

FREE

MONDAY, MAY 3, 2004

Volume 3, Issue 148

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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2nd Place: 09 WINNING SPIRIT

3rd Place: 03 HOT SHOT

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ From a February "Ask Dr. (Peter) Gott" column in the Herald News of suburban Chicago: Reader: "(My) grandson ... told me that his fifth-grade teacher (a female) instructed the class that hand-washing (following urination in a public restroom) is unnecessary; urine is sterile." Dr. Gott: "Bless your grandson's teacher." "As a general rule, the urogenital area is cleaner than most other body parts are, and it need not be washed nor should hands be washed after urinating." "You and I, reader, are the products of our upbringing. It's time to make a change."



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"A young doctor means a new graveyard."

— German Proverb



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Uncertainty hangs over 'stepchild' school

Superintendent denies allegations of closing troubled school

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

OLYMPIC HIGH — Despite assurances from the school district's top official that it's business as usual at Olympic High School, students and staff here fear the continuation school will close.

But it will be far from business as usual after June 30, when the school's principal, Dr. Suzanne Toyryla, will leave her post after seven years. She was "reassigned" by the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School Board in March — two months after she confronted Superintendent John Deasy in a public meeting over the future of Olympic.

Toyryla said she wasn't told why she was reassigned and doesn't know where she'll go yet. But she and her staffers say the reassignment is nothing more than a political term for being fired.

"What the heck does 'reassign'

mean when no one talks to you and you are relieved of your position?" she said.

Toyryla last month spoke candidly about her recent turmoil while she organized her office to prepare for her departure. Her comments in the past four months have put Deasy on the defensive. He wouldn't comment to the Daily Press on any discussions he's had with Toyryla or with the school board. He says it's a personnel matter and it can't be aired in public because state law prevents him. What's more, he believes it's unprofessional and inappropriate to discuss the issue in the press.

"I'm not going to debate Sue in the newspaper," Deasy said. He declined to answer several questions about why Toyryla was relieved of her job at Olympic and chose not to respond to many allegations levied by Toyryla and her staff about the future of the school. But he did say that Toyryla was not reassigned because of the allegations she levied at the school board meeting.

See OLYMPIC, page 7



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Olympic High School Principal Dr. Suzanne Toyryla says she was fired after she publicly criticized the school district's plan to close the school. Administrators say the school will remain open, but a new principal will be named by July 1.

Dirty Hands



John Wood/Daily Press

Artist Peter Melville, 48, at the annual Santa Monica Festival on Saturday hangs 'Dirty Hands,' an environmental awareness project he oversaw with students at Franklin Elementary School. The festival attracted hundreds to Clover Park.



Community profiles is a weekly series that appears each Monday and delves into the people who live, work and play in Santa Monica.



CITY HALL: DOLLARS & SENSE

A month-long series examining the Santa Monica City Hall finances

Miriam Mack: Protecting Santa Monica's properties

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Santa Monica's City Hall controls some of the most prominent real estate in Southern California, and managing those holdings is no easy task.

The Santa Monica Pier, Third Street Promenade, Main Street, Montana Avenue — all are overseen by Miriam Mack, the city's new economic development manager.

Mack, 54, came to City

Hall last month from Culver City. Her career started in 1973, when she first interned at the city manager's office in Ventura.

"At that time, apparently it was a big deal that I was a woman," Mack said. "They made a big deal about the first woman in the city manager's office ...

"I think there can be nothing more fun than working with the city government, because I

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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)
★★★★ Others run with the ball. Go with the trends rather than reject what is going on. Defer, defer and then defer again. A talk late in the afternoon could clue you in to another's thought process. You make points through active talks. Tonight: Mellow out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ By focusing on work, you gain a sense of ease and relaxation. You might not be able to achieve everything you want, but you certainly succeed in most areas. Be sure of the funds you are spending. Don't spend what you cannot afford. Tonight: Others run with the ball.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Your high energy allows greater creativity and playfulness. Pace yourself with ease. Make appropriate professional choices. Dig into work later in the day. You'll accomplish a lot in very little time. Tonight: Hang in at work as late as you need to.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Home in on a personal matter that might be preoccupying you. You need facts, and only facts. Avoid revengeful behavior or expressing yourself harshly. You might be likely to say the wrong thing at the wrong time. Tonight: Let go of work. Get into a pastime you enjoy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You build a stronger friendship or work-related tie. Think about what you want from the here and now, as opposed to long-term goals and desires. You might want to let others run with the ball rather than argue your "rightness." Tonight: Center at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Your finances need a strong review. A boss might take an inordinately strong stand, which could force your hand. Recognize when you need to pull yourself and your energy together. Discussions in the p.m. prove to be more successful than in the recent past. Tonight: Catch up on others' news.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Resist revealing everything you know before you're ready. Intellectualizing might be nice but not particularly beneficial. Taking the high road to success doesn't mean detaching completely. Listen and share more moneymaking tips. Tonight: Gather your bills together.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Hold back and don't put your cards on the table until you feel like it. Pressure from another source could take you to new turf. Laugh and enjoy yourself in the late afternoon, even if you are working. Work and play are not mutually exclusive. Tonight: As you like it, for a change.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Emphasize the daylight hours, when others seek you out. Apparently, you'll find common ground. Meetings, a congenial workplace and conversations draw the kind of interactions you want. Still, you might want and/or need some time alone. Tonight: Vanish if you can.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Your ability to oil the cogs in the office machinery allows greater energy and enthusiasm. You have what it takes to lead others. Emphasize success and working as a team. A meeting could run late. Tonight: Take talks out of the office and into a favorite restaurant.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Sit down and return calls first thing this morning. What appears to be a problem might not be with some review and questioning. You opt to take a stand and express your creative and dynamic ideas. Tonight: Others finally listen.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Deal with an associate on a one-on-one level before you make a major decision. Others share a lot of information, which you might need to digest. Home and personal matters come forward. Detach a bit in order to find answers. Tonight: Think and respond, but don't react.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Local player scores scholarship

By Daily Press staff

One local athlete will be taking his playing to another level. The College of the Sequoias announced this week that two more of its men's basketball team members have accepted scholarships to NCAA institutions. Santa Monican Jon Folonis will play at Cal State Los Angeles, while teammate Robert Powell will play at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla. Folonis, a 6'8" forward, averaged nine points and five rebounds in the Giants' balanced attack and was instrumental in the team's state playoff run. He scored 14 points in the team's 88-65 victory over San Francisco City College and 15 in an overtime victory versus Yuba College three days later, which catapulted the team to the state Final Four. Folonis will join a Golden Eagles' team that is coming off a 9-18 season but competed in the NCAA Division II national tournament as recently as the 1999-2000 season. A 5'10" guard from Palo Alto, Powell was named first team all-CVC and led COS in scoring at 15.5 points per contest. The sophomore helped propel the Giants to a 13-0 non-conference record and an overall mark of 28-3 and was named tournament MVP at the Bakersfield Classic, the COS Holiday Inn Invitational, and the DVC Classic as well as to the all-tournament team at the Modesto Invitational.

TLC honored

By Daily Press staff

West Los Angeles resident Joy Munn and Bel Air resident Phyllis McCray were recently honored at Orthopaedic Hospital for their volunteer service on behalf of pediatric patients with crippling disorders. Both have made a significant contribution to local communities. After receiving care and life-changing advice from Orthopaedic Hospital, Munn made it her life's mission to give back to the institution that took care of her as a child. Munn has spent more than 9,750 hours volunteering her time at Orthopaedic Hospital, which amounts to approximately 1,219 eight-hour workdays of charity service. At 79 years old, she plans to continue volunteering for as long as she possibly can. McCray has volunteered at Orthopaedic Hospital for more than 32 years. And her daughter and granddaughter have followed in her footsteps by also volunteering at the hospital. McCray currently pledges her time as a buyer in the hospital's gift shop and is a member of the Los Angeles Orthopaedic Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees. Her daughter assists in special education classes. And moving into the third generation, McCray's 15-year-old granddaughter also is involved in community service. Munn and McCray were recently honored for their volunteer service at Orthopaedic Hospital's Volunteer Recognition Awards Luncheon.



Phyllis McCray and Mary F. Schmitz, Ph.D.



Joy Munn and Dr. Schmitz



On Monday look for a mix of building SSW swell and increased NW swell. Look for northern spots to build into the waist-shoulder high range, with some occasional bigger sets at standout S/combo breaks. Look for the surf to slowly be backing down on Tuesday although we'll still see plenty of fin waves in the 3-4' range at the good S/combo breaks and head high+ and bigger waves at standout spots. Look for a trend of slowly decreasing SSW and NW swells to continue on Wednesday and through the second half of the week.

Today the water is:

60°

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	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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The QLine

The Santa Monica City Council is considering raising the bed tax on hotel users. The tax hike would have to be voted on by Santa Monica citizens this November. Santa Monica's bed tax is lower than in many surrounding cities, and some think keeping it low will allow Santa Monica to remain competitive. Others think if it's raised slightly, it will bring in needed revenue and that money can be

used to fund local schools. So, this week, Q-line wants know, "Will you support a bed tax increase? Why or why not?" Call (310) 285-8106 with your responses before Friday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in the weekend edition. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.



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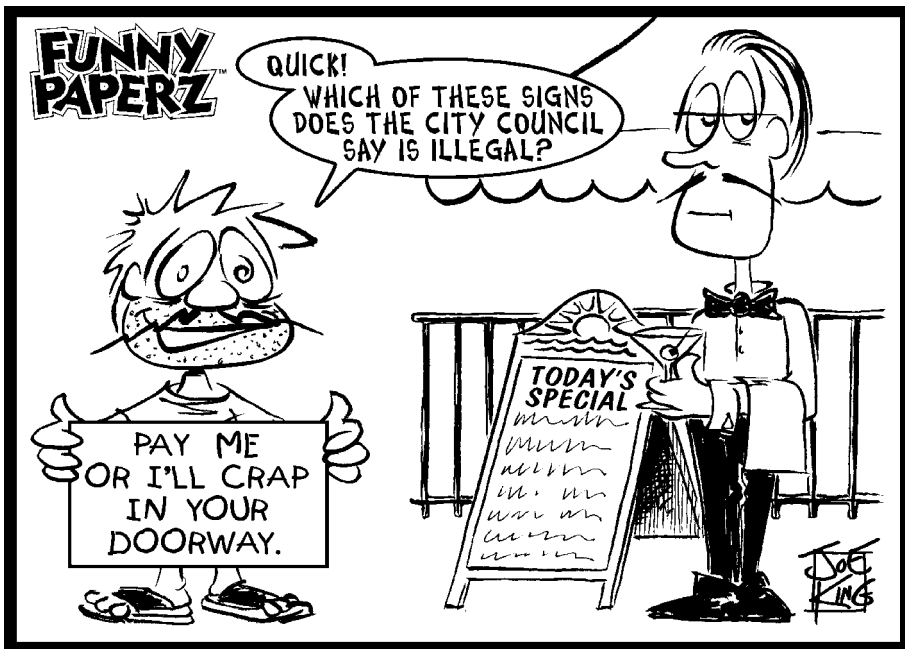
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OPINION

LETTERS



Member: AAEC, NCS, SCCS

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Smoking banned on sidewalks?

Editor:

Now that Santa Monica's beach and pier smoking ban is "a done deal," as you reported last week, it's time to go after smoking on the city's sidewalks. It makes little sense that drinking alcohol there is punished while smoking there is not. Exposure to sidewalk smoking probably causes bodily health harm, not merely spiritual degradation.

David Holtzman
Santa Monica

Why not kill Arafat?

Editor:

Why is it OK for George W. Bush to declare that we will kill Osama bin Laden if given the chance, would have killed Saddam Hussein, if that would have been necessary to apprehend him, but Israel may not kill Yasser Arafat?

Aren't we being a bit overly hypocritical?

Flo Ginsburg
Santa Monica

More furniture coming for homeless

Editor:

Many "homeless" people I have seen around Santa Monica for years, some for over 10 years, make the street their home. This home (street) area population should increase in the near future. I read last week in the Daily Press that a city official stated that the city is expanding the Third Street mall design to Second and Fourth streets. And the city is going to add "sidewalk furniture" to those streets. Yes, this is a direct quote from the paper article.

Welcome home, folks ...

Harry L. Duval
Santa Monica

Historical perspective on worker's compensation



Guest Commentary

By Sen. Sheila Kuehl

(This is the fourth in a series of columns by California State Sen. Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) regarding the state budget).

In 1911, out of concern that injured workers had to sue to get any kind of care and compensation for workplace injuries, the Legislature created a voluntary workman's comp plan. Virtually no one took advantage of it, so in 1913, a no-fault workman's comp system mandated that all employers provide coverage. Injured workers were to have a way to get treatment and return to work. Employers pushed for adoption of the system, because it would preclude the worker from taking an employer to court for an injury. The workman's comp system was to be the exclusive remedy for workplace injuries and payments for temporary and permanent disability that stemmed from a workplace injury.

The state compensation fund was created as an insurer of last resort and a minimum rate was established so insurance companies couldn't "compete" in a race to the bottom for rates and then go belly up. Eighty years later, the worker's comp system was deregulated, and the minimum rate law went away. Insurance companies flooded the market, premiums dropped and a number of companies fell out of the market, leaving only a few solvent companies. The state fund began picking up more of the market. Insurance companies, which had been staying solvent by investing premiums in a very healthy stock market, got hit by the bust, lost a great deal after 9-11 in other insurance losses and, by 2001, 27 companies had gone bankrupt. Those that were left restricted their policies, raised their rates and stopped writing new policies. The state fund was up to covering 55 percent of the market, including 80 percent of small businesses.

At the same time, skyrocketing medical costs, experienced by everyone, cost

the insurance companies more in pay-outs. Although there were fewer claims in 2002 than in 2001, the average medical cost per injured worker had risen from \$45,000 to \$52,000. Many complained that there were really no incentives to return to work, and there were delays in providing treatment. Employers complained that they were being wrung dry by the premiums and many blamed "generous benefits to workers" and "fraud." Interestingly, however, every person, on both sides of the argument, who came to speak before our committees testified that "we have the highest premiums in the country and the worst coverage for workers in the country." Many complained that permanent disability benefits were to blame. Injured workers, however, pointed out that the percentage of growth in premiums was much higher than the percentage of growth in medical costs and disability benefits combined. They asked for controls on the premiums charged by insurance companies so they were more in line with actual costs.

Last year, convinced that some of the coverage related to chiropractic care, outpatient surgery centers, pharmaceutical costs and vocational rehabilitation mandates had created some of the high costs in the system, the Legislature made several cuts in benefits for injured workers, with an estimated savings of between \$8 and \$11 billion. No controls were placed on premiums.

The insurance companies did not agree with our assessment of savings, and they maintained that the reduction in their costs would be far less. They also argued that it did not pass any savings on to employers in the form of premium decreases. Most companies indicated that they had been planning to raise premiums again by double digits and, instead, only raised them by single digits. Injured workers still had less coverage. Litigation time did not decrease, since funding reductions and hiring freezes meant no new judges or staff could be hired. No one was happy.

Our new governor promised to fix everything, one way or the other. The next column will address whether that will happen.

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

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OPINION



Trading the simple life for a chance to have it all



HIP TO BE SQUARE
By Caroline Bodkin

It's a simple concept that's hard to understand: When you make one choice, you forego other options.

When you select ASU, you forego UCLA. When you propose to Barbara, you let go of long lost Lucy.

When my friend Ian decided to get married, his theoretical life as a poet living on a whim in South America was forsaken in the interest of his wife and stability for the family they'll make.

Once a potential, it is now a "could've been."

When my friend Megan decided to join her boyfriend, an up-and-coming musician, in Los Angeles, she knew she would have to leave the non-profit job she loves and the state she's getting cozy in. But she knew he could only pursue his dream in that place, and so moving seemed the right thing to do and she was gracious about it.

Graciously is the only way to do such a thing. Because while giving things up is hard, giving things up without actually letting them go is even harder — you end up resenting the person, place or thing you gave them up for. And that resentment or nostalgia takes up so much space inside you, there's no room to enjoy the thing you chose to do.

We make choices. We have to because we can't do everything.

There must have been a "simpler" time and "simpler" places where options were limited and choices were rare. Take pioneers in the 1800s. You grow up in your home, go to your one-room schoolhouse until you're old enough to work with your family on the farm, then marry the boy down the street and raise kids who do the same thing.

Those people didn't have MTV, they didn't know they could apply to be on "Road Rules" or aspire to become the next Britney Spears, so they didn't care that they'd never do it.

They didn't watch "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" and then turn to their spouse and say, "Why doesn't our home look like that?" They loved the boy down the street because the two of them were unselfish about the life they wanted

to live. There was no me, me, me. There was no, "Baby, I know you and I need to take care of the farm, but I'm feeling stuck and I need to go find my inner child vis a vis New York City."

There was reality.

Their choices were few, but you can't tell me these people weren't happy. Or, at least, you can't tell me they were unhappy because their lives were simple, their choices limited. They took care of the basics first: Eat, sleep, survive, fall in love, make babies and help the babies survive. And if they had time, they wrote a novel or figured out how to improve the plow. That's it.

And you know what? They did great things.

We don't read about "lack of fulfillment" in their novels.

I know my friend Megan well. I know that she, in her heart, wants simple things — the modern day pioneer life. She doesn't care about the fancy house or the chance to be on "Road Rules." She is a happy person. Her priorities, in my mind, are noble: survival, family, friends, love.

I heard that she's no longer moving to be with her boyfriend because they realized their lives are going in different directions. She'd move to be with him, but he'd be on the road with his band all but 15 days out of the year. Not much of a shared life in that.

I haven't spoken to her about it, so I don't know the details, but I know they love each other.

I know this must be awful.

And I wonder if he's aware of the choice he's making. I have this personal, sad feeling that he's not, and that someday he'll regret it.

A great saying is "Better is the enemy of good." I believe this is true. Opportunity cost is a killer. But what's wrong with making a choice? What's wrong with knowing yourself well enough to say this thing is right for me, and I don't need the rest of it?

The person who wants to have it all, in my mind, truly has very little.

I wish all the best and all the love in the world to my friend Megan. I wish her tomato plants and family dinners. Not because this is the right choice, but because it's her choice.

And because she's willing to give up the rest of it.

(Caroline Bodkin lives in Los Angeles and wonders daily if she'll miss her calling. You can e-mail her at hiptobesquare-bybodkin@yahoo.com).

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LOCAL



PROFILES, from page 1

think the city government is the closest you can get to the people and to the decision makers, and you can have the most direct influence over what happens," she added. "I don't know if I planned it this way, but I just think it's a lot of fun — night meetings and all."

Mack has two children. Her son studied at West Point and now serves as a lieutenant with the U.S. Army stationed in Washington, and her daughter is a junior at Columbia University. A Van Nuys native, Mack lives in Ventura with her husband, an LA city worker.

"He leaves at five in the morning, and I leave at six," she said.

As the head of City Hall's economic development division, Mack works out of an office overlooking the runway at the Santa Monica Airport. Here, the Daily Press caught up with Mack and asked about her 30-year career in government.

You're the economic development manager. What does that mean exactly?

"We are a division in the resource management department, and our primary responsibility has to do with the management of the city real estate interests — which are of course the Santa Monica Pier; we coordinate and administer and are concerned about all the activity in the Bayside district; the farmer's markets are within the economic development division ... and liaison and working with the Main Street, Montana and Pico associations, business improvement districts, is the primary mission of our department. To provide assistance and guidance, and to partner with them to help them with the economic vitality of those focus areas."

What might a day at work entail, specifically?

"We want to be sure that the Pier is maintained. I would want to review — you know, there are many improvements, there's a construction project underway at the Pier and two major capital projects that are being proposed.

"I will want to be sure that the construction project is going well. I will want to review an environmental impact review

that is being prepared for the bridge ... I'll want to review leases that are being negotiated, perhaps, on Third Street Promenade — that took up some time.

"I'll want to visit with some business people and listen to their questions and concerns on Pico, do some research in regards to council directive, to council initiative ...

"Because we deal with real estate, like any division, one needs to be sure that the city's needs are protected — as we embark on business with private people, be it a lease on the Pier or a license agreement on the Promenade — negotiating and ensuring that the appropriate activities are going to occur that support the city's goals."

Why did you want the job in Santa Monica?

"Santa Monica has a fabulous reputation as a very progressive organization. An organization that cares about the community, cares about the staff ...

"So the reputation of this being a good place to work, and then the professional challenge. As I said, working for a community that has a very positive initiative and is working with very cutting edge issues is, I think, a professional challenge — and that was the thing that attracted me to this opportunity."

How are the challenges you face different here in Santa Monica than they were in Culver City and Ventura?

"I think Santa Monica is very, very much connected to a metropolitan region, so it has a lot of the social issues, the transportation issues, the social demands — it's urban, it's a very urban area.

"Ventura, when I was there, really had

very much a rural mentality. And actually that dominated the issues — a great deal of open space to be developed, a lot of concern about urban sprawl and orderly development in those days, and the profession of community development was new. Historic preservation was new. Doing archaeological excavation and preservation was absolutely brand new, and at that time the people in the profession had to work very hard to educate the public about the value of these new initiatives. So I guess it was rural.

"It was also remote, even though I was from the Valley and everything, but it seemed a little more remote, and in 10 years that's really, really changed. I remember thinking — when there were conferences in LA — I remember thinking what a long way that was ...

"Also, a big effort at that time was to help the community gain recognition and to create the symbol that would get us recognized, its beaches, its downtown, its artists. Here, in Santa Monica, the pressures are infill — it's urban — and it has such an established reputation. As the mayor said the other night, you can be in Europe or South America and have an informal conversation — people know Santa Monica.

"The pressure on me and staff is that it lives up to the reputation and all the good things about Santa Monica can be preserved and enhanced."

What about Culver City — how are the challenges in Santa Monica different?

"Culver City was partly different — of course, I was there during the '90s — it experienced a boom in development, and it was during a transformative time ... when they created their new downtown

and made very significant inroads into some of those community corridors.

"Culver City shares many things in terms of community and residents. I think they feel very strongly about their community as well ... I was there during a very transformative time and that was exciting to see that come out front."

You mentioned that Santa Monica is very different now than when you used to visit on weekends while growing up in Van Nuys. How?

"Well I think that it didn't have the progressive social sensibility that it has now ...

"Santa Monica now is really a cutting edge community in terms of the issues that it's tackling, all the concerns that it's balancing about quality of life and service to residents, and I think it is going about dealing with the issues of living in modern society in a very thoughtful manner to ensure the community that residents, you know, want to be part of. And I think it's succeeded admirably and in many, many ways it's a model for other communities."

You also mentioned social services. Obviously, homelessness is a hot-button issue in Santa Monica. How does that affect the work you do?

"I think that the philosophy — I mean we are all a part of the community and Santa Monica faces special challenges, which I think they are meeting ...

"I think that the compassion that the public policy (shows) is very noble ...

"Nothing is easy, and everything has to be — all interests have to be considered and that's part of the public debate, in terms of figuring out ways to balance interests. And that's part of the challenge here. There's a balancing of issues, and I think the community as a whole is dealing with the issues. I'm certainly not in a position to say how it should be dealt with."

Does the issue pop up in your day-to-day work?

"I don't think it pops up in any way that's any different than anything else. The people know Santa Monica is a place to do business and that people want to be here for a variety of reasons. The personality that is Santa Monica is overwhelmingly positive and something that people want to be a part of. It's just a fact — it's just one of many, many things going on in this community."

A career in government

Miriam Mack grew up in Van Nuys but said she used to visit Santa Monica every weekend. "We always summered in Santa Monica," she said. "So I always felt a part of Santa Monica — you know, Muscle Beach way back when, Sorrento Beach way back when."

Position: Mack started as City Hall's economic development manager April 5.

Salary: \$104,000.

Education: Van Nuys High School, history degree from UCLA, master's degree from UCSB.

Background: Mack started as an intern in the Ventura city manager's office. She stayed in Ventura — moving into redevelopment and economic managerial posts — until 1993, when she took over as redevelopment administrator in Culver City.

Family: Mack is the eldest of two children to an insurance broker and secretary. Her husband, Darryl, 56, is a supervising electrician for the City of LA. Son Dylan is 24. Daughter Renee is 20.

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LOCAL



Principal unsure whether she'll stay in district

OLYMPIC, from page 1

PRINCIPAL CALLED INTO OFFICE

Toyryla maintains that she was summoned to Deasy's office in January when he allegedly told her that he was going to close Olympic and he would have the school board's support. She was told to look for a new job.

"I was concerned," she said. "It was only the second time in two and a half years that the man called me into his office. The first thing he said to me was 'I'm going to close Olympic High School.' The meeting was less than 30 minutes. I walked out stunned."

That prompted Toyryla, as well as the school's faculty, staff and students, to confront Deasy and the school board two weeks later at a public meeting. Toyryla insisted she was on hand to not only protect her job, but also the educational opportunities of the 130 students who attend the school, located at Lincoln and Ocean Park boulevards.

Rumors have been rampant within the community that Deasy plans to turn Olympic into a charter school. However, Deasy said Toyryla's interpretation of his plans are wrong, adding he has no intentions to close the school.

"Olympic will open as usual," Deasy told the Daily Press. "There is no change at Olympic as was written to the faculty."

A letter was sent last month to longtime Olympic teacher Jack Casey from Deasy that said the school will be open next year. But students and their parents are still worried about their educational opportunities at Olympic. And the staff is worried about job security.

"I only know what I read in the paper," said Casey, who has been teaching at Olympic for 25 years. "They fired the one person that can keep it all together, and I'm really concerned about the students because they are so vulnerable."

Teachers at Olympic are urging students to graduate by June if possible because the future is uncertain.

"The students are very, very curious," said Deborah Siemer, who has taught world history and math at Olympic for the past five years. "I'm uncertain what is going to happen."

"It's unnerving," she added. "I think it's an error. I think (Toyryla) has brought reforms and positives to the school ... The main concern is what will happen."

A few days after Toyryla confronted Deasy at the school board meeting, publicly repeating what he had told her behind closed doors on Jan. 14 — that the school would close and wasn't meeting the needs of the students — she was sum-

"It's like we're on a boat without any oars in the water."

— DR. SUZANNE TOYRYLA
Principal
Olympic High School

moned back to his office at district headquarters on 16th Street.

But what was said in that second meeting remains a mystery because Toyryla said she was ordered to keep her mouth shut.

"It was something very hurtful to Olympic, and we aren't allowed to talk about it," she said.

Deasy again cited personnel issues and was bound by law to keep the discussion confidential.

And so it was two months later that Toyryla was removed as principal, effective June 30. She might get reassigned to the classroom, but given the fallout, she isn't sure she'll stay in the district, which has been described by many as "toxic."

"I'm weighing my options," Toyryla said. "After Jan. 14, I knew in my head that I was gone, and it's hard because you work so hard all of these years and this isn't how you are done in this business. John was sweeping me aside, and it's the first step in sweeping Olympic aside."

Deasy said the job has been advertised and a new principal will be at the school by July 1.

TEACHERS QUESTION SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER VISIT

Casey too was called in to Deasy's office on the same day as Toyryla.

"My meeting with him was specifically about (school board member) Oscar de la Torre coming on campus," Casey said. "He wanted the facts about that day."

Apparently, de la Torre visited Olympic the day after the infamous school board meeting to talk to students about their teachers.

Casey was acting principal that day because Toyryla was off campus.

"I saw Oscar and asked him, 'What's going on?' He said 'No hard feelings, it's all politics,'" Casey said. "I was speechless."

Deasy declined to discuss his meeting with Casey or de la Torre's campus visit.

OLYMPIC LEFT OUT OF THE LOOP?

At least four of the seven teachers at Olympic back Toyryla for her accom-

plishments and dogged determination to make Olympic as good as it can be.

"She has their respect and because of that, teachers have respect," Casey said. "The woman has devoted her life to building this school and helping these kids. She makes this place work."

Until January, there had been little public discussion among school officials about Olympic, which has been described in the past as the district's "stepchild." Toyryla and other staffers say Deasy has visited the school a handful of times since he became superintendent in 2001 and school board members haven't been on campus in about that long, Toyryla said.

"They used to come all the time," she said. "John keeps them cloistered ... Why aren't they asking questions? They blindly do what they are told."

School board president Jose Escarce, who said he's been on campus once, declined to discuss most issues involving Olympic and Toyryla. However, he did say Olympic will remain open, but it will be improved upon.

"There is an interest in making Olympic as good as it can be," he said.

Students at Olympic are not typical — they range in age between 15 and 20 — and have had it rough in their short lives. About 30 percent of the students are on probation. More than 20 percent of the population are special education students.

Half of the students work to support their families. Some are pregnant, some of their parents have died, some come from abusive and broken homes, and others are in trouble with the law.

Casey, who quit his job as a sales executive to work with at-risk kids, believes the staff and Toyryla have developed a curriculum that provides kids with a decent education, if they are willing to do the work.

"I know what full programs we offer here," he said. "And now, a group of at-risk kids are thrown into chaos."

Olympic teacher Marcia Gheight said she believes the district has a plan for Olympic, but she, her colleagues and her students don't know what it is. And even though their future remains in limbo, the staff remains positive.

"They do have it planned, they want this site," she said. "Our morale is great. We are totally united."

But Toyryla admits she's seen the circumstances wearing on the staff and students.

"The kids already don't have direction in their lives," she said. "It's like we're on a boat without any oars in the water."

Toyryla added that had she known how the district operated and the culture of city politics, she probably would have steered clear.

"It's heartbreaking," she said. "When I took this job I was told there was work to be done, but I had no idea how ineffective this school was. The district had allowed it be so."

"This group has changed and improved this school dramatically, yet we were never brought into the conversation on how it can be improved or changes we'd like to see."

"We haven't helped all of the kids, we recognize," she added. "But when he says we are not meeting the needs of the kids here, it's an outright lie, you can quote me on that. What are they going to do, fire me?"

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STATE

Earlier springs shrink vital mountain snowpacks

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

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

ECHO SUMMIT — Frank Gehrke skied out on an unseasonably warm March day to take the final Sierra Nevada snowpack measurements of the season near this mountain pass south of Lake Tahoe — only to be stopped short by a muddy meadow where usually there would be deep snow.

Something is happening to the snow-pack, according to measurements Gehrke has collected for 20 winters as chief of California's water survey program.

Near-record snows are melting under record-setting early temperatures this year, a harbinger of the Sierra Nevada spring — and of a trend that is bringing vast changes across the West.

The snow that piles up in the Sierra, the Rockies and the Cascades forms an immense frozen reservoir that drives western power turbines, waters crops and cattle, and flows hundreds of miles to thirsty lawns and throats in desert cities like Las Vegas, Phoenix and Albuquerque.

Snowmelt provides roughly 70 percent of the West's water flow. But the icy trickle is becoming a roar earlier, as spring has crept into what used to be winter over the last century.

Spring temperatures in the Sierra have increased 2 degrees to 3 degrees since 1950, bringing peak snowmelt two to three weeks earlier and prompting trees and flowers to bud one to three weeks sooner.

Western rivers are seeing their peak runoff five to 10 days sooner than 50 years ago. Glaciers are melting from Alaska through the Cascades and east into Montana. And in the Pacific Northwest, snowpack has dropped by as much as 60 percent over the last four decades.

The trend is consistent with global warming, scientists say, though they're less sure of the consequences. The Pacific Northwest could become wetter or drier as weather patterns shift; Northern California could develop the desert Santa Ana winds that fed Southern California's record wildfires last fall — or not.

The uncertainly illustrates that scientists still have too little information to conclude that the trend is more than a regional cycle, said Bonner Cohen, a senior fellow at the National Center for Public Policy Research.

The Northwest, for instance, has had four alternating warm-and-dry and cool-and-wet phases since the mid-1920s. Measurements 50 years ago were during a cold-wet period, so a decline in the snow-pack is to be expected, critics say. Researchers respond that they've accounted for the patterns.

“Lots of things can happen, and right now it's way beyond what the computer modelers can even pretend to understand,” said Myron Ebell, director of global warming policy at the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

Global or not, if the warming trend across the West continues as projected, scientists say it means a smaller snow-pack no matter if precipitation increases or diminishes.

More moisture will fall as rain instead of snow, endangering some ski resorts as well alpine meadows that will see

encroachment from plants and trees that today grow only at lower elevations.

A pair of studies last year showed the range of many species has moved north at nearly 4 miles per decade over the last century, while spring activities like egg-laying, flower blooming and ending hibernation came three to five days earlier each decade.

“The elevation of the snowpack keeps creeping up. That affects us quite a bit,” said Scott Armstrong, whose family has operated All-Outdoors Whitewater Rafting for nearly 40 years. Four decades ago, the family's cabin near Yosemite was snowed in each winter; now the snow comes and goes.

The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory this spring predicted snowpack reductions of up to 70 percent in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade mountains of California, Oregon and Washington. The 400-mile-long Sierra range supplies water to two-thirds of California's population and to much of northern Nevada, irrigates 3 million acres of California farmland, and provides about a quarter of California's power through hydroelectricity.

“There are a lot of places in the Cascades and the Northern Sierra where the average winter temperature is above freezing. It's those places that have seen 50 to 80 percent declines, in some places 100 percent declines,” said Philip Mote, a University of Washington climate researcher who has studied snowpack records dating to the 1940s.

Climate changes are muted farther inland, where average temperatures are generally colder. But as much as a 30 percent reduction is predicted for the Rocky Mountains of Colorado and New Mexico over the next 50 years, with snow melting about a month earlier than it does now.

Skiing could disappear in the Rockies by 2070 if trends continue and if the computer models are accurate, with resorts below 5,000 feet out of business much sooner.

Soot is darkening snow and ice, deadening their ability to reflect sunlight, contributing to a near universal melting and causing as much as a quarter of global warming, the National Aeronautic and Space Administration reported in December. The process accelerates each spring, as soot accumulates on the surface of melting snow, making the remaining snow even darker and speeding the melting cycle.

The economic and social impacts flow downstream along with the earlier snowmelt.

“That's where the river really meets the road,” said Mote. “Then you're talking (about) affecting a lot of people's lives, a lot of people's livelihoods.”

The changes mean less water flowing down western rivers in the dry summers when it is needed most.

The Columbia and Sacramento rivers could be hardest hit, because of warmer temperatures there. Runoff into the Sacramento River has dropped 11 percent over the last century even as needs have grown exponentially in the nation's most populous state.

A University of Washington study this spring predicted the Colorado River could see runoff drop 14 percent to 18 percent, sparking more water warfare between Southern California and upstream states. But the Colorado's Rocky Mountain headwaters are colder and the basin has more existing storage capacity to mute the effects.

NATIONAL



One year later, Bush options on Iraq still limited

BY TOM RAUM
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush's "mission accomplished" is looking more like mission impossible.

Aboard an aircraft carrier one year ago, the commander in chief declared that major combat in Iraq had ended. Today, Bush and his advisers are struggling with a tangled occupation that is anything but free of combat.

None of the next-step options shows much hope of working, nor is there a clear strategy to end the U.S. occupation.

"We will not cut and run," Bush promises.

A plan to get tougher and use more firepower against insurgents risks more civilian casualties, could stir more uprisings and fan hatred of Americans throughout the Arab world. Bringing in additional U.S. troops could further strain the already hard-pressed volunteer military and reserve units and bring more hardships to military families.

Pulling back from confrontation could signal weakness. A quick withdrawal of U.S. troops could plunge the country into civil war.

With Bush campaigning for re-election on the strength of his record as a wartime president, chances seem to be fading fast for a stable Iraq before the November

election, despite plans for a June 30 transfer of sovereignty to a new interim government in Baghdad.

Images of fierce fighting in Fallujah and elsewhere in Iraq showed the resistance was not weakening. Some coalition countries are leaving; others are pulling back resources. Violence is escalating against both U.S. troops and civilians.

Faced with this deteriorating situation, Bush recently shifted course and agreed to give the United Nations a larger role in bringing self-rule to Iraq.

That should help "take the face off the American occupation of Iraq," said the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind.

It also has contributed to new tensions.

The U.N. envoy entrusted by the administration to bring order out of chaos is critical of the United States for firing on a Fallujah mosque. Lakhdar Brahimi also denounced Bush's support for Israeli's prime minister, Ariel Sharon, as an obstacle to his efforts to negotiate among Shiites, Sunnis, Kurds and other Iraqi groups.

Brahimi has proposed that the caretaker government — which will serve until a successor is elected next year — be chosen at the end of May, rather than a month later, in order to give it time to define its authority.

Brahimi wants those holding top posts barred from being candidates in national

elections next year. That would appear to eliminate several Iraqis now in the U.S.-picked Governing Council from serving in the interim government, including Ahmad Chalabi, a Pentagon ally.

Chalabi has denounced Brahimi's plan — which Bush has praised — as unworkable and unlikely to be accepted by most Iraqis.

Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., an author of the 1998 law that made "regime change" in Iraq a U.S. policy goal, suggested the Iraqi leaders be allowed to "bring back a lot more of the people that were in the government of Saddam Hussein."

"I know that's a tough thing to do," he said. "You have to be a shrewd judge of people and hearts." But he noted that such a process seemed to work well in helping some former Soviet bloc countries transform from communism to democracy.

Paul Bremer, the U.S. administrator in Iraq, has taken steps to offer jobs to some former members of Saddam's Baathist Party. He also has implied that it was probably a mistake to disband the Iraqi army.

Yet little that Bremer or the U.S.-picked council has done so far has helped to boost confidence or promote acceptance among Iraqis of their occupiers. The United States also is struggling with how much power to give the interim government. It does not want to relinquish military decisions, for instance.

Undersecretary of State Marc Grossman told a Senate hearing last week that the new government would have "limited" sovereignty.

Michael O'Hanlon, a military analyst at the Brookings Institution who generally supported the war, said such comments "send the wrong message" to Iraqis.

"Instead, what you want to do is emphasize all the things you are transferring and point out that, to the extent that this new government won't have every single power, it is because you want to reserve some of the big decisions for the first elected Iraqi government," he said.

Recent polls show public doubts are growing about Iraq and Bush's handling of the war. Yet this has not transferred into support for John Kerry, his Democratic rival.

A lot depends on what happens on the ground in Iraq between now and Election Day.

"A picture is worth 10,000 words. And if the pictures continue to be this ugly in October, the president will have a problem," said GOP pollster Frank Luntz.

By the same token, if Iraq is stable by then and the violence has ebbed, Iraq will fade as an issue.

"Victory is a great deodorant," said Andrew Kohut, director of the Pew Research Center in Washington.

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Colorado River shortage forcing tough choices

BY SETH HETTENA
Associated Press Writer

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK, Ariz. — The Colorado River runs cold and fast past Grand Canyon walls, a ribbon of emerald green woven through postcard perfection.

But for those who ride its rapids, this is a man-made illusion, more water park than wilderness. There's a lot less to the Colorado than meets the eye.

The Colorado once roared wild, muddy and magnificent through these canyons, defying early explorers who often perished in its foaming waters. Decades of federal management and political compromises tamed it and turned it into a vast plumbing system of dams and canals that makes life possible in much of the American West.

And now the river, which supplies water to 25 million people in seven states and more in Mexico, is being stressed beyond its limits by the driest five-year period on record.

With no end to the drought in sight, the Interior Department may be closing in on the first-ever declaration of a water shortage on the Colorado River, said Bennett Raley, the department's assistant secretary for water and science.

During a 224-mile rafting trip through Grand Canyon in April, Raley told a small band of reporters that such a declaration would mean a cut in the amount of water that can be drawn from the river. A declared shortage would be the lowest of three stages set by the department.

"If current trends continue ... the secretary would be forced to take action certainly within three years and potentially within two," Raley said on the final day of the trip, unless the states offer a solution of their own.

The severity of the cut would be up to the Interior secretary, but even a small reduction would ripple across the West, from the Front Range prairie to the desert city of Tucson, Ariz. The 1,400-mile river grows U.S. and Mexican crops, generates electricity, supports a huge recreation industry and delivers water to some of the nation's driest and hottest cities.

Drought is already doing what environmentalists could only dream about: It's draining Lake Powell, just upstream from Grand Canyon.

Powell, one of two main storage reservoirs on the Colorado, is so dry that hikers

are beginning to explore glorious sandstone canyons once submerged under 100 feet of water. The lake is at 42 percent of capacity, the lowest level since it was being filled in 1970. It's three dry years from being so low no water could be released from Glen Canyon Dam.

Downstream from Grand Canyon is Lake Mead, currently at 59 percent capacity. It could reach the same state as Powell as early as 2008.

Las Vegas, almost wholly dependent on water stored in Lake Mead, is worried about the impact drought could have on its explosive growth. The city is stressing conservation to avoid a self-imposed drought emergency, and water managers are working furiously to rip out water-guzzling lawns.

In a shortage, Arizona would be the first to suffer. Under a 36-year-old compromise the state now regrets, Arizona would lose all the Colorado River water going to Phoenix, the nation's sixth-biggest city, before California loses a single drop. Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Wyoming are worried as well. Under a 1922 accord they would be required to cut their own water to guarantee a supply to California, Arizona and Nevada.

The states look to the Colorado River to

be reliable year after year to sustain growth and power their economies. But the alternating layers of red sandstone and limestone in the Grand Canyon tell a different story. The rocks are the remains of ancient oceans that over millions of years covered what is now Grand Canyon and then receded — evidence that nature knows no such thing as a reliable source of water.

A study of tree rings in the headwaters of the Colorado River found evidence of a drought in the 16th century that lasted 20 years. The rings have led scientists to believe that much of the past century was unusually wet and more dry years could lie ahead, said Robert H. Webb, a hydrologist who studies Grand Canyon for the U.S. Geological Survey and co-author of Floods, Drought and Climate Change.

"We have no idea how long this drought is going to last," Webb said. "Every indication says this one's gone beyond all our past experience. We may not have a road map that tells us where we're going."

While some think it's too early to talk about shortages, Raley has begun prodding the states to begin considering their options and taking steps to avoid it.

When the rafting trip stopped for the night on a patch of pillow-soft sand below

a towering wall of redwall limestone, Raley asked three water managers from Arizona, California and Nevada what they would do, hypothetically, to prevent the Interior secretary from declaring a shortage next year.

"If the hammer were to fall Dec. 31, we're not going to have all the problems resolved," one told Raley. "We're working on it."

"Just not fast enough for me," Raley replied.

Raley is pushing the states to do something they seldom do when it comes to the river: share water. The best chance of avoiding a shortage may lie in California, Nevada and Arizona working together to help each other. One water-saving solution is an interstate water bank in Lake Mead that the three states can share.

When it comes to water, however, the states are more used to bickering than cooperating. Arizona and California waged legendary battles over the Colorado, including Arizona's comical effort to stop construction of a dam intended to divert water to Los Angeles by dispatching five soldiers to the river in 1934. The challenge ahead is whether the states can set aside the mutual suspicion from decades of fighting over who gets how much water.

As the water managers discussed shortage, the wounds of the age-old feud between California and Arizona flared again.

"I'm not going to be looking to California to help me out. I'm not figuring Arizona's going to do much to help California until the reservoirs turn around," said Sid Wilson, general manager of the Central Arizona Project, a 336-mile concrete river that brings Colorado River water to Phoenix and Tucson. He did say, however, that Arizona is trying to help out Nevada.

Las Vegas could prove an early test of whether the states will join together. If the river continues to dry up, Pat Mulroy, general manager of the Southern Nevada Water Authority, says she will at some point have to turn to Arizona or California for help or face draconian water cuts.

Will they come to the rescue? Mulroy isn't optimistic.

"All the legal mechanisms are set up for disaster," she said, hiking up the Little Colorado, a Caribbean-blue tributary. "... We can't seem to get the idea that if we share we get so much further."

Possible water-saving options for the Colorado River

By The Associated Press

A look at some of the options under consideration to save water on the Colorado River:

- Create a water bank in Lake Mead shared by Arizona, California and Nevada. Regulations for interstate water banking were drafted in the mid-1990s. Cooperation required from all three states.
- Crack down on Colorado River farmers who purposefully overuse their water entitlement to avoid coming up short and on unauthorized users who tap into river.
- Emphasize desalination technologies.
- Shift storage of water from Lake Mead, where temperatures reach 120 degrees, to Lake Powell, where there's less evaporation, or other upstream reservoirs.
- Construct off-stream reservoirs to recoup excess water flows that would otherwise be lost. A \$60 million project in California's Imperial Valley is being constructed and funded by U.S. Interior Department and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.
- Examine making better use of flash-flood water on Colorado River and tributaries by storing it in surface reservoirs or groundwater basins in the United States or Mexico.
- Start up Yuma Desalting Plant, a facility constructed to satisfy U.S.-Mexico treaty, and eliminate agricultural runoff running into Mexico.
- Encourage cities to pool money to pay to have water-saving technologies installed in agricultural areas.

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NATIONAL



Asian population surging across United States

BY GENARO C. ARMAS
Associated Press Writer

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — The scents of herbs and spices waft out of a Vietnamese medicine store, down a hall and past a restaurant where diners sip tea and eat bowls of pho. Pulsing Vietnamese music plays in the background.

It's a scene out of Hanoi — but it's really a suburban Washington strip mall that has become a hub for the burgeoning Vietnamese community and an example of what's happening elsewhere in the country.

Asians are projected to be the fastest-growing major population category over the next half-century, outpacing blacks, whites and Hispanics. Recent Census Bureau projections show the Asian population could grow by a third, to 14 million, by 2010 and more than triple to 33 million in 2050.

Immigrants from India and Vietnam contributed to the population surge during the 1990s. That's when the Eden Center strip mall took hold in Falls Church, Va., about nine miles west of the nation's capital.

On a recent weekday afternoon, shoppers strolled down the corridors and sidewalks of the 120-shop mall with bags and children in hand. A group of older men huddled around a table watching two others play a game of Chinese chess, while some visitors perused videos at a rental store. The yellow-and-red striped flag of the former South Vietnam fluttered high above the parking lot, next to an American flag.

"A good bit of it reminds me of home," Nguyen Ngoc Bich, 67, says as he strolls

"Just close your eyes and all you hear around is Vietnamese being spoken. It's all the familiar sounds of home."

— **NGUYEN NGOC BICH**
Former Vietnamese diplomat

past the shops. Bich, a former Vietnamese diplomat who settled in the United States as a refugee in 1975 after the Vietnam War, was one of the mall's original investors.

"Just close your eyes and all you hear around is Vietnamese being spoken. It's all the familiar sounds of home," he said.

Like previous immigrant groups, many Asians come to America looking for a better job, more education or to reunite with relatives and friends.

Asians in America still concentrate in urban areas, but as with other minorities, are increasing in number in the suburbs and rural areas. A place like Eden Center serves as a gathering place similar to New York's Chinatown neighborhood, says Min Zhou, chair of the Asian American Studies program at the University of California at Los Angeles.

"It's a cultural hub and some sort of buffer" for those immigrants who live or work in mainly white areas, Zhou said. "You don't need it, but if you have it, it makes your life much more richer."

Asians with a Chinese background are the largest single group, with 2.4 million. But the population of Indian-Americans grew the most during the 1990s — 106 percent to 1.7 million. Vietnamese were next at 83 percent and grew to 1.1 million in 2000.

The technology boom of the 1990s lured many immigrants from India. Large numbers settled in California's Silicon Valley and other high-tech hotbeds like the Dulles Corridor outside Washington.

A catch-all category of "other Asians" had 1.3 million people in 2000. This included groups like the Hmong, whose population nearly doubled to 169,000. The Hmong are an ethnic group from the highlands of Laos who fought the communists alongside the CIA during the Vietnam War.

Many of the Vietnamese and Hmong came to America as political refugees. And a large number are children of U.S. soldiers stationed in southeast Asia during the Vietnam War.

Growth has occurred beyond traditional gateways like New York and California.

Towns along the Gulf of Mexico have for years attracted immigrant fishermen from Vietnam and Cambodia, and resettlement programs have created large Hmong refugee communities in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

There are numerous ripple effects. Many localities have created community outreach positions to learn about the needs of these new populations.

More businesses and strip malls like Eden Center are sprouting across the country, as more Asian families settle outside of cities. One such mall in Las Vegas, called Chinatown Plaza, bills itself as the "largest master-planned Chinatown in America."

Varun Nikore heads the Indian American Leadership Initiative, an organization that seeks to entice more Indian Americans into politics, an area that Nikore calls a "last slice of the American pie."

Out of the more than 1.7 million people of Indian descent in the United States, only a handful are in politics and none are higher than state legislative office, Nikore says.

"They're involved in cultural programs, and they are politically aware, but they haven't done the extra hurdle of trying to run for office," Nikore says. "We're basically trying to take the mystery out of the campaign process."

Whether projections about Asian population growth hold true depends largely on any changes to U.S. immigration policy, demographers note. They also suggest that improving economic conditions in Asian countries could reduce the number of people moving to America.

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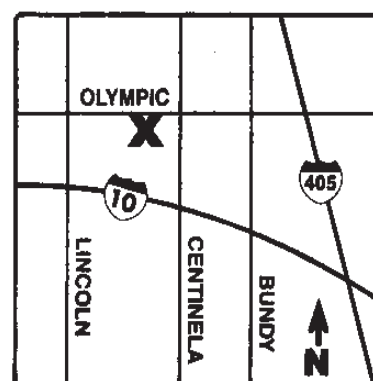
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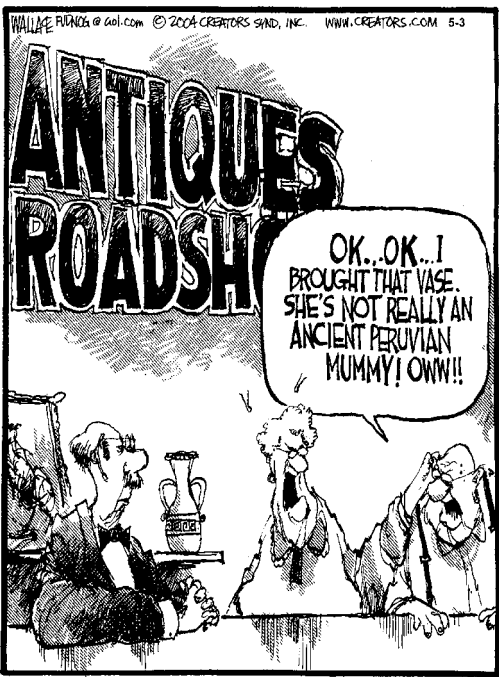
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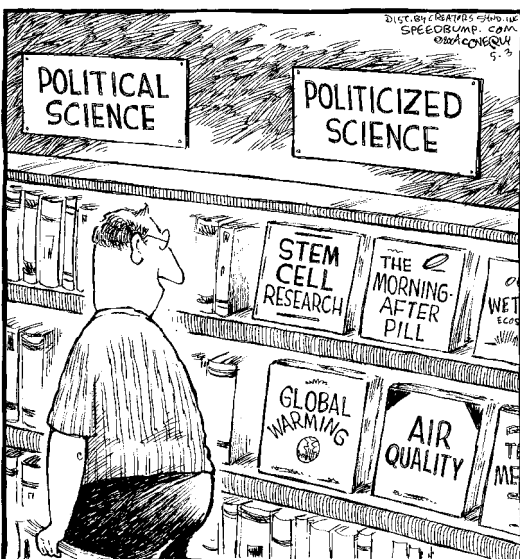
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/s/: H.T. Lindsay Alexander

This statement was files with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 3/16/2004 indicated by the file stamp above. NOTICE- THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another federal, state, or common law(see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code).

SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Published 4/19/2004, 4/26/2004, 5/3/2004, 5/10/2004

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16th Street #3 Santa Monica,
CA 90403 The full name of reg-
istrant(s) is/are : Donald Ri-
chard Furnival, Leslie Ann Fur-
nival.
This Business is being conduct-
ed, Husband & Wife The regis-
trant commenced to transact
business under the fictitious
business name/names listed
above on: Registrant has not
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knows to be false is guilty of a
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/s/: Donald Richard Furnival,
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SANTA MONICA DAILY
PRESS 4/19/04, 4/26/04, 5/3/04,
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/s/: Chase Kusero,Loretta E.
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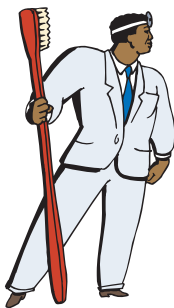
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Aniston, Pitt refuse to make a ‘Gigli’ mistake

By The Associated Press

■ RADNOR, Pa. — Jennifer Aniston has no plans to appear in a movie with her husband, Brad Pitt. “The repercussions of couples doing movies are not always positive,” Aniston says in the May 2 issue of TV Guide. “We wouldn’t want to go out there with bull’s-eyes on our heads.” Although Ben Affleck and his former fiancée, Jennifer Lopez, were hugely popular when the movie “Gigli” debuted, the film bombed at the box office. Aniston, one of the stars of the television sit-com “Friends,” said her immediate plans are to act in two films inspired by 1960s movies. One is a remake of the 1966 British film “Gambit” and the other is a movie — so far untitled — about a woman who thinks her parents inspired the movie “The Graduate.”

■ NEWYORK — Hundreds of people crammed into a school auditorium to watch director Martin Scorsese’s personal print of “East of Eden,” the film that solidified James Dean’s status as a Hollywood star. The 1955 film had a big influence on Scorsese, director of hit movies including “Gangs of New York” and “Taxi Driver.” Scorsese, who grew up in a tenement on Manhattan’s Lower East Side, said the movie’s portrayal of working class people was the most authentic he’d seen. “It was as if the film understood me. ... It was articulating things I could never articulate, I wasn’t allowed to articulate,” he said before the film was shown Saturday as part of the Tribeca Film Festival. Dean starred as troubled Cal Trask in director Elia Kazan’s adaptation of the John Steinbeck novel. Dean died in a car accident the same year the movie came out. He became the first person to earn a posthumous Oscar nomination for his role in the film.

■ NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Actress Mary Steenburgen and her actor husband Ted Danson helped

North Little Rock celebrate its centennial over the weekend. Steenburgen, who grew up in North Little Rock, and Danson, star of the TV series “Becker,” arrived early to raise money for Jimmie Lou Fisher, a Democrat who is still paying off a \$102,000 debt from her failed run for governor in 2002. Danson, who played bartender Sam Malone on “Cheers” for 12 seasons, served up drinks at \$100-per-person benefit. “We don’t want to send a message to people that you have to be a big fat cat ... to run for office,” Steenburgen told the crowd. Steenburgen is chairwoman of “Celebrate North Little Rock.”

■ SAVANNAH, Ga. — Nationally syndicated radio personality Tom Joyner hosted a benefit to raise money for 180 full academic scholarships at Savannah State University. Joyner challenged the audience to be more inventive in efforts to teach students at historically black colleges such as Savannah State. He said many historically black colleges are experiencing financial difficulties “All is not well. We need to stop pretending like it is,” he said Saturday. This is Joyner’s second partnership with the school. Savannah State received \$440,000 for scholarships when the Tom Joyner Foundation named the school its historically black college and university of the month in November 2001.

■ NEWYORK — Tina Fey found at least a few differences between writing for NBC’s “Saturday Night Live” and tackling her first feature-length screenplay for “Mean Girls.” In devising comedy sketches, she says: “Story is your enemy. Story will sink you. Conversely, in a movie, if you don’t have (a) story, then that will sink you. So I was just trying to learn that.”

The 33-year-old co-head writer of “SNL” also had to confront another way of being funny. “It’s best not to have three jokes a page. Setup/joke, setup/joke, setup/joke,” she told The Associated Press in a recent interview. “You kinda will sell yourself out if you try to do that in a movie. You have to have more patience.” One last difference between television and movies was being forced to look back at her work for months on end. “I’m used to: Do it, do it in a week, good, bad, whatever ... move on,” she said. “Mean Girls” opened Friday to mainly positive reviews.

■ LOS ANGELES — The movie version of John Grisham’s comedic holiday novel, “Skipping Christmas,” has started production under a new title: “Christmas With the Kranks.” Revolution Studios, which is producing the Tim Allen and Jamie Lee Curtis movie about fed-up suburbanites who irk their neighbors by attempting to forgo holiday festivities, lost the rights to the original title about three weeks ago. Rival studio DreamWorks SKG had already filmed a Ben Affleck holiday comedy titled “Surviving Christmas,” and both studios planned to release their films in November. The Motion Picture Association of America arbitrated the dispute and determined Revolution Studios had to sacrifice the title of Grisham’s book to help differentiate the films, according to the trade newspaper Variety. Joe Roth, the Hollywood mogul and founder of Revolution Studios, is getting behind the camera as director of the retitled “Christmas With the Kranks,” which is derived from the last name of Allen and Curtis’ characters. He previously directed “America’s Sweethearts” and “Revenge of the Nerds II: Nerds in Paradise.”

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