iraqi force to secure Fallouja, the U.S. may have hit on a brilliant new exit strategy. Jassim's first step, of course, will be to recruit the current insurgents and rename them "soldiers." They will be paid to do what they are now doing for free, keeping the U.S. military out of Fallouja.

Next, we'll bring the urbane and sophisticated Tariq Assiz out from where he's being kept and appoint him interim foreign minister. To assist him in articulating a new vision for Iraq to the world, we'll engage former Saddam information minister Muhammed Saeed-al-Sahaf, everybody's favorite Middle East spinmeister.

Finally, we'll tidy up Saddam himself, give him a shave and a haircut and a nice new suit, and deem him President of Iraq. Part of the deal will be that Saddam will give a speech proclaiming that he is reborn, and that Christ has "changed his heart." He will promise a "kindler, gentler" Iraq, and set forth the doctrine of "compassionate despotism."

At this point, the U.S. can declare victory and leave the region. And the world will be a safer place.

David Stoughton
Santa Monica

The QLine

Attack inevitable, ousting Bush necessary

This past week, Q-line asked:

"If we have another terrorist attack, will it change your view on the politics of Washington and possibly change your vote in the presidential election?"

Here are your responses:

■ "No. My view of politics won't change. Another attack seems inevitable on our borderless country. Security is a bad joke. My vote won't change either because we have an air-head as a president. We have four major players in the White House who never saw one day of military service, yet they start an oil war they can't finish. Bush missed Air National Guard meetings in Houston and Alabama in the safe slot his daddy set up for him, Cheney never served and either did Karl Rove. Neither did Condoleeza Rice, and Powell served but he is left out of the loop. We need a change. Thank you and we love your paper."

■ "I personally will not vote for George Bush or John Kerry. I prefer a write-in vote for Francis the mule. Terrorists, purse-snatchers and other forms of lowlife will always attack the most vulnerable entity, no matter who is in charge."

■ "I will not change my view on the politics because the politics in Washington stink. I don't think anything this president is doing is for the people, he does everything behind our backs. I was voting for John Kerry anyway and I still will. This Bush is no good and we have to remove him from office."

■ "Nothing could make me change my mind and vote for Bush, unless I was certifiably mentally insane. But then people who are certifiably insane are not allowed to vote."

■ "Another attack would simply reinforce my opposition to the entire Bush-Cheney administration and their pack of war wolves. They have alienated former friendly nations with their unilateral disastrous foreign affair policy."

■ "I do not support this administration so I would never have voted for Bush in the first place. I think there will definitely be further attacks but they may not be foreign, perhaps it will be internal. Either way, it would never make me vote for this warmonger."

■ "If there is another attack, I hope the person responsible for it is the only one that gets hurt. George W. Bush."

■ "I will not change my view on politics. Quite the contrary, I trust the government completely, and I trust this president. I don't ever worry about there being another attack."

■ "George W. Bush is a stupid, ignorant, nasty, dangerous man who is surrounded by and manipulated by evil, dangerous and of course, much smarter men, who don't have to bother with the veneer of affability. I don't know what they would have to do to make my opinion of them even lower and I don't want to find out."

■ "I intend to vote Bush out of office and hopefully, by January of 2005 he will be back in Texas and Americans will finally be a little safer. So will the rest of the world."

At the height of our existence, size does really matter



MODERN TIMES

By Lloyd Garver

Tall people have a special status in our culture. Often without good reason, they are thought of as leaders — as "standing tall above the rest." In school, the tallest boys are the first to get dates. Tall girls are told they look great — "like beautiful models." Short people with big egos are often said to have a "Napoleon Complex," but nobody ever talks about tall, egotistical people as having a "De Gaulle Complex." The average height in this country is 5 feet 9 inches for men, and about 5 feet 4 for women. Anybody below that comes up short.

I'm not proud to admit that I haven't lost a lot of sleep over the fact that a former jockey will probably never be President of the United States. In my entire career, I don't think I've ever been financially discriminated against because of my height. Then again, a comedy writer who is 5 feet 7 is considered on the tall side.

However, my attitude towards height changed recently when I read a University of North Carolina study. My consciousness, if not my height, has been raised. It turns out that short people are discriminated against in a way I never knew about — financially.

Statistically speaking, the taller you are, the more money you make. Each inch is worth about \$789 more per year. Someone who is 6 feet tall is expected to earn \$5,523 more per year than someone who is 5 feet 7. Taken over a 30-year career, the smaller person's height makes him come up hundreds of thousands of dollars short. Tall people get better job evaluations and quicker raises. So, short people don't just have to put up with the good stuff always being on the top shelf or tall people sitting in front of them at the movies. A tall person's earning power is head and shoulders above his shorter counterpart. And that is wrong.

Our reverence for height comes from primitive times. Back when we lived in caves, size was a more important survival trait than now. It made evolutionary sense. When a guy was coming at you with a spear, he was probably not going to be impressed by your command of the new tax laws or your ability to tell a really funny joke.

About 50 years ago, something strange happened — Americans stopped growing taller. In World War I, the average American soldier was two inches taller than the average German. Since around 1955, Germans and most people around the world have been growing taller, but we've stayed the same.

Is this another evolutionary development? Is America genetically ahead of the rest of the world in realizing that judging people by height is silly in this day and age? Will favoring tall people soon be a thing of the past? Is the height gene being phased out like the appendix or the ability to fricassee a lemur? Is American society finally evolving so that it will soon value things like intelligence, kindness and sensitivity more than an ability to look good in designer clothes?

Don't bet on it. Experts believe our failure to continue to grow taller has more to do with diet and exercise than with developing more humanistic attitudes. We're growing wider, not taller. Meanwhile other countries are catching up to our height because they have been eating well. Maybe this development will have a positive effect. Maybe height will become less and less important to Americans as we stop towering over the

rest of the world.

But I doubt it. I don't think American pride will allow it. Height worship is too ingrained in our culture. Right now, the average height of men in the Netherlands is 6 feet 1. The Dutch are four inches taller than we are. The Dutch! Are our leaders really going to sit still and do nothing as the people of the world keep sprouting up and looking down on us? Can't you just hear future politicians talking about closing the "height gap?"

There is bound to be some mistrust and suspicion if Americans continue to come up short internationally. Our proud leaders might even accuse other countries of employing the Ultimate Weapon in the Longitudinal War — using extra-high heels or putting lifts in their shoes. That's right. Unless we get over our height hang-up, a vertically challenged president of the future might very well call for inspection teams to look for "Shoes of Mass Elevation."

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He also has read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com).

LOCAL



Study on SM women to go before City Council

WOMEN, from page 1

she said. "If women are still making less than men, they're just further behind. It makes housing affordability more crucial, more of a problem. If the woman is a single parent raising the children, they may or may not get support."

Median income for local females is \$32,000, as opposed to \$51,000 for males, according to the report. Only 30 percent of Santa Monicans who earn over \$55,000 a year are women, and that percentage drops as income rises.

The study — which relied heavily on data from the 2000 Census, along with other sources — looked at various categories, including education, employment, poverty and disability. The women's commission also made several recommendations and suggested local women be studied further.

Darlene Evans, chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, said she hopes the report will be used as a starting place to identify what's needed in the community.

"We wanted to be able to provide the City Council and the public of Santa Monica the information about women in terms of what their status is," she said.

"It's beginning steps."

Nearly 70 percent of local households are comprised of married couples. About 14 percent of Santa Monica households consist of single women — and 5 percent of those women have children, the study shows.

Only about 5 percent of Santa Monica women older than 25 years old don't have a high school diploma. Women on average have similar education levels as men — except in professional and postgraduate degrees. They even outnumber men in advanced placement courses, which can count for college credit. However, of the females taking advanced courses, 79 percent were enrolled in English, art and social science, and only 21 percent in the traditionally male-dominated fields of mathematics and science.

But, the study shows, the number of Santa Monica women currently enrolled in all levels of higher education is significantly higher than men, in both public and private schools.

When it comes to the workplace, 37 percent of local woman described themselves as not part of the labor force. Still, 47 percent of the local workforce living in Santa Monica is female, and 29 percent said they were self employed. The types

of work women do tend to follow traditional gender-line norms — the majority are in healthcare support, personal care, administrative support, education and social services. Only 24 percent are in computers or math; 27 percent in architecture and engineering; 40 percent in law and 44 percent in various management positions, according to the study.

Women comprise 63 percent of the poor population over age 55, the study says. A full 56 percent of people living in poverty in Santa Monica are women, though the report says that number is actually higher when the high cost of living, women's lower earnings, and the cost and availability of childcare is considered. Poverty is set at less than \$8,501 a year or \$17,650 for a family of four.

Sixty-five percent of Santa Monica residents receiving in-home living assistance are women. Ninety-five percent of residents receiving temporary assistance for single-parent households are women.

Only about 25 percent of the local transient population is female, the study says.

The findings of the report beg for interpretation, members of the commission said. They recommended several next steps — including studying whether minority women's social service needs are

underserved, studying elderly women's needs, examining how to better encourage young women to pursue advanced math and science courses, and looking more closely at employment, earnings, health, homelessness, domestic violence, and voting statistics, among other areas.

Established in 1981, the commission is charged with working to eliminate inequality between the sexes in all areas of life including, but not limited to, employment, health, education, political life and law enforcement. The commission is comprised of nine local residents. Commission members plan to present their findings to the City Council later this month.

O'Connor — the only woman currently on the City Council — said there is much work to be done.

"The most important thing, if people will pay attention," she said, "is that while women have made inroads — in terms of jobs and other status, power, all those aspects of life — there's still a glass ceiling that exists, not necessarily in city government in Santa Monica, but exists in Santa Monica. And although inroads have been made, it's still there ... The reality is still that it's not an equal world."

2,300 participated in Jr. Guards last year

LIFEGAURDS, from page 1

disrupted."

Junior Guards is a five-week youth program operated on area beaches by the Los Angeles County Fire Department Lifeguards. Canning said there is a spot for every youth that passes a timed swim test — but where is another issue. Kids prefer morning classes over afternoon classes, and certain beaches are more popular than others. Last year, 2,300 participated in Junior Guards on beaches from Zuma to Cabrillo.

Already classes are filling up from returning guards. There are still some slots in both morning and afternoon classes at Santa Monica, Venice and Will Rogers beaches but spaces are scant in

some age groups. There are about 30 junior guards per age group, per beach — both morning and afternoon.

There are three categories of Junior Guards. The "A" group is for 14- to 17-year olds, the "B" group is for 12- and 13-year olds and the "C" group is for 9- to 11-year olds. To qualify, the A group members must swim 100 yards — four laps in a 25-yard pool — in 1:30 or less, B groupers must swim the same length in 1:40 or less and C groupers in 1:50 or less. Participating in the summer program costs \$340, which includes a uniform. For more information, visit www.lacountylifeguards.org or call (310) 939-7214.

— John Wood

Back Pain?

West L.A., CA — According to a recently released back pain relief report, most back pain sufferers have no idea how to eliminate their pain. Some use heat, others ice. From sleeping on the floor, to pillows underneath the legs, back pain relief techniques vary. But thanks to a free report, local back pain sufferers finally know exactly what to do. To get a copy of the free "Back Pain Relief Report".

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People & Places

Local restaurateurs toasted for their excellence



Chinois on Main and Valentino were among five nominees for the James Beard Foundation S.Pellegrino Outstanding Restaurant Award. A longtime supporter of the James Beard Foundation, S.Pellegrino launched its James Beard Foundation S.Pellegrino Outstanding Restaurant Award in 1991 to acknowledge restaurants in the U.S. that serve as national standard bearers of consistency in quality and excellence of food, atmosphere and service. The two restaurateurs were recently honored at Casa del Mar,

attended by Valentino owners Piero and Stacy Selvaggio with chef Stephan Samson; co-owners Barbara Lazaroff and Bella Lantsman, representing Wolfgang Puck of Chinois on Main, with executive chefs Luis Diaz and Rene Mata; and joined by colleagues and friends in the culinary community.

Above: (Left to right) Rikki Kliemann, Chief Bratton and Chinois on Main co-owner and general manager, Bella Lantsman. (Photo courtesy)

Right: (Left to right) Los Angeles Police Chief William Bratton and wife, Rikki Kliemann, Valentino executive chef Stephan Samson, and Valentino owners Stacy and Piero Selvaggio. (Photo courtesy)



Longtime cop leaves force

Family, friends, co-workers and several Santa Monica city officials turned out on April 28 at the Doubletree Hotel to celebrate Lt. George Centeno's 27 years with the Santa Monica Police Department.

Lt. Centeno had many experiences in the department. In 1972 he became a Cadet. After being discharged from the United States Air Force in 1976, he later became a police officer in 1977. He was an original member of the Crime Impact Team, a background investigator, sergeant of the Police Activities League, Watch Commander, and graduate of the FBI Academy.

At the luncheon, Pasadena Police Chief Barney Melekian, a former member of the Santa Monica Police Department said, "George cares about what he does. He cares about people. He always looked at the human side of what we deal with."

Lt. Centeno also is an accomplished artist, singer, songwriter and athlete. He is leaving the SMPD to take a new job with a company owned by a former SMPD officer.

For more on the story, check out the Santa Monica Star.



SMPD Chief James T. Butts, Jr. hands over a plaque to SMPD Lt. George Centeno. (Leslie Funo/Special to the Daily Press)

Volunteers honored for their efforts

Meals on Wheels West honored their volunteers at a recognition breakfast this past week hosted by Le Merigot Beach Hotel & Spa in Santa Monica.

The breakfast recognized more than the 300 volunteers who deliver meals to the homebound in the community. Meals on Wheels West is an independent, volunteer driven, non-profit organization providing home-delivered meals to people who cannot provide for themselves, regardless of age. Last fiscal year, Meals on Wheels West delivered 115,000 meals to more than 629 people in Santa Monica, Pacific Palisades, Malibu and Topanga.

Meals on Wheels West is celebrating its 30th anniversary. In 1974, the program started with meals delivered to eight home-bound people.



Seventeen-year volunteer Grant Ramey tries out his new umbrella, given to him by Meals on Wheels West as a token of thanks for his volunteerism. Ramey delivers food to home-bound people on his bike with a cart in tow. (Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press)



(Left to right) Meals on Wheels youngest volunteers: The Driscoll family — Connor, 13; Steven, 8; Ciaron, 11; Grace, 6; and Ava Portman, 8. All of them live in Topanga. (Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press)



Star Trek's Denise Crosby and Married With Children's Ed O'Neill catch up at the Waldorf fundraiser. (Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press)



Gregory Nathanson and Peter Flecchia of Tzali's vineyards, serve up several offerings of Kosher wine during a tasting at the Waldorf School's fundraiser held at the carousel at the Santa Monica Pier last weekend. (Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press)



Actress Donna Mills last week attempts to rally people away from the dessert tent to participate in a live auction to raise money for Waldorf School. (Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press)

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LOCAL



Four people appointed to community college board

CCC, from page 1

Haley has had a long history with SMC, serving as a teacher and counselor from 1964 to 1975, and as an administrator in personnel and government relations from 1975 to her retirement in 1990.

From 1990 to 2001, she ran her own consulting firm, Benita Haley Consultants, focusing primarily on various projects for community colleges throughout the state, including SMC.

From 1981 to 1990, she served on the founding executive board of the California Community College Foundation. For her dedication and service to the foundation, she won an award from the California Community Colleges' Board of Governors.

She also was active in the Association of California Community College Administrators from 1980 to 1990, receiving the Outstanding Administrator award from the organization in 1990.

A Manhattan Beach resident, the 62-year-old received her bachelor's degree in history and teaching at the University of California at Santa Barbara, was awarded a master's degree in educational administration from California State University at Los Angeles, and completed coursework for a doctorate in higher education from the University of Southern California.

Schwarzenegger also appointed Katherine Albani, Lance Izumi and Pauline Larwood to the California Community College Board of Governors.

"Community colleges are an integral part of our state's higher education system, providing affordable access to a quality education to thousands of Californians," Schwarzenegger said. "Each of the individuals I have appointed today shares my commitment to higher education and will work to ensure continued vitality of our state's strong community colleges."

Albani is president of the Los Rios Community College District Board of Trustees, a board she has been a member of since 1996. She also is vice president of the California Community College Trustees Association. Albani is co-owner of Albani Land and Livestock, a family-owned cattle and land business. The Elk Grove Unified School District has named the Kay L. Albani Middle School, slated for completion in 2005, in her honor. She is a graduate of California State University, Sacramento. Albani, 63, is a resident of Elk Grove. She is a Democrat.

Izumi is a senior fellow in California studies and director of education studies at the Pacific Research Institute for Public Policy. He is the author of several major Pacific Research Institute studies and

"Community colleges are an integral part of our state's higher education system, providing affordable access to a quality education to thousands of Californians."

— ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

often speaks on education issues at statewide and national forums. Izumi also has served as a member of the professional development working group of the California Legislature's Joint Committee to develop a master plan for education and as chief speechwriter for Gov. George Deukmejian. He holds a juris doctorate from the University of Southern California Law Center, a master of arts degree from the University of California, Davis and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Los Angeles. Izumi, 45, currently resides in Sacramento. He is a Republican.

Larwood serves on the Kern Community College Board of Trustees and is the owner of Larwood Associates Consulting. She served as a member of the Kern County Board of Supervisors for 12 years and was an adjunct professor at Bakersfield College for five years. Larwood also is a member of the advisory board to the president of California State University, Bakersfield. She holds a life elementary teaching credential, secondary teaching credential, earned a master of arts degree from California State University, Bakersfield and received her bachelor of arts degree from California State University, Fresno. Larwood, 62, is a resident of Bakersfield. She is a Republican.

The positions require Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$100 per diem. The California Community College Board of Governors sets policy and provides guidance for the 72 districts and 107 community colleges in California. The 17-member board is appointed by the governor and selects a chancellor for the system who brings recommendations to the Board. Each community college district also has a locally-elected board of trustees responsible for the operations of their local colleges. The boards also assist in the development and recommendation of policy to the chancellor and board of governors.

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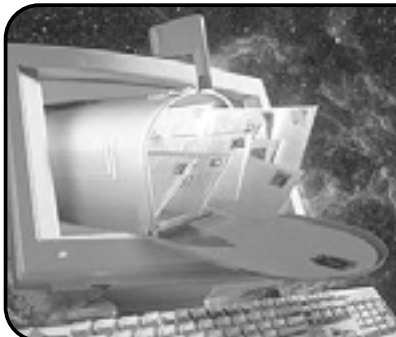


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STATE

Fears rise along with 'hot lab' building boom

BY PAUL ELIAS

AP Biotechnology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — From Boston to Livermore, "hot labs" designed to combat bioterrorism and house the world's deadliest germs are being planned and constructed with a huge cash infusion from the federal government.

Supporters of the unprecedented building boom say the new or expanded high-containment labs — there are at least 18 — are essential to national security in a post-Sept. 11 world.

But as the labs rise on college campuses and government installations across the country, so do concerns about safety and security.

Neighbors fear that some frightening variant of Ebola virus, plague or other deadly disease could be loosed into their backyards, and are filing lawsuits and lobbying politicians to halt construction.

A growing number of scientists complain that the \$6 billion earmarked by Congress for fighting bioterrorism is excessive, is being doled out with little oversight and is detracting from efforts to combat problems that are much more deadly — for example, AIDS and malaria, which are already killing millions of people.

Others worry that the buildup actually threatens national security, by arming more people with the know-how to construct bioweapons, and perhaps even sparking a new biological arms race since two of the hot labs are to be built inside national weapons labs at Livermore and Los Alamos, N.M.

Universities in Boston, Pittsburgh, Texas and elsewhere have already won grants to build labs, some in urban neighborhoods.

In Boston, activists are trying to halt construction of a \$168 million lab at Boston University, to be built in the city's south end. They fear something akin to what health inspectors suspect occurred recently in China: that SARS escaped from a Beijing laboratory and made its way into the Chinese heartland, contributing to the latest eruption of the sometimes fatal disease.

"It doesn't belong there. The health and safety risks outweigh the benefits," said Kyle Loring, an attorney with Roxbury, Mass.-based Alternatives for Community and Environment.

Boston's mayor and Massachusetts' governor are convinced the lab will be well protected, and provide a boost to the local economy. Federal officials insist that no deadly germs have ever escaped from U.S. laboratories, and say the planned facilities will be even more secure than their predecessors.

Following such objections, the Bush administration on Wednesday issued a directive that addressed oversight and coordination.

"Under the president's new national biodefense directive, all of our bioterrorism projects and programs will fall under a coordinated and focused strategic plan that will help maximize our resources, ensure a common unified effort across all federal agencies and address any deficiency that we discover," Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said.

But even some backers of the construction are concerned that the bioweapons defense program, while awash in cash, is lacking in direction and coordination.

"We do need these labs," said Ken Alibek, a former top scientist in the Soviet biological weapons program who defected to the United States in 1992. "But I've never seen any well-defined plan of what exactly we need, how many labs are necessary and what they should be designed to do."

The government agencies and colleges involved defend their projects as necessary to close the gaps in national defense exposed by the anthrax attacks in 2002. They say more sophisticated labs are needed to combat a range of potential bioweapons — exotic diseases, for example, and genetically engineered bugs designed to evade detection and that can't be treated by any existing vaccines.

"We do not have the safe and effective vaccines and drugs we need," said Rona Hirschberg of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, the NIH branch driving much of the lab construction. Hirschberg said creating vaccines, antidotes and rapid diagnostic tools are high national security priorities.

However, no one inside or outside of government is sure exactly how many labs are already working with biological material that could be rendered into deadly weapons if obtained by terrorists. Estimates range in the hundreds, even as biotech companies prepare to compete for a new round of federal biodefense grants.

The departments of defense, health, homeland security and energy, meanwhile, all have separate plans to fund, expand or build hot labs.

"It has gone wild," said Barbara Rosenberg, chairwoman of the Federation of American Scientists, which is working to control the spread of bioweapons. "There's a frenzy to get federal funds to get these built without having any real plan with what to do with them."

Marylia Kelley, who heads Tri-Valley CAREs, a Livermore-area group suing the Department of Energy to stop the lab construction, isn't just concerned about local safety but also about perceptions abroad.

She says "putting a lab like this in a highly secured weapons facility will undoubtedly raise suspicions about its intentions."

But a Livermore lab spokesman said researchers are simply working with small amounts of biological agents to develop better detection technologies.

"We do not in any way, shape or form conduct bioweapons research," Steve Wampler said.

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STATE □ NATIONAL



Diesel pipeline spill fouls marsh

BY TERENCE CHEA
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A pipeline that pumps petroleum from refineries in the San Francisco Bay area ruptured and spilled an estimated 40,000 gallons of diesel fuel into a marsh that serves as a key nesting ground for migratory birds, officials said Thursday.

The spill, which began Tuesday, prompted an emergency cleanup effort at Suisun Marsh, about 30 miles northeast of San Francisco. The accident wasn't expected to affect fuel supplies in California, state officials said.

A worst-case scenario had initially put the damage at 1 million gallons of spilled fuel, said Mark Merchant, a spokesman for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. But state officials later reduced the estimate to about 40,000 gallons.

Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, the Houston firm that owns the pipeline, estimated that 500 to 1,000 barrels, containing 42 gallons of fuel

each, had leaked into the marsh, said spokesman Jerry Engelhardt.

The spill was mostly contained by Thursday and was limited to a diked area of roughly 600 acres, so the fuel couldn't easily escape to the rest of the marsh, officials said.

About 50 workers from state, county and federal agencies were working Thursday to assess the damage and contain the spill, which left a sheen over the top of the water. The U.S. Coast Guard and state Department of Fish and Game were leading the effort.

Several dead animals, mostly ducks, were found at the scene, said Coast Guard spokeswoman Clare Maranda.

The pipeline ruptured at some point on Tuesday. Kinder Morgan workers noticed a drop in pipeline pressure around 6 p.m. Tuesday and immediately shut down a section of the pipeline, Engelhardt said.

Company officials went out to the site of the spill Wednesday morning and then contacted state and federal officials, who arrived at the marsh

that afternoon, he said.

"We're working with all the agencies to get things cleaned up as quickly as possible," Engelhardt said. "We're working as quickly as possible to restore service to the line."

The broken section of the pipeline would be replaced and back in service by Saturday, but it could take several weeks or even months to completely clean up the spill, Engelhardt said.

Kinder Morgan's pipeline transports fuel from Bay Area refineries owned by major oil companies such as Chevron, Shell, British Petroleum and Arco. The ruptured pipeline carries different types of fuel to Sacramento, Chico and Reno, Nev.

The Suisun Marsh area is considered the state's second-largest natural marsh, according to Greg Green, a biologist for Memphis, Tenn.-based Ducks Unlimited, a wetlands conservation group. But it's also a highly managed area, with large sections of the marsh diked off to control the flow of water.

Utah leads in women-owned businesses

BY PAUL FOY
AP Business Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — When Marilyn Tang sought a loan to open a business selling industrial shelving and storage containers, a bank officer told her the idea "sounds wonderful; can your husband co-sign?"

That was in 1967, when Tang was 24 and unmarried. She found the money instead from her parents and a boyfriend, who borrowed against his 1965 Chevy Corvair. But when she signed her first factory orders, she was advised to put down only her first initials to mask her gender.

Times have changed and Tang is

among the pioneers of women business owners, a trend that has put Utah on top of other states. A Wells Fargo Bank study released Wednesday found that since 1997 woman-owned businesses in Utah grew 35 percent to 102,194, twice as fast as the national rate.

Utah was followed by Arizona, Nevada and Idaho. Kentucky and New Mexico tied for 5th place.

"Isn't it wonderful that Utah is No. 1? I think it is a great symbol for our state," said Gov. Olene Walker, a former business owner herself. Walker, flanked by eight women business owners, went to Tang's Certified Handing Systems to celebrate the ranking.

"We can excel. We can own busi-

nesses and we can even be governor," said Walker, a Republican running for a full term after taking over in November from Gov. Mike Leavitt after Leavitt was named head of the U.S. Environmental Protection agency. Walker, 73, was his lieutenant governor.

Women own 51 percent of Utah's businesses, said Kathy Hillis, vice president and manager for Wells Fargo's Women Financial Services. Hillis said the bank was pledging to loan \$20 billion over the next 10 years to women-owned business ventures across the West.

"We think we're going to do \$200,000 in sales this year. We're going for it," she said.

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However, today's leaders promote a revisionist history that has distorted or forgotten America's foundation. In court after court and policy after policy, our religious freedoms are being chipped away.
There is something we can do, though. The annual National Day of Prayer reinforces the constitutionally protected freedom to gather, freedom to worship and freedom to pray. Let's embrace the right to express our faith in the public square on the first Thursday in May. By corporately raising our voices and asking for the Lord's intervention, we can Let Freedom Ring.
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NATIONAL

Washington's capital city looks at effects of rising ocean levels

(Editor's note: This is the second article in a series examining global warming.)

BY ELIZABETH M. GILLESPIE
 Associated Press Writer

OLYMPIA, Wash. — The sea is rising, and the city is sinking.

But so far, while some adjustments are being made, no one here is drawing up plans to build dikes and floodgates to keep the waters of south Puget Sound from turning Olympia's streets into streams.

Public works planners and port officials know oceans have been rising at an average rate of nearly half a foot per century, about the same rate tectonic plate movements have been driving down the land beneath the city.

Scientists project that global warming could cause sea levels to rise as much as 3 feet in some places over the next century, but it could be decades before it's clear just how big a problem it might become.

While a new bridge was built higher and a sewer line is being moved inland, other issues for the most part are taking priority now.

"It's a really difficult thing in a policy context. It obviously doesn't compute well with more pressing things where you have a clear and present crisis to deal with," said Douglas Canning, an environmental planner with the state Department of Ecology.

In Seattle, the closest National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration tide gauge station to Olympia, mean sea level rose about 8 inches from 1890 to 2000. That's about 2 inches above the global average during the 20th century, according to estimates in a 2000 report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The mean sea level hasn't changed much in the past century at Astoria, Ore., where tectonic plates have pushed the land upward. San Francisco and San Diego have seen about the same sea-level rise as Seattle.

The oceans are rising for two main reasons: Water expands as temperatures rise, just as it does when it freezes. And rising temperatures melt land-based ice, which adds water to the ocean.

In general, the West Coast is considered less vulnerable than areas like the Gulf Coast. New Orleans, for example, already must close floodgates to keep low-lying roads and homes from flooding.

Tides along Washington, Oregon and Northern California's coastline can rise and fall by 10 feet or so in a single day. Shorelines are also relatively steep and rocky. That topography often forces coastal development farther inland and higher in elevation, reducing vulnerability.

However, there are vulnerable stretches of coastline: sand spits, river deltas and estuaries, where the confluence of ocean tides and rivers creates a nutrient-rich environment that supports a vast array of plants, marine life, bugs and shorebirds.

Higher sea levels could slowly decimate those sensitive ecosystems, according to John Rybczyk, a Western Washington University professor who's studying how rising sea levels are affecting Padilla and Willapa bays, two of the

largest estuaries in the Pacific Northwest.

"You can't dike them off," Rybczyk said. "They're exposed to the river and the sea. They have to be. They need the nutrients from the water. In a way these systems are the most vulnerable."

In Southern California, researchers at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography fear rising ocean levels could eat away at the wide beaches that define the coastline.

Professor Doug Inman, director of the Center for Coastal Studies at the University of San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography, is working on a computer model factoring in climate-change scenarios that would help planners and policymakers decide how to protect coastal areas.

In Hawaii, concerns about coastal erosion center more on the battering beaches take from huge storms than from the slow rise of the oceans.

"How do you devote the necessary resources dedicated to some event that may happen in the future when you don't even have the resources to deal with all the problems you're facing today?" asked Sam Lemmo, an administrator with Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Mean sea-level rise in Honolulu, the NOAA tide gauge station with the most reliable data, was about half of Seattle's from 1905 to 2000. Elsewhere, data from stations dating back to the middle of the 20th century show rises in sea-level ranging from about 2 inches below the global average to 2 inches above it.

Olympia has been studying the potential effect of rising oceans for years, and figured out that a 4-foot sea-level rise by 2100 would flood the entire port peninsula and much of downtown — low-lying areas built on fill.

Since then, better climate modeling has lowered the likely sea-level-rise scenario by 1 foot. But engineers also figured out that a major flood would likely rise about 1 foot higher west of downtown than previously predicted. That means the assumptions in the city's 1993 report are still valid, said Emmett Dobey, manager of the policy and program development office for the city's Public Works Department.

Since scientists predict warming will increase the frequency and severity of storms and flooding, it's hard to tell if the bigger problem will be rising oceans or overburdened stormwater systems.

The report outlines several options, including diking, adding more fill and pumping from low-lying areas. But the city hasn't committed to any of those remedies, since it's not clear which one — if any — will work best.

"If you dike or use floodgates and it floods behind it, what have you done?" said Alice Soulek, Olympia's capital facilities planning coordinator.

The city has taken some steps to prepare for higher seas. It's applied for new water rights, since saltwater could contaminate the springs that provide 85 percent of the city's drinking water.

When it had to tear down and replace a bridge linking west Olympia and downtown, engineers built it higher, factoring in both rising sea-level projections and the potential for increased flooding.

NATIONAL



Virtual offices grow in popularity across U.S.

BY GREG KRATZ
Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — "Good morning, this is Susan for CSI Leasing. How can I direct your call?"

So says Susan Martin when you call CSI Leasing's direct line in Park City. And she can transfer you to the company's local contact upon request.

Call a different Park City number, and the voice on the other end of the line will say something like, "Good morning, Gateway Office Business Center, this is Susan. How can I direct your call?" Same Susan, different business.

That's because Martin is the front desk manager for Gateway Office Business Center, one of several Utah companies offering "executive suites" and "virtual offices" to everyone from entrepreneurs running startup companies to global corporations looking for a small branch office.

Managers of these operations say demand for their services is growing. And that growth in demand may be a good sign for the economy as a whole.

Bill Grodnik is managing partner of Davinci Suites, which has three Utah locations. He said his company's clients range from one-man operations to Fortune 500 businesses.

"They use it as a sales office, as a Salt Lake office," Grodnik said. "They don't necessarily want to buy furniture and a phone system and hire secretaries at 30 locations across the United States."

"This is a turnkey solution. Phones and (Internet) connections and a receptionist are provided. Everything is included in an executive suite."

"Everything" means this: For \$600 to \$800 per month, someone renting from Davinci gets an office, use of conference and training rooms, phone service, high-speed Internet access, mail and package service, a "business identity sign" in the lobby and on the suite, a professional receptionist and message center, utilities and janitorial services.

If that's more than a company needs, a client can opt for a "virtual office" package. For about \$175 per month, a Davinci virtual office client gets the phone answering serv-

ice and voice mail and a "prestigious" mailing address. Grodnik said the phone system is especially slick. Davinci owns more than 1,000 phone numbers. When someone calls a number that belongs to a Davinci client, a computer screen shows who the caller is looking for, how the phone should be answered and where calls should be transferred.

Brad Libin, managing partner of Signature Golf Ads, a startup company that sells signage and ads for golf carts, said that kind of service helped sell him on Davinci.

"I have two corporate partners, and we're on the road traveling all the time, so we don't really have a need for an office at all times," Libin said.

"As our business grows, we'll grow from a virtual office into an office suite in the next three to six months. In the meantime, this allows us to have our own phone number, and it's not a cell number ... We have a prestigious mailing address. And we picked up an option where they forward phone calls and take messages for us. It gives us a very professional-looking operation right up front without all the overhead costs."

Frank Cottle, chairman of Alliance Business Centers, based in Orange County, Calif., said the executive suites industry has been around since the early 1970s, but it now is outgrowing the commercial office industry by "a meaningful factor." The Alliance group, a network organization of 460 independent business centers operating in 32 countries, is adding two to three members a week.

"Large corporations, as well as smaller companies, are ... looking at us as a way of officing permanently as opposed to using us tactically as they had in years past, to solve short-term problems," Cottle said.

That's because firms can expand and contract their operations from month to month based on their needs, he said. "We really are the just-in-time structure for commercial real estate, and that's becoming a greater and greater part of everyone's thinking."

Cottle said the shorter lease terms and faster

response times of the executive suites industry also remain important.

"We're in an economy right now that is growing, but a lot of our growth in the economy has not been employee-driven," he said. "What that means to us is a lot of times a large corporation ... will come in and establish a new branch office experimentally with us in advance of opening a full branch office."

"A lot of times we're the bellwether to what's going to be happening in conventional commercial office space in the near future."

Shauna Juliano, general manager of Avanti Executive Suites at the Wells Fargo Center in downtown Salt Lake City, said business has been picking up for her, too. In addition to 111 offices on two floors at the Wells Fargo Center, Avanti has 53 offices on one floor at the Woodlands Business Center.

"We actually have seen a huge increase since December 2003, which is kind of unprecedented, because it's typically our slowest time of the year," she said. "I was surprised at how busy we've been ... The executive suite industry has kind of been an indicator of how the real estate industry is doing. We get hit first when it's going down, but we fill up first when it's looking back up."



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NATIONAL

Former N.M. governor is enjoying life as ski bum

BY LESLIE LINTHICUM
Associated Press Staff Writer

TAOS, N.M. — That guy roaring up the mountain in the giant Ford F-350 crew cab looks more than a little familiar.

Worn Levis. High-dollar, high-tech, moisture-wicking pullover. Saffron-tinted Oakley shades. Ten percent body fat. It's got to be either your run-of-the-mill trust-funder Taos ski bum or former New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson.

Or both.

Johnson, the exercise-obsessed, libertarian-leaning Republican who left the governor's mansion a little more than a year ago, has taken up residence with his wife, Dee, in a three-story, six-bedroom house on the ski slopes here, high above the trees and way below the radar.

Gone are the suits and ties and the crew cut befitting a tightwad conservative who slashed jobs and reined in government spending. He's now wearing ski pants, bike shorts or a Speedo. And he's now got a mop of long, curly hair.

Johnson is living the life he has fantasized about since he was 18: a house in Taos, a pocketful of money and nothing to do but ski all day, every day.

Johnson popped into politics 10 years ago as the rich but unknown owner of an Albuquerque construction company. He came into office as a wide-eyed contrarian bent on applying to state government the same principles that had helped him build his millions.

Nicknamed "Puff Daddy" by the nation's drug czar, he appeared on "60 Minutes," "Face the Nation" and "Politically Incorrect with Bill Maher" along with just about every other news show. He was featured in the pages of Playboy, Cannabis Culture and High Times.

Even though he is resolutely out of politics, Johnson still works on the drug issue. He founded a nonprofit organization, Americans Against the War on Drugs, and travels occasionally to make

speeches or lobby on the issue.

Mostly, though, the Johnsons have holed up in their Taos house this winter. Funding for this fantasy life is provided by the proceeds of the sale of the construction business, Big J.

It's a charmed place to be wealthy enough at 51 to never have to work again and with some major accomplishments like being governor and climbing Mount Everest behind you. It's also a little like standing on the edge of a cliff without the option of going backward.

If you're Johnson, sitting still and soaking it up are not an option.

Goal-oriented to an oddball degree, Johnson is setting his sights on becoming the world triathlon champion in his age group. It means he's training to be able to run a marathon, bicycle 112 miles and swim 2.4 miles in 10 hours.

He's up at about 6 a.m. Then it's into town for 70 minutes of laps at the Don Fernando Municipal Pool. By the time Johnson is back up the mountain and sits down for a breakfast at 8:30, he has swum two miles and ingested 960 calories.

Then it's time to strap on a heart monitor and skis. He's on the chair by 9 and started on a day of skiing, a three-mile hike to Kachina Peak and more skiing. On a good day, he completes five circuits before 4 p.m.

Being a super-athlete has always been at odds with advocating loosening drug laws, but it was sports where Johnson first encountered pot. He smoked his first joint with fellow jocks the summer between junior and senior years in high school.

"Guess what, you can smoke it and there's no side effects, no down side, no hangover," Johnson found.

He cut back from regular pot smoking shortly after he graduated from college.

"I didn't quit, but I quit smoking regularly then," Johnson said. "I smoked it off and on for a couple of years. My last was at least two years before I ran for governor."

Measure "S" Senior Exemption from Parcel Tax

On June 3, 2003, the voters of Santa Monica and Malibu approved Measure S, a 6-year parcel tax at \$225 per parcel which contains a provision to exempt senior citizens who:

- Are 65 years old by June 30
- Own & occupy their property as their primary residence
- Annually apply for exemption.

Seniors who applied for & received the exemption for 2003-04 will be sent a 2004-05 renewal form in May, which needs to be completed, signed & returned by July 31, 2004.

First-time applicants may:

- Call (310) 450-8338, ext. 269 to request an application to be sent in May
- Print out the application from our website at: smmud.org (Click Senior Exemption, then Application for Senior Exemption)

Completed & signed applications must be returned, along with required proofs of age & property ownership, to: Santa Monica-Malibu USD, 1651 16th St./Santa Monica, CA 90404-3891, ATTN: Dawn. Applications must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 31, 2004.

NATIONAL



Border Patrol to partner with crime hotline to track down smugglers

BY ARTHUR H. ROTSTEIN
Associated Press Writer

TUCSON, Ariz. — The Border Patrol and a local crime hotline are joining forces to seek the public's help in tracking down smugglers bringing people or drugs into the country.

Officials said Thursday they hope to receive information on so-called drop houses, which are used to store drugs or harbor illegal immigrants while they are being transported cross-country.

They also said they hope calls to the Tucson area's 88-CRIME tip line will help reduce the number of migrant deaths in the Arizona desert, a popular entry point for illegal immigrants.

"We've found that many of the illegal immigrants are being held in stash houses against their will, and we don't want that to happen," said Gary Dhaemers, executive director of 88-CRIME, which has been operating for more than two decades as a tip service for local law enforcement agencies.

Immigration-related information will be turned over to the Border Patrol and its sister agency, Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

"We're not looking for people calling in saying there's illegal aliens walking down the road or driving down the road," said John Fitzpatrick, acting assistant chief patrol agent in the Border Patrol's Tucson sector. "We're looking for people who have some kind of institutional knowl-

edge, maybe of an organization, or just suspicious activity in a neighborhood."

The sector, which covers all the Arizona-Mexico border except for an area around Yuma, is the nation's busiest region for immigrant smuggling.

Dhaemers said a desire to prevent desert deaths spurred the linkup with the Border Patrol.

"We do not want to see anyone's human rights abused. And if we have information that can save some of these illegal immigrants from the desert or from the people that are using them as cargo to make money, then we believe that it's a good cause."

Fitzpatrick called the agency's teaming with 88-CRIME a crucial partnership at a crucial time when authorities are trying to disrupt immigrant smuggling organizations in southern Arizona.

Dale Brown, assistant special agent in charge of the Tucson office of ICE, said the more people who take a few moments to call 88-CRIME, the safer the community will be. "This is a community problem. They need the eyes and ears of people who are out there, who may know something."

Dhaemers said about one in 100 callers receives a reward, some ranging up to \$1,000. Since Jan. 1, 88-CRIME has received about 50 tips passed on to the Border Patrol, he said.

The organization averages about 1,500 calls a month, mostly to report traditional criminal activity.

Crackdown forcing some smugglers to avoid Phoenix

BY JACQUES BILLEAUD
Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — A crackdown on migrant smuggling has forced some smugglers to avoid Phoenix and instead move into other communities that in the past didn't serve as stopover points for illegal immigrants, an immigration official said this week.

Pressure from authorities over the last seven months made business harder for smugglers and reduced related violence in Phoenix, a hub for transporting immigrants to other parts of the country.

But the heat also prompted some smugglers to establish stopover points in Tucson and other communities and find other cities where they can put illegal immigrants on planes, said Patricia Schmidt, acting special agent in charge of Immigration and Customs Enforcement's office in Phoenix.

"We are causing them to have to adjust their methods of operation," Schmidt said in an interview with The Associated Press.

The crackdown that led to 189 smuggling-related arrests will continue in Phoenix and be expanded to Tucson and Yuma, Schmidt said.

As tighter border enforcement in Arizona is expected to send illegal immigrants to other areas, the government also wants to use the same approach in Los Angeles, San

Diego and El Paso, Schmidt said.

Arizona became the busiest illegal entry point along the 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border in recent years after tightened patrols in California and Texas pushed more illegal immigrants toward the state.

It's impossible to estimate how many illegal immigrants slip into the United States. But Arizona ranked first among the four border states in apprehensions of illegal immigrants, with 403,000 last year.

Phoenix, which is 180 miles from the border, works well as a distribution point for immigrant smugglers.

The nation's sixth-largest city's rapid growth makes it easier for smuggling operations to blend into neighborhoods. It has plenty of highways to move people around and an airport that, until a recent crackdown, helped send immigrants to jobs in other regions.

While many smugglers still use Phoenix as a stopover point, their clients are now relying on airports in other major cities, such as Los Angeles, to bring them to their final destinations, Schmidt said.

The federal government will continue to fund the crackdown because it recognizes that Arizona is key to stemming illegal immigration, Schmidt said.

Schmidt said federal authorities hope to continue making smugglers rethink how they do business.

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NATIONAL

Campaigns shadow each other, but Bush has more resources

BY TOM RAUM
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — When Democrat John Kerry visits a battleground state, he's far from alone.

It's a sure bet that supporters and surrogates of President Bush are already there and ready to talk in public in an effort to steal, or at least divert, the spotlight.

Ahead of Kerry's visit Thursday to Harrisburg, Pa., for instance, state GOP Chairman Alan Novak told residents of central Pennsylvania "to be on the lookout for a flip-flopping presidential candidate from Massachusetts."

It's a political technique known as bracketing. Both parties do it, but the Bush-Cheney team has far more resources at its command — more than \$185 million raised for the campaign and the power of incumbency. Recent Democratic fund-raising has started to narrow the gap; but the Republicans still hold a big dollar advantage.

Prominent Republicans are dispatched to appear before and after appearances by the Massachusetts senator. The GOP circulates talking points. Conference calls are arranged with members of Congress and local officials on the day of Kerry's visit. Campaign ads are unveiled. Senior administration and campaign officials suddenly become available for local media interviews. Cabinet members drop in for visits.

"It's critical that we set the record straight before, during and after Senator Kerry visits a state," said Jennifer Millerwise, who oversees the Bush-Cheney campaign's outreach to local and regional media.

The campaign has divided the nation into five regions and has a spokesman for each region in its bustling Arlington, Va., headquarters.

Mark Komblau, Millerwise's counterpart in the Kerry campaign, concedes that the Bush campaign has a financial advantage.

"But we have great support networks all around the country of local elected officials who have led in their communities. They'll go out and talk about differences between John Kerry and George Bush on a particular issue," Komblau said. "These are mainly labor intensive things, where hopefully we have an advantage."

For instance, he said, when Bush went to Appleton, Wis., recently to speak about the economy, local Democratic officials — including Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton — were on hand to talk about job losses under Bush's watch. Some 1.8 million jobs have evaporated in the last three years.

"Appleton, coincidentally, is the home of Harry Houdini," Lawton told reporters covering Bush's speech. "We're wondering where the jobs disappeared to."

Former Clinton administration officials are also pressed into service.

Still, the Kerry campaign's efforts pale alongside the Bush campaign juggernaut, say veteran political observers.

"The Bush campaign is as good as it gets in this regard," said Stephen Hess, a scholar at the Brookings Institution who worked in several Republican administrations.

When Bush campaign officials learned Kerry was to give a speech in hotly con-

"Appleton, coincidentally, is the home of Harry Houdini. We're wondering where the jobs disappeared to."

— BARBARA LAWTON
Lt. Gov.

tested West Virginia — a state with a high proportion of military veterans — they turned out an ad within 24 hours questioning Kerry's support for U.S. troops. Volunteers also were dispatched to distribute pro-Bush material.

The Bush campaign gave West Virginia reporters the first preview of the TV ad — on the day of Kerry's visit — and began running it in West Virginia.

The next day, the ad aired in 17 other states and on national cable networks.

"We had two days where Kerry had to deal with our message instead of his own," said campaign spokeswoman Nicolle Devenish.

In the week before Kerry's speech on the economy in Cincinnati, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson and Treasury Secretary John Snow all visited Ohio in their "official" capacities.

Ridge announced a grant in Cleveland, Thompson held a town-hall meeting on diabetes in Cincinnati, and Snow visited workers in the same city, declaring "the economy's stronger."

Bruce Buchanan, a University of Texas political scientist and longtime Bush watcher, said the Bush campaign's tactics began as an attempt to neutralize "Kerry's use of the daily headlines to frame his attacks on the president."

"They are recognizing that they're in a fight, and using rapid response technology," Buchanan said.

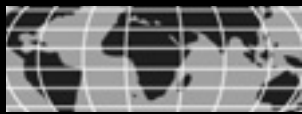
Campaign officials actively reach out to local and regional media.

When they spotted remarks by Kerry on oil in an interview with the Los Angeles Times, the comments were quickly passed to Bush surrogates in Louisiana and Arkansas, both oil states.

"That black stuff is hurting us," Kerry was quoted as saying, noting links between the burning of fossil fuels and global warming and respiratory diseases.

Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, a leader of the Bush-Cheney campaign in Arkansas, issued a news release accusing Kerry of being "anti-job, anti-oil." Local media picked up the remarks.

"Here's the governor of Arkansas talking about how Kerry's one statement on oil will hurt south Arkansas," said Ark Monroe III of Little Rock, Ark., a former state insurance commissioner and friend of Bill Clinton. "Now, that's effective. It does energize the base and say this guy really can't be trusted. That to me is how thorough they are."



WORLD BRIEFLY

Razor wire rolled up at Fallujah entrance

By The Associated Press

FALLUJAH, Iraq — U.S. troops began clearing rolls of razor wire from the main entrance to Fallujah on Friday, as U.S. commanders met with local representatives to work out details of a deal aimed at lifting the monthlong siege of the city.

The agreement would lead to the creation of a local force of some 1,100 members called the Fallujah Protective Army that would patrol the city under the command of an Iraqi general from Saddam Hussein's military. U.S. Marines would pull out of the city.

A Marine officer in Iraq said Thursday that a deal was reached in principle but "fine points" needed to be fixed. U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, however, said there was no deal yet and officials were "still working on it."

The commander of the proposed force met with tribal leaders in a mosque on Friday morning. He wore his uniform from the former Iraqi military with his general's insignia.

Capt. Ziad Khalas of the Iraqi security forces identified the proposed commander as Maj. Gen. Jassim Mohammed Saleh, a veteran of Saddam's Republican Guard.

Sharon gives warnings

By The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — A beleaguered Prime Minister Ariel Sharon warned Likud Party members that they may vote themselves out of power if they reject his Gaza pull-out plan, as new polls showed his gamble to seek their approval for the proposal may backfire.

Sharon stopped short of saying he will resign if he loses, but said Thursday he considered the referen-

dum a vote of confidence in him. He portrayed his opponents in Likud as extremists who used "lies, obscene language and deceitful propaganda" in their campaign against his plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank.

Polls showed a dramatic reversal among the 193,000 eligible Likud voters just three days before a referendum on the plan set for Sunday. In recent weeks, supporters had maintained an edge of several percentage points, but polls published Thursday and Friday indicated a clear advantage for the opponents.

The referendum will be the first-ever vote in Israel on whether to give up land captured in the 1967 Mideast War, an issue that has divided the nation for years. Under the plan, Sharon would withdraw troops and 7,500 settlers in the Gaza Strip and evacuate four small settlements in the West Bank.

Palestinians suspect Sharon is giving up Gaza to tighten his hold on much of the West Bank. Critics in Israel believe he proposed the plan in part to deflect attention from two corruption probes against him.

Automotive studies is big bucks for scholarships

By The Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — One of the richest scholarships in North America for high school students isn't for physics or calculus, but for starting a dead sedan.

The National Automotive Technology Competition sponsored by auto makers and tool companies earlier this month offered \$3 million in prizes. It's one of the ways industries encourage vocational education at a time when states and the nation are emphasizing math, languages and sciences.

As academic standards rise, some fear a decline in the vocational edu-

cation that for decades has produced the nation's entry-level craftsmen.

Matt Bushnell and Todd Clark, both from Albany suburbs, beat nearly 40 teams from as far away as Los Angeles and Toronto in the two-day competition in New York City. The test was to find as many bugs as they could in a modern car with 36 or more onboard computers — more than the Apollo lunar module.

They walked away with full scholarships to two-year automotive colleges, new cars upon graduation and thousands of dollars worth of tools. The prize also included \$35,000 in tools and equipment and a 2004 Toyota Camry to work on in class for their school, the Capital Region Career & Technical School of the Capital Region BOCES.

Utah ready to break away

By The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — The mountain basin that cradles this town is due for a whopping earthquake, the kind that's reliably on time and can topple buildings in a heartbeat.

With their borrowed time, Utah lawmakers are shoring up the marble Capitol building against the inevitable. But they can't soon afford to brace another known deathtrap: the University of Utah's main library.

In a quake of magnitude 5.0 or greater, the building is expected to "pancake" on itself. "That's why at night I study at the law library," said Dwayne Madry, 23, an undergraduate history and chemistry student.

Officials say two out of every three buildings here are considered unsafe — even from moderate shaking.

Geologists for years have warned that the basin is due for a powerful jolt, one that returns with fair regularity about every 1,300 years.



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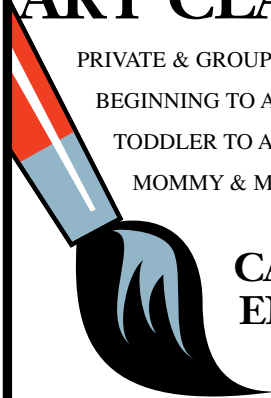
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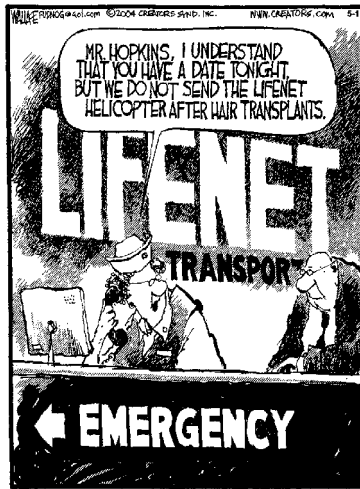
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The Dinette Set



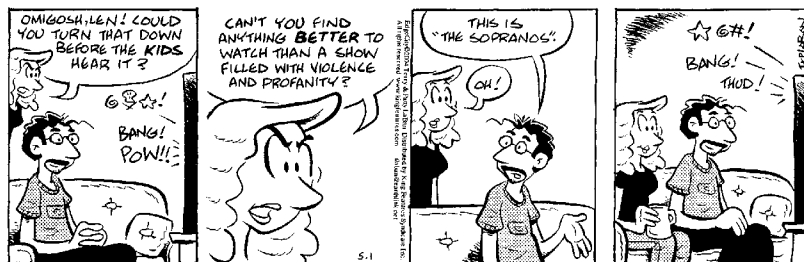
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By THOMAS JOSEPH

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- 1 Crawl, perhaps
- 5 Frog comment
- 10 Asian capital
- 12 Rashness
- 13 Bad lighting?
- 14 Chilled
- 15 To opposer
- 16 It comes to those who wait
- 18 Guitarist Wood
- 19 Rat out
- 21 Radiator sound
- 22 Good student's place
- 24 Ore yield
- 25 Words under Washington
- 29 Prepare for a fight
- 30 Scamp
- 32 Charter
- 33 Mouse alert
- 34 Casual day no-no
- 35 Busy
- 37 Omit phonetically
- 39 Rivera work

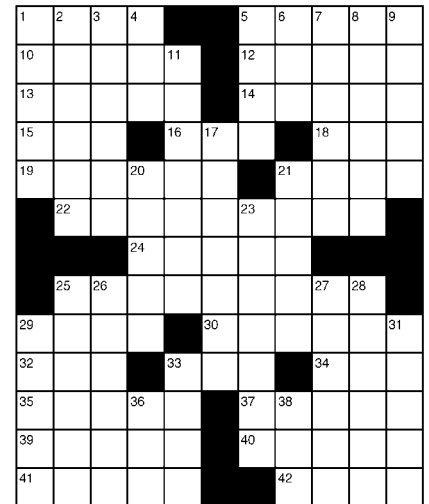
DOWN

- 1 Miner's place
- 2 Crossed swords
- 3 Shoe part
- 4 Pasture call
- 5 Pork serving
- 6 Bled
- 7 God of the dead
- 8 Without markup
- 9 Wails
- 11 Chanted
- 17 Due
- 20 Debussy work
- 21 Rolling landscape
- 23 Magic, for years
- 25 Police order
- 26 Tempera-ment
- 27 Busy
- 28 Stole from
- 29 Loses weight
- 31 Lewd looks
- 33 Long swimmers
- 36 Shop tool
- 38 High hit



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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Iraqi prisoner Jessica Lynch meets up with her savior

By The Associated Press

■ **HUNTINGTON, W.Va.** — Former Iraq prisoner of war Jessica Lynch has met the lawyer who provided information that led to her rescue last year.

The meeting with Mohammed Odeh al-Rehaief took place on April 7 in Washington, where Lynch was speaking at a seminar. Al-Rehaief's wife, Iman, and daughter accompanied him to the meeting, which lasted about an hour, Lynch's lawyer, Stephen Goodwin, said Friday.

"It went very well. As Jessi has always indicated, she wanted it to be a private meeting," he said.

Al-Rehaief visited Wirt County last October, but Lynch said her schedule prevented her from meeting with him then. "I think everybody was finally glad it took place," Goodwin said.

Lynch was captured March 23, 2003, after her 507th Maintenance Company convoy was ambushed in the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah. The Army supply clerk was rescued nine days later after al-Rehaief alerted U.S. forces and mapped out the hospital where she was being held. A bomb blast as he fled left him blind in his left eye.

The videotaped rescue made Lynch one of the most recognizable personalities of the war.

"It was a wonderful meeting and I can never control my emotion," al-Rehaief told the Herald-Dispatch of Huntington in Friday's edition. He was in Huntington for a Saturday book signing.

"She tell me 'thank you,' and she say, 'Thank you very much for what you have done,'" he said. "We feel like it will be a very nice friendship between us in the future. We hope to meet again."

Goodwin said the two may meet again, but no date has been set.

Al-Rehaief recounted his role in Lynch's rescue in the book "Because Each Life Is Precious."

■ **LOS ANGELES** — A jury has awarded \$57,500

to a public relations firm that sued Mexican pop star Paulina Rubio for not performing at the 2003 Los Angeles Auto Show.

The Superior Court jury found that Rubio and manager Ricardo Cordero breached a contract with Pacific Communications Group, which sought more than \$1 million in damages. Judge Malcolm Mackey threw out claims for punitive damages.

Rubio, 33, wasn't in court Thursday when the jury's verdict was read. She had testified earlier in the trial.

A complaint filed in April 2003 claimed Rubio had failed to appear in a planned 20-minute performance for the news media at the unveiling of a new Mercedes-Benz model.

Rubio's lawyers contended she never signed a contract to attend. Lawyers for Pacific Communications maintained that e-mailed and oral agreements with her managers were enough to confirm her appearance.

Cordero had told Pacific Communications that Rubio couldn't attend the event because she was sick. Rubio later said she had been vacationing in Acapulco, Mexico.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Evan Rachel Wood, Reba McEntire and Peter Krause were honored at the eighth annual Prism Awards, presented for accurate portrayals of drug, alcohol and tobacco use within entertainment programming.

The awards were presented Thursday night at the Hollywood Palladium by the Entertainment Industries Council Inc. in partnership with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the National Institute on Drug Abuse/National Institutes of Health.

The winner of the top prize for theatrical feature film was Fernando Meirelles' "City of God."

Wood was recognized for her performance as an out-of-control teenager in the 2003 film "thirteen." McEntire won for performance in a comedy series ("Reba"), and Krause won for performance in a drama

series multi-episode story line ("Six Feet Under").

Thora Birch and Kelly Lynch won for performance in a TV movie or miniseries for "Homeless to Harvard: The Liz Murray Story."

"On Thin Ice," starring Diane Keaton, won for TV movie or miniseries, and the music video award was shared by Johnny Cash's "Hurt" and Metallica's "Frantic."

■ **NEW YORK** — Menudo, the popular Puerto Rican teen pop band of the '70s and '80s, is being revived.

Menudo Entertainment bought all the merchandising and property rights about a month ago from Latin record executive Oscar Lloyd, and is working with talent agencies and radio stations in its search for band members, company spokeswoman Cathy Callegari said Wednesday.

"Our aim is to target the 'tween market," Callegari told The Associated Press. "We feel there's a void there. What happens is, artists start young like Britney Spears and they get old really quick and move into a new age of fans."

Auditions for boys ages 10 to 16 are planned for this summer in the United States and Latin America. Plans are for finalists to be nationally televised and judged by a celebrity panel with worldwide viewer voting.

Five band members and two alternates will be selected. Callegari said the new group will eventually record an album in both English and Spanish, but the boys don't need to be bilingual.

Menudo was formed in 1977. The boys were booted when they turned 16, and the group had about 30 members, including Ricky Martin.

Some of the former members have been notified of plans for the new group, Callegari said.

"We haven't put our panel of judges together yet but certainly it's one of our objectives to have former members involved. We'd sure love to have Ricky Martin," she said.

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