

FREE

TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 149

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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FANTASY 5

13, 20, 21, 34, 35

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 2, 9, 8

Evening picks: 0, 4, 6

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 08, Gorgeous George

2nd Place: 02, Lucky Star

3rd Place: 06, Whirl Win

Race time: 1:40.10



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

In mid-March, as war started in Iraq, a resolution was introduced in the Seattle City Council offering support for U.S. troops. However, some council members wanted to use the resolution to express opposition to the war, while others wanted to go beyond troop support to commend the war itself. When the Council finally agreed on a politically bland-enough resolution on April 14, it meant that the members had been fighting over the wording of the resolution for a longer time than it took U.S. troops to enter Iraq and capture Baghdad.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Sex is the biggest nothing of all time."

— Andy Warhol

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City levies charges against landlord

City alleges building owner discriminated against Latino tenants

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Criminal charges were filed Monday against the landlord of an eastside neighborhood apartment building who allegedly tried to intimidate her Mexican-American tenants into leaving their rent-controlled apartment.

Jaroslava Liska, who owns the six-unit complex at 1711 Delaware Ave. in Santa Monica, is accused of illegally attempting to evict the Vivanco family, who has lived in the apartment for more than 17 years.

"Our landlord is full of it. It's a pretty ridiculous thing. I'm in full support of the family."

— MARC CLEBANOFF
Neighbor

The building is occupied mostly by recent college graduates and the Vivancos are the last Latino residents, neighbors said.

Liska allegedly dislikes family renters so much that she allegedly

See CHARGES, page 6

SM Playhouse makes final push for survival

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

The Santa Monica Playhouse has 26 days to come up with more than \$100,000 or it's curtains for the city's oldest theater company.

With a June 1 deadline looming, organizers of the local theater are scrambling to pull in the last \$140,000 of the \$500,000 they need to make a down payment and buy the building from their landlord.

If organizers fail to come up with the cash, officials said the 40-year-old playhouse will have to close its doors for good.

Fund-raising has kicked into high gear this month with intense phone banking, weekly benefit events and other efforts to raise awareness while attracting dollars.

The goal is to draw in \$3,000 in fund-raising each day, on top of raising money at scheduled events, officials said.

"We get calls every day," said Evelyn Rudie, co-artistic director for the playhouse. "We're getting checks in the mail. A lady called the other day and said, 'I sent you a check yesterday for \$50 and then I realized it wasn't enough. So here is my credit card number.'"

"We get calls everyday. We're getting checks in the mail. A lady called the other day and said, 'I sent you a check yesterday for \$50 and then I realized it wasn't enough. So here is my credit card number.'"

— EVELYN RUDIE
Co-artistic director

Senior citizens, who for years have seen shows for free at the theater, are emptying their pockets. Little kids are kicking in their lunch money. And even actors are finding spare pennies to contribute to the cause, Rudie said.

"The money that we've raised so far has almost all been in grassroots support," said Rudie, who started teaching acting classes at

See PLAYHOUSE, page 6

Takin' it to the streets



Rebecca Gross/Daily Press

About 35 people gathered outside Santa Monica College on Monday to protest recent cuts in classes, programs and faculty. The community college recently cut \$13 million from its 2002-2003 budget, as well as 7.5 percent in classes. Another \$15 million is expected to be cut from next year's budget and 30 percent will be cut in classes. Teachers, faculty and students have been vocal in their outrage over the cuts and lay-offs. Monday's message was pointed toward SMC's board of trustees.



Passengers aboard Boeing 727 take it all off

By The Associated Press

When the chartered Boeing 727 reached cruising altitude, 87 passengers took off more than their seat belts. They removed their clothes. The nude flight, billed by organizers as the first one of its kind, took off Saturday afternoon from Miami International Airport, headed for Cancun, Mexico.

A Houston travel agency specializing in clothing-optional getaways organized the trip. Passengers paid \$499 for the trip, with many heading to Cancun's El Dorado Resort & Spa for Nude Week.

"These are professionals who lead very stressful lives and are ready to let it all go," said Donna Daniels, co-owner of the Castaways travel agency and an in-the-buff traveler on the inaugural flight. "They are adventurers and risk takers. They don't even want clothes as a constraint."

There were limits, though. The captain and crew kept their clothes on. No hot coffee or tea was served for fear of spills.

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HOROSCOPE

Get some exercise, Aquarius



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average
★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, May 6, 2003:

Speak your mind. Think about what you want to accomplish this birthday year. Others think you are gregarious, and you will be unusually so this year. You impress others with your quick responses and ideas. You make what you want happen because of your strong vitality and knowledge. If you are single, you will easily meet people. Close to your next birthday, someone quite special will enter your life. If you are attached, your relationship will become much warmer if you're willing to share. CANCER knows what he or she wants. Count on him or her asking for it.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Stay anchored and let others question. You look for a balance in what you do. Be sensitive to what might be occurring financially. Could you be overdoing it or going to extremes? Build strong foundations while you can. Don't hesitate. Tonight: Your treat.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Investigate and ask questions. You'll find out more and make a solid decision. You're in the hot seat, but you are also in a position of power. Keep communication flourishing. Make calls and reach out for others. Think success. Tonight: Out.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Go where you want. Do more of what you want. You often have an inner dialogue that paralyzes you. Visualize and act on the possibilities. Let your intuition help you through a money-making idea. Handle your finances with the savvy you're known for. Tonight: Your treat.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Your smile is a sure winner. Realize more of what you want from a loved one or friend by just asking. Others also make requests, which seem easy to fulfill. Ask for more of what you want and need from others as well. Your smile makes a difference. Tonight: As you like it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Listen to your intuition when dealing with a boss or strong authority figure in your life. Think carefully about what needs to happen. You might need to read between the lines no matter what is said or how someone expresses him- or herself. Tonight: Take your time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Go for what you want without stopping. Your focus makes a huge difference in your ability to accomplish a lot. Seek out others, experts included, to check out what you might have thought was impossible. Detach instead of getting involved. Tonight: Where the gang is.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Think before you leap into action. Just because you think something is a certain way doesn't necessarily mean that it is. A talk stemming from a partnership or close relationship can give you another perspective. Root out problems and get down to the basics. Tonight: Invite a loved one along.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Dig into work, but get the cooperation of someone else. Think carefully about what might need to happen within a relationship. Work as a team. Also, learn to be more nurturing, and express your caring through actions. Don't do anything halfway. Tonight: As you like it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Dig into work, but get the cooperation of someone else. Think carefully about what might need to happen within a relationship. Work as a team. Also, learn to be more nurturing, and express your caring through actions. Don't do anything halfway. Tonight: As you like it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You can smile about what others say and do. Don't feel as if you have to do too much right now. Others tap into your creativity and seek out your ideas. Let your imagination roll. You delight a child or loved one just by your inventiveness. Tonight: Go along with someone else's ideas.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ If a home office would make you happy, then why not? Though you're not a homebody, you still might appreciate a special opportunity to do more work from home. Consider the quality of your work before you make a needed decision. Tonight: Get some exercise.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Speak your mind. You make headway because of your ability to leave an impression. Use your creativity and dynamic energy; be more playful with a child or loved one. Allow greater humor and fun. Tonight: Pretend it's Friday.

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1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com

EDITOR
Carolyn Sackariason sack@smdp.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Jason Auslander jason@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
John Wood wood@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Del Pastrana del@smdp.com

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
Alex Cantarero alex@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE
Mitch Troy mitch@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE
Angela Downen angela@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE
Paula Christensen paula@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
William Pattnosh william@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Rob Plubeni rob@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Keri Aroesty keri@smdp.com

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Robert Deamicis Rob@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Kiutzu Cruz kiutzu@smdp.com

SPECIAL PROJECTS
Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com

STAFF MASCOT
Maya Furukawa ross@smdp.com

LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Four SMC students to serve in Congress

By Daily Press staff

Four Santa Monica College students have been selected for the prestigious Dale Ride Internship program and will serve in the U.S. Congress this summer.

Danielle Gregg of Los Angeles will work in the office of House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and in the lobbying firm of Cassidy & Associates.

Hee-Jung Kim of Woodland Hills will work in U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer's office (D-Calif.).

Wendy Monteon of Los Angeles will serve in the office on the House Committee on Education and Workforce.

Allison Sandera will work in the office of Sen. John Kerry, (D-Mass.) and presidential candidate.

The interns leave for the eight-week program on May 25. All interns received stipends to cover transportation, housing and other expenses.

The program has sent 67 students to the White House, Congress and other agencies over 11 years. The program is underwritten by St. John's Health Center, Stratton-Petit Foundation, US Bank and Verizon. Contributors include the Dale Ride Family Fund, SMC Foundation President's Circle and SMC Associates.

The program was established in 1991 in the memory of a man who had a long and distinguished career as an educator, administrator and public servant. Ride taught political science and served in administrative posts at SMC for 33 years until his death in September 1989 at the age of 67.

Saturday events benefit seniors

By Daily Press staff

More than 40 low-income seniors on the westside gathered last Saturday for a Mad Hatter's Tea Party in Marina Del Ray organized by St. Joseph Center's Senior Outreach Program and 15 women from the Junior League of Los Angeles.

The seniors decorated flowerpots and ate tea sandwiches as they listened to piano music. All attendees took home gift bags and plants.

This Saturday, St. Joseph's Center will hold its 18th Annual Dinner Dance and Auction to benefit seniors and others who are in need of basics such as food, shelter, health care and job training.

Firemen to demonstrate using 'jaws of life'

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica Firestation # 5 is opening its doors to the community on May 10 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Visitors can tour the station, ask firefighters questions and take a look at fire equipment.

At 9 a.m., the firefighters will serve a free pancake breakfast.

At 10:30 a.m., firefighters will demonstrate how they safely remove a trapped victim from a car using tools such as the "jaws of life." Other demonstrations include extinguishing a real vehicle fire and rappelling to the ground from the top of a 100-foot-tall ladder.

The firestation is located at 2450 Ashland, near Clover Park. The event is free and people are encouraged to bring their children and their camera.

SM leadership series offers public works project tour

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Leadership Series is offering a guided bus tour of public work projects on July 26.

"Tourists" will depart on a Big Blue Bus at 9:30 a.m. from the Ken Edwards Center, visiting the city's new Public Safety Facility, Fire Station #2 on Hollister Street, the 26th Street roundabout and the sewer rehabilitation project.

The tour will be led by Environmental and Public Works Management Director Craig Perkins.

The tour is free, but reservations are required and spaces fill up fast.

To register, call (310) 458-8301 or log on to:

santa-monica.org/communication/cityforms/leadership_series.html.



A new southwest swell will continue to build and overhead set waves at standout will breaks should peak today. Expect the swell to produce inconsistent surf as it builds into Southern California.

A strong northwest wind gradient is forecast to set up over the next couple of days as high pressure builds into the coast. A light northwest wind for most spots with strong northwest flow will hold through most of Tuesday and possibly into Wednesday.

The Water Today Is:
58°

Location	Tuesday	Wednesday	Water Quality
County Line	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	N/A
Zuma	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	N/A
Surfrider	1-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	N/A
Topanga	1-3'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	N/A
Breakwater	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	N/A
El Porto	2-4'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	N/A

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The Q Line

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is in desperate need of money. It must find ways to make up \$13 million a year, which used to come from the State of California.

During last year's election, voters defeated Measure EE, which would have provided some relief for the beleaguered district.

Now, the district has come up with another solution: Measure S. If passed by voters in a special election on June 3, the measure would levy a \$225 tax on every parcel of land in Santa Monica

and Malibu, thereby providing \$6.5 million a year for six years to the district.

So, this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Do you plan to vote for Measure S? Why or why not? If not, what else could the district do to generate the much-needed money?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. 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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OPINION



Democratic presidential hopefuls showing their cards early in the game



Evelyn Jerome

Tucked away on page A26 of last Sunday's Times, after countless cell phone ads and reminders that Mother's Day is just a week away, was an article about the first debate featuring the nine top Democratic contenders for President in 2004.

It was fitting placement for a debate that ABC television ran from 12:30 a.m. to 2 a.m. on early Sunday morning. And fitting for the attention that voters are giving the race now, 10 months before the primaries begin in earnest.

And the mother of all dilemmas was apparent: How to win Democratic primaries around the country and then turn

around and beat a currently-popular president next fall?

While some political pundits saw the debate as helping to define some of the candidates, it seemed that most of the candidates dealt with that "electable" issue by standing on or near the proverbial fence.

When asked about gun licensing and registration, which has historically been a standard Democratic policy, Joe Lieberman, who is likely the most conservative of the bunch, distanced himself from his former running mate and said he supports neither. Only Rev. Al Sharpton, attempting to shed the "not a chance" moniker, said he supported these gun control measures, while the seven remaining candidates were silent on this issue.

The candidates touched on health care,

national defense, and tax cuts. And they argued about which of them is most electable. Bob Graham, senator and former governor of Florida, noted that the last three Democratic presidents hailed from the South. Lieberman said he knew he could beat George Bush because he and Al Gore "already did," clearly hoping to re-invigorate the Democratic anger that was sparked by voting irregularities in Florida in the 2000 election.

Interestingly, on the same night that a whites-only high school dance took place in neighboring Georgia, the issue of civil rights was not discussed. The candidates barely touched on the issue of gay partnership rights, the issue to which Vermont Gov. Howard Dean has staked a claim as the standard-bearer.

It's going to be a long 10 months.

Winning enough Democratic primaries and then beating Bush next fall will be a balancing act. Exciting enough voters to build momentum will be even harder. I hope that the calisthenics of it all won't distract these candidates from telling us what they are all about. And I hope that we will soon say the same thing about Bush — as we said about his father — that the post-gulf-war support was a mile wide and an inch deep.

(Evelyn Jerome is the founder and principal of Strategic Communications, a communications consulting firm. She is the past president of the Los Angeles County Young Democrats and a Santa Monica homeowner. To respond or to reach her, e-mail evelyn_thinktwice@yahoo.com.)



Todd Flora

Despite hostilities and uncertainty overseas, presidential politics is right on schedule. I could spend several columns discussing what's wrong with our presidential election system — including the length of the process and the need to fix the public funding system. But with the Democratic contenders meeting recently for their initial "debate," it seems appropriate to once again step them up.

The debate was run opposite Saturday Night Live. I wonder if ABC was banking on the same high propensity VOTERS who tune into Nightline during the week? After all, the campaign is still being waged toward political "junkies" and party activists. News stories, C-Span

replays, and talk show analysis are probably still most important to candidates. Speaking of which:

Kucinich, Sharpton, Mosley-Braun and Bob Graham — once hopeful they would stop wasting our time, I now see them keeping the favorites honest by raising abandoned issues and asking good questions. Al Sharpton — whatever one feels about him — will have registered thousands of disenfranchised voters as Democrats.

Lieberman, Kerry, Edwards and Gephardt — this pack is aided by their national stature and/or campaign bank accounts. They are playing it safest on the issues, each having supported the war resolution, with Lieberman especially sticking to the moderate tones of the DLC '90s. Chameleon Gephardt is apparently "brave" for proposing a health care plan, which should be a no-brainer

for Democratic candidates. All the swooning female voters on Earth won't save Edwards from his trial lawyer label, perceived lack of experience, or campaign finance investigation. Of these four, John Kerry is the true giant, who at times — though not as often as I would like — speaks his mind and presents a vision for the country.

Howard Dean — he's gaining attention using straight talk, and is building a strong Web-based grassroots network. A "guys-guy" like Bush, Dean will attract independents and populists in competitive and Southern states despite his liberalism on some social issues. He'll need more money, and definitely more polish, however, than he displayed vis-à-vis his top rivals in Saturday's debate.

Can the President be beaten? In addition to favorable polls from a macho nation that still loves a warrior president,

Bush also has a huge financial advantage awaiting any Democrat. Further, he enjoys a late Convention that follows the flag waving Summer Olympics, which allows him to start spending public funds a month later than his Democratic challenger. At present, Democrats will have to pour it on for their nominee even if a sluggish economy continues.

(Todd Flora is a professional issues manager who has served as state director of the California Clean Money Campaign, a campaign finance reform effort, and the Concord Coalition, a budget watchdog organization. He is a speakers bureau member with Heal the Bay, and on the steering committee of Santa Monica's Allied for Responsible Tourism (SMART). To respond or to reach Todd, e-mail him at junkfood6@aol.com.)

Where's the community in Santa Monica Community College?

"The truth shall make you angry."
— Aldous Huxley

An old cliché asserts that what you see depends on where you stand.

As an adjunct English as a Second Language instructor at Santa Monica College, I see the ground level injustice of proposed cuts to ESL classes and vocational programs. Students who get up at 5:30 a.m., work one — and often two lousy jobs — and attend practical English classes in evening are being sacrificed. The nannies who care for our babies, the valets who park our cars, the bus boys who clear our tables, and maids who make our beds are being locked out of Santa Monica College. Many immigrants and refugees already have very difficult lives, and this action adds more burdens and takes away education opportunities from hundreds, probably thousands of people.

The Santa Monica Board of Trustees, who seldom visit classes and perceive themselves as looking down from the mountain, claim these actions are necessary and wise. They are wrong. Perhaps they miss the big picture because they are cushioned by privilege, abstract language, and a lack of imagination. Perhaps they also lack sympathy since they have

chosen to protect administrators' jobs, often at over \$100,000 per year, instead of keeping classes open.

I know those words sound harsh, but those are the simple consequences of their decisions. Once again, the few and powerful are making a "tough" decision to protect other powerful and well-paid associates from salary cuts and reassignments into classroom while laying off classified workers, dumping adjunct faculty by the dozens and dozens, eliminating hundreds of classes and shutting the doors to thousands of students. Oh, yeah, they are also spending more money on a new arts center and continuing expensive remodeling of buildings. Does that sound fair, reasonable, or wise?

Let me rephrase the question. Why does Santa Monica Community College need so many administrators? Why does SMC have one of the worst ratios of administrators to full-time faculty in the state? Why not just be an average California community college and reassign several administrators to the classroom?

The rejection of this option seems particularly insulting since all these great

administrative minds have come up with no ideas except cutting services to working class students and other vulnerable members of the community. How exactly are these administrators earning their salary? Why should 10,000 other students lose educational opportunities to keep surplus administrators in very high-paying jobs? How is that fair?

Of course, SMC faces a terrible budget crisis. Whose fault is that? It's not the students, classified staff, or adjunct faculty's fault. Yet we are being asked to pay the price.

Please allow me to explore some other taboo questions.

1. Some board members are fond of using the family metaphor for the community college. Families share sacrifices across the board during a crisis. What is President Robertson sacrificing? What is Vice-President Mr. Donner giving up? What is Assistant Dean Lupita Tannatt, the nominal head of the non-credit ESL department being abolished without a formal board vote, giving up? Almost nothing.

Many people — teachers, union officials, and even a few administrators — have suggested that a 10 percent reduc-

tion in paid salaries across the campus would make sense. Such a shared sacrifice would save around \$7.5 million — and that is half of the worst-case scenario. The reality is that the May revised budget will probably mandate even smaller cuts for community colleges.

Of course, I really believe that both fairness and simple math indicate that the top-level college employees should take a larger cut and janitors a smaller cut. Yet we've been cautioned by union leaders to have modest, reasonable expectations.

2. These brutal cutbacks abolish entire departments — from automotive and art to fashion design and non-credit ESL. Is that due to the budget crisis or an addiction to a longtime fantasy of transforming SMC into a four-year university? Why are they attacking the working class students? Why are low income, disadvantaged, immigrant, refugee, and vocational students bearing almost all the sacrifice?

Santa Monica Community College is chartered, legally, as a community college. Shouldn't the board of trustees first meet its obligations as a community college before trying to position SMCC for some four-year university future? Shouldn't the board keep its commitment to current students? Transfer students are

See SMC, page 5

Guest Commentary

By Eric H. Roth

OPINION



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Options needed at SMC

SMC, from page 4

not more important than students who learn a skill and make a living! Everyone in the community, including bus boys, maids, mechanics, nannies and sales people — everyone — deserves a chance to take classes and develop their skills!

3. It's impossible to ignore the fact that 10 vocational programs, minority programs, and the non-credit ESL program — all serving less privileged students/outside — are being abolished while more academic programs are being trimmed. What criteria were really used by the administration?

Sometimes administrators sound like they have no choices. It's utterly false and disingenuous. Here's a simple alternative. Why not just reduce all departments by a set ratio? Or, again, we could just cut salaries — across the board — by a set ratio to minimize layoffs and class closures.

4. Here's another wild suggestion. Why not charge more for students who already have a BA? Or exclude classes that mostly attract students with a BA if some courses must be cut? Of course, they really don't have to cut so many classes.

5. Many student presentations at the last board meeting were eloquent, potent, and on target in their criticisms of these proposed cuts. They combined a tone of anger and betrayal at the board of trustees' proposed actions — and the lame attempts to hide behind the deservedly unpopular Gov. Gray Davis. Yet the board of trustees must take responsibility for its decisions and the consequences.

The board of trustees, not Gov. Davis, has made critical decisions that were both short-sighted and negative for Santa Monica College. They are maintaining high reserve levels for a rainy day. If cutting \$15 million isn't a rainy day, then what would a rainy day look like? This is one of the most peculiar aspects of the budget crisis. Several informed observers who have looked at the numbers have made this simple point: The Academic Senate's sensible suggestion to prepare three budgets — worse, bad, and tolerable — have consistently been ignored. Why does the board seem to be

in such a rush to assume the worst and make unequal cuts?

6. Let's be also honest about those Proposition U funds. The board asked the Santa Monica voters to tax themselves \$160 million over a decade to improve the quality of education at SMC. The local voters chose to tax themselves because they believed in this community college and the value of education.

Yet the board evidently measured educational progress by buildings remodeled or purchased, not by classes taught. So the Prop U bond issue mandates that the money only go to capital projects. Evidently, we can't use that money now to keep classes open.

What administrative genius decided to only spend the money on buildings? Wasn't that really stupid? When will the board take responsibility for the consequences of its decisions?

Perhaps I missed it, but has anybody in the SMC administration or board member apologized for not even setting aside 1 percent of the bond for other educational needs? That mere 10 percent would cover the entire budget crisis for next year! This board's decisions have directly helped create this crisis — and students, classified workers, or adjunct faculty shouldn't have to pay for their failures!

The local SM taxpayers deserve to know this fact. Santa Monica Community College doesn't need more buildings, new art centers, or more prestige; it needs to maintain classes for as many community college students as possible.

Perhaps there are no victories to be won in Monday's board of trustees meeting but there are certainly points to be made.

Rumors have it that there is a profound split at the highest levels of the college about the size and shape of these cuts. Let's hope the advocates of fairer, gentler, and more reasonable cuts prevail. An articulate, large, and determined crowd might help board members focus on keeping the word "community" in Santa Monica Community College.

(Eric H. Roth is an adjunct ESL instructor at SMC.)



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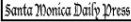
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LOCAL

Neighbors want family to stay

CHARGES, from page 1

didn't allow the Vivanco's children to play outside or have friends over, according to the charges filed by the Santa Monica City Attorney's office. The charges also accuse Liska of allegedly yelling at the Vivanco children and trying to get the family to sign a lease increasing their rent if they had any more children.

The Vivancos pay \$654 per month for their two-bedroom apartment, while similar units in the building go for more than \$1,000, neighbors said.

Liska sent the Vivancos a 30-day notice in December, alleging the family is disruptive to neighbors because their four children play outside, kick balls against the apartment walls and play loud music.

Candido and Elvira Vivanco responded by filing a complaint with Santa Monica City Hall in December. The family launched a civil lawsuit against Liska in January alleging racial discrimination, harassment and violating several state and federal laws.

Deputy City Attorney Adam Radinsky said City Hall decided to levy criminal charges after concluding an investigation of its own.

Liska faces two counts of intimidation or coercion, two counts of harassment and one count of child discrimination. Each count carries a maximum penalty of \$2,700 and six months in jail.

She is scheduled to be arraigned in Santa Monica Superior Court June 3.

Neither Liska, who lives in Santa Monica, nor her Santa Monica attorney, Eric Meller, returned calls Monday seeking comment.

Liska has not moved forward with court proceedings to remove the family from the building. With the lawsuits pending, the Vivancos still reside in the apartment.

The five violations Liska is charged with fall under the Tenant Harassment Ordinance, which was passed by the City Council in 1995. Radinsky said the ordi-



File photo

The Vivancos, right, listen in January to Pico neighborhood activist Oscar de la Torre explain how poorer families are being forced out of Santa Monica by higher rents. The Vivancos are suing their landlord for allegedly trying to force them out of their apartment.

nance was passed to protect tenants from unscrupulous landlords seeking to profit off the recently passed vacancy decontrol law.

More than 500 formal complaints have been filed with the city under the ordinance and the vast majority of them are resolved out of court, Radinsky said.

More than a dozen of the complaints have led to criminal or civil charges, he added. Only two have lasted through an entire trial, with both cases being found in favor of the tenants.

A host of religious and community leaders — including Father Michael Gutierrez, the pastor at Saint Anne's Church in Santa Monica, and Oscar de la Torre, director of the Pico Neighborhood Youth and Family Center and a local school board member — have come out in support of the Vivanco family.

Neighbors on Monday said they hope the family will stay.

"Our landlord is full of it," said Marc Clebanoff, who has lived in the building just over a year. "It's a pretty ridiculous thing. I'm in full support of the family."

Santa Monica Playhouse in final month of fund-raising

PLAYHOUSE, from page 1

the playhouse in 1969.

The internationally acclaimed playhouse, which is the oldest continuously producing theater company and conservatory in the city, opened in its current location on Fourth Street between Wilshire Boulevard and Arizona Avenue, in 1962.

Back then, it paid \$200 a month in rent, said Sandra Zeitzew, director of public relations. Today, it pays \$10,000 and if it stays past May, the rent will be bumped up to \$13,000, Zeitzew said.

Fund-raising for the Santa Monica Playhouse began 18 months ago. According to the terms of the deal with the landlord, local attorney Jules Kievits, the Santa Monica Playhouse must hand over a \$500,000 down payment June 1 for its portion of the property — which includes two theaters, a rehearsal area and a dressing room.

The playhouse has met each of its six-month goals over the past year and a half to make sure it's on track for the deadline.

"This is our final benchmark," Zeitzew said. "If we're able to raise the money we're trying to raise by the end of the month, it'll cement the deal."

If they're successful in purchasing the



The Santa Monica Playhouse

theater, playhouse officials expect their mortgage payments to be as little as half as much as their current rent payments.

While the theater continues passing the donation basket at its weekly fund-raiser shows, Zeitzew said they're looking at every possible revenue source.

City officials last year agreed to pitch in \$75,000 to the ailing theater.

"It's always been a multi-pronged approach," she said. "We're doing the grassroots fundraising and at the same time we're approaching the bigger business, the corporations, the foundations."

STATE



Venture capital fund-raising falls to lowest level since 1994

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Venture capital fund-raising in the first quarter fell to its lowest level in nearly a decade, according to industry data released Monday.

The \$996 million collected by venture capitalists during the three months ended in March represented the industry's driest three-month period since the third quarter of 1994, according to data compiled by Thomson Venture Economics for the National Venture Capital Association.

Venture capitalists raised \$404 million in the 1994 quarter ending in September.

This year's first-quarter represented a 41 percent decrease from the same time last year, when venture capitalists raised \$1.68 billion for future investments, the study said.

The feeble fund-raising isn't surprising. Burned by the huge losses that piled up during the dot-com meltdown, venture capitalists have become more careful about investing all the money that they raised during the high-tech boom of a few years ago.

The industry raised \$106 billion in 2000 alone, according to Venture Economics — and a huge chunk of that money is still sitting on the sidelines.

The prospects for finding successful startups look so bleak that some venture capitalists have been returning money they had collected from institutional investors.

That phenomenon continued in the first quarter, with venture capitalists refunding \$392.5 million to their partners, according to Venture Economics.

Factoring in those refunds, a net total of \$603.6 million flowed into the venture capital industry during the first quarter.

The first quarter's net volume represented the lowest since the second quarter of last year when venture capitalists refunded \$3.27 billion while raising \$2.32 billion, resulting in a \$950 million contraction.

With their average losses surpassing 20 percent in each of the last two years, venture capitalists also are having a tougher time enticing investors to ante up, said Corey Lavinsky, president of Growthink Research, a firm that tracks venture capital trends.

The stock market's distaste for initial public offerings from unproven startups also has discouraged venture capitalists. The stock market provides a crucial channel for venture capitalists to cash out of their investments.

Despite the difficult conditions, some venture capitalists insist this is a prime time to be investing in promising startups. That's because the adversity is forcing cash-starved entrepreneurs to sell bigger stakes in their startups for less money.

Startups can make their venture capital last longer, too, because many tech workers are willing to take less pay, particularly in the depressed Silicon Valley, where offices are cheaper to rent than three years ago.

Judge delays ruling in 'Winnie the Pooh' copyright legal case

BY GARY GENTILE
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — A federal court judge is considering whether the granddaughter of Winnie the Pooh creator A.A. Milne can reclaim the family's copyrights from a third party and reassign them to The Walt Disney Co.

After a hearing Monday, United States District Court Judge Florence-Marie Cooper delayed her tentative ruling, which rejected Milne's claims, saying she would consider arguments made by both sides.

Clare Milne, who lives in England, has asked the court to let her take back the North American licensing rights from the heirs of Stephen Slesinger, who secured those rights first in 1930, then again in 1961 and 1983.

Milne's action comes as Disney and Slesinger's heirs are embroiled in a bitter 12-year dispute over royalties due to Slesinger's company, SSI Inc.

The Slesinger estate sued Disney in 1991, alleging that Disney miscalculated royalties due from the sale of Pooh dolls, books and other merchandise.

The lawsuit also claims that millions of dollars of additional royalties are due for Pooh videos, DVDs, computer software and other electronic products not specifically covered under its deal, but promised verbally to Slesinger by Disney representatives.

Disney denies such royalties are owed.

Last November, Disney announced that the granddaughters of Milne and Pooh illustrator E. H. Shepard decided to take advantage of changes in U.S. copy-

right law that allow them to reclaim their rights and enter into new agreements. Disney said the heirs decided to reclaim their rights from SSI and grant Disney exclusive worldwide licensing rights starting in 2004.

Judge Cooper issued a tentative ruling last week against Milne, saying that A.A. Milne's son, Christopher Robin Milne, had the chance to revoke the copyright in 1983, but chose not to. Milne instead signed the new 1983 deal between SSI and Disney.

Monday, she decided to consider the case further after arguments that reflected the complexity of the case.

"Some things are very clear to me," Disney attorney Daniel Petrocelli said.

"I wish I could say the same," Judge Cooper replied.

Petrocelli argued that the 1983 royalty agreement, which simultaneously voided earlier deals and struck new terms, was nothing more than a "legal fiction" in response to changes made in U.S. Copyright law in 1976.

Those changes gave heirs of authors the right to reclaim the creator's copyrights after a period of years. The 1983 deal, in effect, reset the clock, delaying the Milne's rights to reclaim copyrights granted to third parties for many years into the future, Petrocelli said.

"The sole purpose was to make a 1930 grant into a 1983 grant so the statutory right of termination Clare Milne possessed were defeated," Petrocelli said.

The judge did not say when she would issue her ruling.

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Santa Monica

A weekly look at events and program

A guide on how you can tell if your infant is ill

Guest Commentary

By Edward W. Malphus, M.D.

QUESTION: How can I tell if my newborn is really sick or just being fussy? When should I call my pediatrician?

ANSWER: It's not unusual for new moms and dads to worry about whether something is wrong with their newborn, even if it's a simple case of "he/she just doesn't look right." As parents get to know their infant, it becomes easier for them to detect problems associated with illness. As a general guideline, howev-

er, you should consult your pediatrician immediately if your baby exhibits any of the following symptoms or behaviors:

- Is lethargic, listless and unresponsive.
- Vomits persistently or the vomit is bile-stained (green).
- Has a fever greater than 100.4 degrees F rectally or greater than 99 degrees F axillary (under the arm).
- Has diarrhea consisting of watery, green, foul-smelling stools or stools that contain pus and blood.
- Refuses to eat for longer than six to eight hours.
- Has difficulty breathing and/or dusky skin color.
- Has a decrease in urine of less than three wet diapers in 24 hours or

has a lack of stools.

- Has not urinated within eight hours of a circumcision.
 - Has unusual drainage from any site such as the eyes or umbilical cord.
 - Exhibits behavioral changes such as crying excessively, extreme fussiness, restlessness or irritability for no apparent reason.
 - Has increasing jaundice or yellow color to the skin and white part of the eyes, usually occurring between one to five days after birth.
- Jaundice is extremely common in newborns, occurring in more than 60 percent of babies born in the United States. It can develop in both bottle-fed and breast-fed newborns. It usually begins to develop 24 hours after

birth and often disappears on its own within the first week or two. If the yellow tint becomes more intense after three days of age, you should notify your pediatrician.

(Edward W. Malphus, M.D. is a pediatrician at Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica. For more information, contact Saint John's at (310) 829-5511 or visit the hospital's Web site at www.stjohns.org.)

How to prepare for that momentous occasion

Guest Commentary

By Liz Maister, R.N.

QUESTION: I am due to have my first baby shortly. What should I plan to bring with me to the hospital when I deliver?

ANSWER: It's a good idea to be prepared at least one month in advance of the

arrival of your baby, so that you don't overlook essential items in the last-minute rush to the delivery room. Following is a recommended checklist of items and important information to bring with you to insure your comfort during this momentous occasion.

Before your delivery, you will need to pre-register at the hospital and choose a pediatrician. During pre-registration, be sure to bring your identification (driver's license or passport), health insurance card and all essential phone numbers, such as physicians, family

members, etc., so that you can fill out the necessary forms completely.

Have written directions and/or a map to the hospital ready, in the event of an emergency or if the person taking you to the hospital is unfamiliar with the facility.

Expectant moms will also need to bring items for the new baby. When packing, you should include:

- Newborn outfit
- Receiving blanket
- Large blanket
- Hat
- Socks or booties

In addition, you should have an approved infant car seat already secured in the back seat of your vehicle, ready for the trip home. It is not necessary to bring diapers or feeding supplies with you as these will be provided at the hospital.

If the father-to-be or anyone else is planning to stay overnight with you, they should pack sleepwear, such as pajamas and a robe, toiletries, as well as a change of clothing. Snacks and bottled water are also recommended.

Mothers-to-be should pack a nightgown, undergarments, a robe and slippers, toiletries and cosmetics, and an extra change of clothes to wear home. If you plan to nurse your baby, you should also include a nursing bra. If music will help relax you, you can bring a CD/cassette player and some music CDs. Please leave money and valuables, such as expensive jewelry, at home. But don't forget the camera!

(Liz Maister, R.N., is director of maternal health at Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica. For more information about the hospital, call (310) 829-5511 or visit Saint John's Web site at www.stjohns.org.)

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SCHEDULES:

TUESDAY

Storytelling

Main Library - Toddler Story Time at 10:00 and 10:45am - Reed Park/West Auditorium/7th and Wilshire - 2 yr-olds with parent. 310-458-8922

Fairview Branch - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443
Lap Time - 11:00am, April 29 - June 3 for 0-24 month olds
Twilight Story Time - 7pm - an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.
Cuentos Para Pequenos - 10am - April 29-June 3 - a 6-wk program of stories in Spanish for 2-3 years old.

Montana Avenue Branch - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081
Family Story Time - 7pm - Stories for the entire family.
School Age Stories and Crafts - 3:30pm - every other Tuesday thru May 27, ages 5-9 years

Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804
Toddler Story Time - 10:00 & 10:30am, April 15-May 20, ages 2-3 years, registration required, call for info.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station - 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, \$9
Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15, Mommy and Me - 1:45-3pm, \$15

Other

Recreational Swimming - Santa Monica Swim Center at SMC - corner of Pico and 16th, 4 - 6:30pm, Residents pay \$2.50 per adult, \$1.00 per child. 310-458-8700

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling

Fairview Branch - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443,
Preschool Story Time - 10:30am - April 30 - June 4, 3-5 year olds able to be on their own

Montana Avenue Branch - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081
Lap Time - 10 and 10:30am - 6 wk series for 0 - 24 months, April 16 - May 21. No registration required.

Toddler Story Time - 11:15 am - 6 wk series for 2 year olds w/ adult, April 16-May 21. No registration required.

Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804, Twilight Story Time - 7:00 to 7:30pm - for parents with 3-5 year olds.
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion - 2 pm - ages 2-5 - 310-475-4144

Border's, Westwood - 11am - 310-475-3444

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station - 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 11:15am - 12:30pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, Mommy and me (infants) 1-2pm, \$9

Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15

Yoga Garden - 310-450-0133, www.yogagardenstudios.com, Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal - 6:30pm

The Pump Station - Jennifer Triggs - 310-451-9051 (call first), Pre-natal - 6:30 - 7:30pm, \$10

Other

Puppetolio - 1:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

Recreational Swimming - Santa Monica Swim Center at SMC - corner of Pico and 16th, 4 - 6:30pm, Residents pay \$2.50 per adult, \$1.00 per child. 310-458-8700

THURSDAY

Storytelling

Main Library - Preschool Story Time - 10:15am - Reed Park/West Auditorium/7th & Wilshire, Stories for ages 3-5 able to be on their own. 310-458-8922

Fairview Branch - 2101 Ocean Park Blvd - 310-450-0443
Toddler Story Time - 10:30am - May 1 - June 5 - 6 week series for 2-3 year olds with adult.

La Hora Del Cuento - 7:00pm - Stories in Spanish for all ages.

Montana Avenue Branch - 1704 Montana Ave - 310-829-7081
Toddler Story Time - 10:15am - April 17 - May 22 - 6 week series for 2 year olds with adult.

Preschool Story Time - 11:15am - for 3-5 year olds.

Ocean Park Branch - 2601 Main St. - 310-392-3804
Lap Time - 9:20 and 10:20am - stories and songs for 0-2 year olds.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station - 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00-2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, \$9
Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15, Mommy and Me - 1:45-3pm, \$15

Other

Recreational Swimming - Santa Monica Swim Center at SMC - corner of Pico and 16th, 4 - 6:30pm, Residents pay \$2.50 per adult, \$1.00 per child. 310-458-8700

Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute) - Sullivan Canyon (West LA) - 10am Reservations required - 310-998-1151 or www.childrensnatureinstitute.org

FRIDAY

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 11:15am - 12:30pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, Mommy and me (infants) 1-2pm, \$9

Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15

Other

Recreational Swimming - Santa Monica Swim Center at SMC - corner of Pico and 16th, 4 - 6:30pm, Residents pay \$2.50 per adult, \$1.00 per child. 310-458-8700

SATURDAY

Storytelling

Children's Book World - 10580 W. Pico Blvd, LA, 310-559-800K, 10:30 am, ages 3-8 (May 3, 10, 17, and 24)

Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade - Kid's Story Time - 10am - 310-260-9110

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion - 10:30am - ages 2-5 - 310-475-4144

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga - 9:15 - 10:30am, and 10:45 - noon, \$13

Santa Monica Yoga - 1640 Ocean Park Blvd. - 310-396-4040, Prenatal yoga - 12:30 - 2:00pm, \$14

Other

Puppetolio - 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

Recreational Swimming - Santa Monica Swim Center at SMC - corner of Pico and 16th, 10:30am - 4:30 pm, Residents pay \$3.00 per family (up to two adults and two children). 310-458-8700

Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute) - Temescal Canyon (Pacific Palisades) - 10am Reservations required - 310-998-1151 or www.childrensnatureinstitute.org

MAYFAIRE - Westside Waldorf School, 1229 4th St, 11am - 4pm. Family fun with music, crafts, games and Maypole dancing. Silent auction at 3pm. Free admission, open to the public. 310-576-0788

SUNDAY

Puppetolio - 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

Recreational Swimming - Santa Monica Swim Center at SMC - corner of Pico and 16th, 1 - 4:30pm, Residents pay \$3.00 per family (up to two adults and two children). 310-458-8700

MONDAY

Storytelling

Main Library (programs for the Main Library are being presented in off-site locations during renovation) Lap Time for parents and children up to 24 months, 9:30am, Joslyn Park/Craft Room/633 Kensington - 310-452-6132

Barnes and Noble - 3rd St. Promenade - Toddler Story Time - 10am - 310-260-9110

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station - 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 8-12 months, 10am - 11:30pm Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) - 310-306-9381 Prenatal yoga - 11:15am - 12:30pm, \$13 Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) - 10-11am, Mommy and me (infants) 1-2pm, \$9

Yoga Works - 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150 Pre/Postnatal - 12:15 - 1:45pm, \$15

Yoga Garden - 310-450-0133, www.yogagardenstudios.com Restorative yoga for pre/postnatal - 6:30pm



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G8 ministers say threat from al-Qaida 'remains serious'

BY JOHN LEICESTER
Associated Press Writer

PARIS — The al-Qaida terror network remains a serious threat, with sleeper cells and agents "ready to act" and bases apparently relocated outside of Afghanistan, the world's top justice and interior ministers said Monday.

In a grim assessment, ministers from the Group of Eight nations said terrorism is still "a pervasive and global threat" and warned that terrorists could use chemical, biological or nuclear weapons in attacks.

The ministers pledged to strengthen cooperation between police forces and intelligence services to thwart terrorist attacks, and approved measures to combat the financing of crime and terrorism.

"The threat from the al-Qaida network remains serious," the ministers said in a statement after a daylong meeting in Paris.

"In spite of the elimination of most of its bases in Afghanistan, it seems that other camps have been reactivated in other areas," said the statement.

It gave no details. But French Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy

said al-Qaida appears to have moved bases to the former Soviet republic of Georgia and Russia's restive Chechnya region.

The ministers said al-Qaida's abilities have been shaken by recent arrests, but "dormant individuals and cells are always ready to act."

In the last week, Pakistan has arrested at least 10 suspected al-Qaida members, including Waleed Mohammed Bin Attash, whom U.S. counterterrorism officials describe as one of the most wanted al-Qaida fugitives.

Sarkozy said al-Qaida "has been deeply disorganized," but added: "We don't expect to lower our guard for a long time."

Home Secretary David Blunkett of Britain said the ouster of Saddam Hussein's regime had also dealt terrorists a blow, although he agreed that terrorism remains a threat.

"Whilst we've removed one threat in relation to Iraq, a rogue state, and we've obviously damaged the morale of those who were able to draw on the tacit support of the regime, the network out there remains a problem," he said in an interview with The Associated Press.

U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft attended the meeting — a sign that France and the United States continue to work together against crime and terrorism despite their bitter dispute over the war in Iraq.

"French-American cooperation never stopped because it concerns the security of our citizens," said Sarkozy. "Those disagreements (over Iraq) are real but that does not necessitate disaccord on the fight against terrorism."

Ashcroft, one of the most senior American officials to visit Paris since the dispute over Iraq, was pressed by France's justice minister over the fate of six French nationals detained in the war on terrorism and held at the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The French minister, Dominique Perben, said he told Ashcroft that a "number of French observers consider that the situation is immobile, unchanged and worrisome."

Ashcroft did not talk to reporters after the meetings.

More than a year after the first of around 600 detainees captured in the war on terrorism arrived at the detention center, none have



Jacques Brinon/Associated Press
U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, foreground, walks past a Republican Guard, right, and a police officer, left, as he arrives at a Paris conference center, Monday.

been charged with a crime and for trials in Guantanamo, leaving no preparations are under way the men in legal limbo.

Report: Salary increases don't keep up with housing costs

BY GENARO C. ARMAS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Wage increases aren't keeping up with rising housing costs, whether for low-income workers like janitors or middle-income teachers and police officers, according to a study Monday by an affordable housing coalition.

For instance, the median household income for a janitor rose about 9 percent between 1999 and 2001 — not accounting for inflation — to about \$17,900. That was far short of the 25 percent increase in the median fair market rent of \$721 a month for a two-bedroom apartment, the nonprofit National Housing Conference said.

Fair market rent includes the cost of housing and most utilities. It is calculated for metropolitan areas by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to help determine the worth of federal housing vouchers used by poor families to pay rent.

The report found that in 2001, a family relying on a janitor's salary couldn't afford to pay rent or a mortgage in most of the nation's 60 largest housing markets. Nurses and those in retail sales had similar problems.

Elementary school teachers and police officers could pay the rent in most areas, but were priced out of homeownership in about half the large housing markets.

"Earnings are flat, the job market is tight, but especially on the rental housing side, you don't have supplies in general keeping up with demand," said Barbara Lipman, research director at the Center for Housing Policy, an arm of the housing conference.

For many families, that may mean rents or mortgage payments don't get paid on time, or less money to spend at the supermarket.

Librada Garcia says she tries to pay the \$650-a-month rent on her apartment on time, but in tight months she might pay a utility bill late or delay paying the baby sitter of her 2-year-old son.

Garcia, who immigrated from Mexico nine years ago, earns about \$1,300 a month cleaning offices in Palo Alto, Calif. Her rent eats up half those earnings. Generally, housing experts recommend that people spend no more than one-third their incomes on their houses or apartments.

Garcia said she may return to Mexico if she can't find a higher-paying job. "I would like to make a go of it," she said through a translator. "I just hope I make enough money to make it."

The National Housing Conference study focused on how affordable it was in 2001 for teachers, janitors, police officers, nurses and retail salespeople to pay for housing, considering them "traditional jobs that relied on traditional wages." It assumed that the household relied solely on the income of someone in one of those occupations.

The report estimated that to afford a two-bedroom apartment at \$721 a month, a worker would have to earn almost \$14.00 an hour. Janitors and those in retail sales didn't make that much in any of the 60 markets studied.

Nurses couldn't afford the typical two-bedroom pad in 17 markets, while it was a barrier for teachers and police officers in just one metropolitan area — San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose in California.

Teachers and police made about \$41,000 a year in 2001, up roughly 10 percent from two years earlier. The median income for nurses was about \$31,000 a year, also up 10 percent, while it rose about 8 percent for retail salespersons to

about \$17,000.

Buying a home has become more affordable for some because of lower mortgage rates, Lipman said, but it still is out of reach for most at the lower end of the wage scale.

To buy a home at the 2001 median price of \$156,000, a family needed about \$49,700 in annual income to help secure the mortgage. The national median income for each of the five occupations studied fell short of that mark, although

there were wide variations across the country for teachers and police officers.

For instance, in Baltimore, a teacher's median annual salary was about \$48,000, roughly \$2,000 more than the income needed to buy a typical home. Forty miles south in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, the median salary for a teacher was about \$40,500, but that fell nearly \$19,000 short of the income needed to qualify for a mortgage.

Limb of hiker who cut his arm off retrieved from under rock

By The Associated Press

CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK, Utah — Thirteen park rangers lugged equipment into this southeastern Utah park and lifted an 800-pound boulder that trapped a mountain climber and forced him to amputate his arm to escape.

After hiking three miles to the remote canyon Sunday, the crew was able to lift the egg-shaped boulder and push it into a space where it fit securely. The rangers also recovered the arm of Aron Ralston, who was pinned for five nights before cutting off his arm below the elbow with a pocketknife on Thursday.

Ralston, 27, hiked out of the canyon for help and remained hospitalized in fair condition in Grand Junction, Colo. He was to undergo surgery Monday to close the wound in preparation for a prosthetic arm. His parents say his spirits remain high.

On Sunday, the rangers slung the chalkstone rock with 2-inch webbing and moved it up about 1 1/2 feet until they

found a spot where it could fit, said river ranger Steve Young.

A grip hoist, a type of strong winch that uses half-inch steel cable, was used to pull the boulder up. Hydraulic jacks were placed on top of wooden cribbing on the floor of the narrow canyon. The jacks were used to push the boulder up and keep it from getting caught on the craggy canyon wall.

The rock apparently had fallen about 2 feet when it trapped Ralston, Young said.

The lower portion of Ralston's right arm was recovered Sunday and taken to a mortuary, said Young, who helped move the boulder.

It took about two hours to lift the rock and push it into a new spot. It is still possible the boulder will move again, Young said. The narrow canyon is prone to flash flooding whenever it rains, and the water could sweep it away.

Sunday was the second time rangers attempted to recover the arm; a previous attempt on Friday was unsuccessful.

SPORTS

San Antonio wins first game of semi-finals, 87-82

BY T.A. BADGER
Associated Press Writer

SAN ANTONIO — It looked like last season all over again.

Just like in the 2002 playoffs, the San Antonio Spurs let a double-digit lead over the Los Angeles Lakers dissolve to one point in the fourth quarter.

But this time the finish was different as the Spurs pulled out an 87-82 victory Monday night in the opening game of their Western Conference semifinal series.

Lakers center Shaquille O'Neal fouled out with more than three minutes to play, and San Antonio then took advantage of its size to counter Kobe Bryant's outside shooting.

O'Neal, who fouled out of a playoff game for the second time in his career, had 24 points and 21 rebounds.

A 3-pointer by Bryant brought Los Angeles within 85-82 with 1:08 left in the game.

That was the last field goal of the game, as the scoring ended with a free throw by Tony Parker after a technical foul against Robert Horry and a free throw by David Robinson with 9.9 seconds left.

Bryant led all scorers with 37 points.

Tim Duncan, who received his MVP trophy before the game, had 28 points, eight rebounds and seven assists for the Spurs, while Manu Ginobili had 15 points, including two key 3-pointers in the fourth quarter.

Game 2 will be in San Antonio on Wednesday night.

Neither team shot well in the first half, which ended with the Spurs leading 38-35 on a buzzer-beating, 40-foot heave by 40-year-old Kevin Willis.

San Antonio extended the lead to as many as 11 points late in the third quarter when Ginobili hit his second 3-pointer of the period at 1:52.

No one in the SBC Center was surprised when the Lakers went right to O'Neal, who missed a 10-foot baseline turnaround in the opening seconds. On San Antonio's first possession, Duncan fed Robinson for a dunk. The Spurs were also predictable early, however, with Duncan scoring eight of his team's next 10 points.

At the other end, O'Neal kept getting the ball in close but Robinson bodied up on him with some success despite the 70-pound weight difference. O'Neal was 5-of-12 from the field in the first half, with all but one of his baskets coming on a dunk or layup.

Bryant struggled offensively in the half, making only six of his 19 field goal attempts.

Duncan's putback of a missed layup by Speedy Claxton gave San Antonio its largest lead of the half, 30-22 with 5:45 left.

But Bryant answered with a 3-pointer from the wing and then added a three-

point play to key a Lakers rally that was capped by a putback dunk by O'Neal that tied the game at 35 with 36 seconds remaining.

Malik Rose grabbed the rebound on a missed 14-footer by Bryant with 4.1 seconds in the half and threw an outlet pass to a streaking Willis, who let go of his shot just over the midcourt line.

Notes: Before the game, NBA commissioner David Stern formally presented Duncan with the league's MVP trophy, which he won for a second straight season. ... The Lakers didn't come out to the court until after the national anthem. ... After making 21 of his 34 3-point attempts in the Minnesota series, Derek Fisher opened against the Spurs by going 2-for-3 behind the arc. ... O'Neal was close to a double-double in the first quarter with 10 points and eight rebounds. ... Parker's only assist came at 2:35 of the third quarter on a feed to Duncan for a layup. ... Devean George of the Lakers was helped off the court early in the final period after he sprained his left ankle after getting tangled up with Ginobili under the Spurs basket. X-rays were negative.

NBA Daily Playoff Glance

By The Associated Press

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS (Best-of-7)

Monday, May 5

New Jersey 97, Boston 93, New Jersey leads series 1-0

San Antonio 87, L.A. Lakers 82, San Antonio leads series 1-0

Tuesday, May 6

Philadelphia at Detroit, 5 p.m.

Sacramento at Dallas, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, May 7

Boston at New Jersey, 4 p.m.

L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 8

Philadelphia at Detroit, 4 p.m.

Sacramento at Dallas, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, May 9

New Jersey at Boston, 5 p.m.

San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 10

Detroit at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.

Dallas at Sacramento, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 11

San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 12:30 p.m.

Detroit at Philadelphia, 5 p.m.

Dallas at Sacramento, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, May 12

New Jersey at Boston, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, May 13

Sacramento at Dallas, TBA, if necessary

L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, TBA, if necessary

Wednesday, May 14

Philadelphia at Detroit, TBA, if necessary

Boston at New Jersey, TBA, if necessary

Thursday, May 15

Dallas at Sacramento, TBA, if necessary

San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, TBA, if necessary

Friday, May 16

New Jersey at Boston, TBA, if necessary

Detroit at Philadelphia, TBA, if necessary

Saturday, May 17

Sacramento at Dallas, TBA, if necessary

L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, TBA, if necessary

Sunday, May 18

Boston at New Jersey, TBA, if necessary

Philadelphia at Detroit, TBA, if necessary

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ACROSS

- 1 Went fast
- 6 Strike a pose
- 11 Pedro's pal
- 12 Avoid
- 13 Be ruined
- 15 Cloud setting
- 16 Manx, for one
- 17 Collection
- 18 Water flower
- 20 Boring
- 23 Like icecaps
- 27 Opera piece
- 28 Dossier
- 29 Outfit
- 31 Assigned a value to
- 32 Quite serious
- 34 Sit-up targets
- 37 Blue
- 38 Chart
- 41 Do one's utmost
- 44 Wear down
- 45 Heart connection
- 46 Home of the Ninja Turtles
- 47 Enter a password

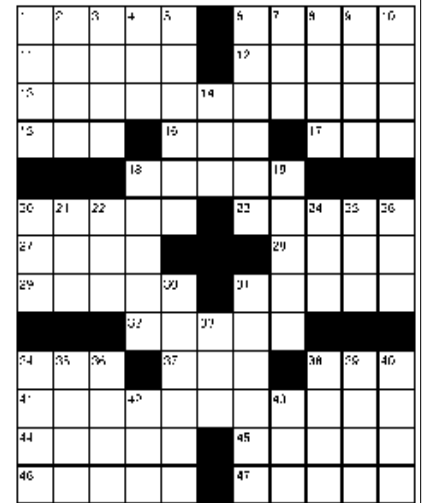
DOWN

- 2 Wild
- 3 Urban area
- 4 Swelled head
- 5 Online business
- 6 Get together
- 7 Hoary
- 8 Two-somes
- 9 Advan-lage
- 10 For fear that
- 14 Topper
- 18 Hawaiian dos
- 19 Until now
- 20 Crane
- 21 Metal source
- 22 Wallop
- 24 Illuminated
- 25 Beer's kin
- 26 Crimson
- 30 Wall art
- 31 Result of a bridge
- 33 Scrooge cry
- 34 Epochs
- 35 Use a drill
- 36 Put away
- 38 Helgen-berger of "C.S.I."
- 39 Singing voice
- 40 Scheme
- 42 Shelley work
- 43 Court



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5-6

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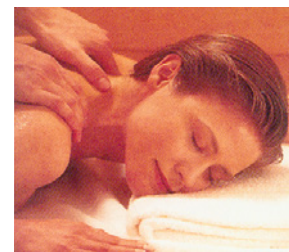
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parking.

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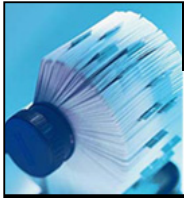
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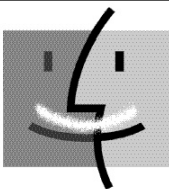
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The Santa Monica Daily Press Obituaries.

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BACK PAGE

Man accused of being a drug kingpin goes on trial

BY CATHERINE WILSON
Associated Press Writer

MIAMI — A jury was seated Monday in less than three hours for the trial of a former drug kingpin who is one of the highest-ranking Colombian drug lords to be tried in the United States.

Defense attorney Roy Black argued that the government illegally excluded Hispanics from the jury about to hear the case against Fabio Ochoa Sanchez, but prosecutor Ed Ryan said he didn't know if the people he dropped were Hispanic.

Opening statements are set for Wednesday in a trial expected to take more than a month.

Security was tight as prospective jurors arrived with extra marshals inside and outside the courtroom. The judge planned to have the anonymous jurors driven back and forth to court in vans with tinted windows to protect their identities.

With no input from attorneys, U.S. District Judge K.

Michael Moore asked jury candidates for their jobs, spouse's jobs, prior jury service, whether they had relatives or friends in law enforcement, whether they had strong opinions on drug issues and whether they knew

Under the extradition treaty, the United States cannot try Ochoa for any of his Medellin cartel activities, including his alleged role in the 1986 hit on drug pilot and informant Barry Seal.

about Ochoa's case. The candidates were identified only by number.

Ochoa served five years in a Colombian prison as a former boss in the now-defunct Medellin cartel, and prosecutors say he is one of the highest-ranking

Colombian drug lords to be tried in the United States. The Medellin cartel was one of the most powerful and feared drug networks of the 1980s.

He is charged under two conspiracy counts that accuse him of returning to the drug business after the United States and Colombia revived an extradition treaty in 1997. His alleged partner, former Medellin lieutenant Alejandro Bernal Madrigal, is cooperating with prosecutors. They say Bernal managed a 30-ton-a-month smuggling empire from a bugged office in Bogota.

Under the extradition treaty, the United States cannot try Ochoa for any of his Medellin cartel activities, including his alleged role in the 1986 hit on drug pilot and informant Barry Seal.

A key piece of evidence in the case against Ochoa is a tape of the only meeting between him and Bernal in Bernal's office, made in 1999. But a transcript of the 3 1/2-hour Spanish conversation is open to interpretation by the government, Ochoa and Bernal.

Couple in 'Long Island Lolita' case finally seek divorce

BY TOM HARRIGAN
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Joey Buttafuoco, whose name became a household word in the 1990s after "Long Island Lolita" Amy Fisher shot his wife in the face, confirmed Monday that he and his wife of 26 years are splitting up.

"It's OK. To move on you've got to get a divorce," Buttafuoco said in a telephone interview. "She's with another guy. His name is Stew. I've been with a girl for awhile, too."

Buttafuoco's attorney, Leon F. Bennett, said the two remain friends and are "trying to work out an amicable resolution."

"She's with another guy. His name is Stew. I've been with a girl for awhile, too."

— JOEY BUTTAFUOCO

Mary Jo Buttafuoco, who filed divorce papers in Ventura County Superior Court on Feb. 3, did not list an attorney in her filing and could not be located for comment.

Fisher, dubbed the Long Island Lolita by the New York City tabloids, was 17 when she shot knocked on Mrs. Buttafuoco's door and then shot her in the

face. She served seven years in prison.

Buttafuoco, who initially denied having an affair with Fisher, pleaded guilty in 1993 to one count of statutory rape and served six months in jail.

He said Monday he only pleaded guilty because he had run out of money and wanted to put the case behind him.

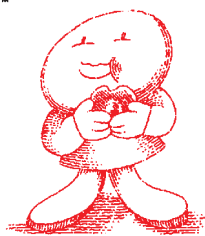
"She was never a girlfriend, never a lover," said Buttafuoco, 48. "The prosecutors spent so much time and money coming after me they had to get a conviction."

In 1995 he pleaded no contest to soliciting sex from an undercover policewoman in Los Angeles.

Buttafuoco, who owned a Long Island auto body repair shop at the time of the shooting, moved to Los Angeles in the mid-90s to pursue an acting career. He said he's since returned to the car repair business, and now works with his adult son.

"I do all the Ferraris," he said. "I do a little TV and movies but that doesn't put a lot of butter on my bread."

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