

FREE

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2004

Volume 3, Issue 151

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

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12-22-25-42-45

Megamember: 4

Jackpot: \$7 million

FANTASY 5

2, 12, 30, 33, 36

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 3, 3, 2

Evening picks: 2, 2, 6

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 11, Money Bags

2nd Place: 04, Big Ben

3rd Place: 09, Winning Spirit

Race Time: 1:42.48



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ An American Airlines flight was canceled after the local Transportation Security Administration official ordered a bomb search (which proved fruitless) based only on information that he said came from a psychic (Fort Myers, Fla.).

■ A Chicago attorney was permitted to withdraw from representing a 75-year-old alleged serial bad-check-writer after he sheepishly admitted that he had taken a check from her for his retainer, but that it had bounced.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I would rather be a coward than brave, because people hurt you when you are brave."

— E. M. Forster



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Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Crossing the street at 23rd Street and Arizona Avenue is dangerous. Residents in the area recently met to discuss ways to make the intersection safer.

Residents driving for change at intersection

Neighborhood wants crazy drivers curbed

BY LAUREN BONIFACIO

Special to the Daily Press

MID CITY — Fed up with out-of-control traffic and law-breaking motorists, a group of residents gathered Tuesday demanding that City Hall do something to make their neighborhood safer.

The final straw for residents who live near 23rd Street and Arizona Avenue was last month, when a senior citizen was seriously injured while he was walking through a crosswalk at the intersection.

In response, about 20 residents met at

the McKinley Elementary School cafeteria a few blocks away to demand from police more patrols of the neighborhood. They said motorists regularly speed through the intersection, often times blowing through the four-way stop signs.

"We're going to try to get some sort of solution ... before something else happens, or someone else gets hit, or a child going to school," said Yvonne Ulrich, an eight-year resident who organized the meeting.

Residents say traffic on the mostly residential streets has grown because motorists use Arizona Avenue instead of Wilshire Boulevard, where the recent installation of islands has served as a

See INTERSECTION, page 7

'Big eight' can fuel schools, SM officials say

But charter amendment may still land on the November ballot

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica's top bureaucrat and the superintendent of the local school district on Wednesday announced an 11th-hour compromise intended to tranquilize the momentum behind a proposed amendment to the city charter that could land on the November ballot.

The deal calls upon City Hall to double for the next five years the \$3 million it gives annually to the school district in ongoing funds, with a 2 percent to 4 percent annual adjustment, based on inflation. The details of the agreement also include loopholes for extraordinary circumstances, and options for both sides to reassess and renew the agreement through 2014.

It's unclear if the deal sets aside enough money for the struggling district to call off a mounting campaign levied by parents that would force City Hall to give schools a minimum of \$6 million annually. If passed by voters this November, the unprecedented charter amendment would require City Hall to give 4 percent of a designated portion of the general fund each year, indefinitely. That percentage would grow if the general fund grows by more than 3.5 percent in any given year.

The general fund targeted under the proposal is about \$150 million this year, organizers said.

Leaders from the Community for Excellent Public Schools, the group that drafted the amendment and gathered more than 8,000 signatures to support it, will meet Friday to discuss the compromise. CEPS spokeswoman Rebecca Kennerly said the group will decide then whether to hand in their signatures, which would require voters to decide on the charter amendment. Once the signatures are turned in, there's no way to change course and pull the item off of the ballot.

In a Wednesday memo, schools superintendent John Deasy strongly urged the local school board to support the compromise reached with City Manager Susan McCarthy, even though it might not raise as much money.

"... I make this recommendation with the absolute

See CEPS, page 6

SMRR builds platform for November election

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN PARK — Members of Santa Monica's ruling party amended the group's political platform last weekend in preparation for the upcoming November election.

Every two years Santa Monicans for Renters Rights updates its plat-

form, a document that outlines the organization's political stances. This year, members added language emphasizing SMRR's commitment to senior citizens, historic properties, public schools and slow-growth development.

SMRR co-chair Denny Zane said this year's meeting, held at

Olympic High School last Sunday, was mostly a formality, because the critical issues expected to be raised in the November election already were addressed in the party's existing platform.

"The key issues — they're mostly long-standing questions about a continuing commitment to

affordable housing and protections for residents, renters in part," Zane said. "Neighborhood-oriented protection, to assure that development doesn't drive neighbors nuts. Slow-managed growth objectives will be a key part of it ... and I think ensuring continuing strong city support

See SMRR, page 6

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Cancer, put your feet up



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)

★★★★ Expansion is the name of the game. You could find someone to be overwhelming at work, as he or she spouts one idea after another. You could find yourself running here and there. Stop. Sit down and think before you leap. Tonight: A friend makes a request.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Work with one person at a time in order to achieve the goals you want. Ideas surge forward as your creativity soars. Review what needs to happen within a professional relationship. You have a lot going for you. Tonight: One-on-one talks.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ News from a distance forces you to rethink plans and information. Others seek you out en masse. Juggle them left and right. Think "success" and "possibilities." Let someone else put his or her cards on the table first. Tonight: Out and about.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Emphasize your daily life. Communicate what is on your mind, even if you are overwhelmed by what you hear. Grasp financial details before taking action. You could be eyeing a new purchase — anything from a car to a computer. Tonight: Put your feet up and veg.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Use your fountain of creativity to deal with finances and associates. You could feel extravagant. Make sure your checkbook is up to your indulgences. Someone special adds a touch of romance and spice to your life. Tonight: Pretend it is the weekend.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You could be overly emotional, according to those around you. Family and security come first. If possible, you will consider working from home more often. Make an effort to clear out a project, which will allow greater relaxation. Tonight: Order in.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Expressing what is on your mind could put you on overload. The more you say, the more your imagination could be triggered. Know what you feel when dealing with a child or loved one. Tell this person. Tonight: Romp into a favorite spot.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Associates charge your door. You easily could be overwhelmed by everyone who is looking for you. Deal with finances and adding to your immediate security. Someone close shares strong feelings right now. Tonight: Pay bills.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Your personality delights others. Put on some soft music while you are working or do something very special. You can enjoy yourself while clearing out a boss's overwhelming requests. Understand what others want. Tonight: As you like it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Take your time sifting through an abundance of opinions and information. You could have a very different perspective because of your diligence. Your instincts prove right-on about a money venture. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You add to meetings. At the same time, you zero in on what you want. Someone could be quite overindulgent right now. You get many financial offers, though you might not be clear about where you are heading. Tonight: Where the gang is.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Others seek you out. Your popularity soars. Options appear left and right. Your instincts prove right-on when dealing with a boss or an authority figure. Trust yourself to make the right decision. Don't allow others to push you. Tonight: A must appearance.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Exploring the night sky

By Daily Press staff

Ever wondered about the universe that Earth and its neighboring planets roll around in?

"Dark Matters" — an exploration of the invisible matter that makes up most of the universe and controls its fate — will be the feature show May 7 and May 14 at Santa Monica College's Friday night astronomy series.

The guest lecture on May 21 will be "Roving Mars." Joy Crisp, mission scientist for the Mars Exploration Rovers, will talk about the rolling reconnaissance of the Red Planet.

The feature shows and guest lecture begin at 8 p.m.

Each show is preceded at 7 p.m. by "The Night Sky Show," which re-creates the night sky and provides the latest information on space exploration.

The astronomy shows are held in the John Drescher Planetarium, which features the state-of-the-art Digistar projection system. It is located on the second floor of Drescher Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. The guest lectures are in science lecture hall, room 140.

Tickets are \$5 each or \$9 for the "double bill," with discounts for children and senior citizens. For information, call (310) 434-4223 or (310) 434-3000.

Groove for a cause

By Daily Press staff

More than 500 Los Angeles business owners, professionals, community leaders and supporters will attend St. Joseph Center's annual Dinner Dance and Auctions.

The event on May 8, in the Crystal Ballroom of the Beverly Hills Hotel, will include a cocktail reception, silent auction, dinner, awards, live auction, music and dancing.

Last year's event raised more than \$355,000 for the center's programs, which encourage self-sufficiency for the working poor and homeless in Venice, Santa Monica and West Los Angeles.

For the third year in a row, actor Stephen Collins will be master of ceremonies; magician and comedian Jim Bentley will host the auction, and the Leonard Neil Orchestra will provide the music.

Funds raised from tickets sales and auctions will go toward providing emergency services, infant and childcare, job training and senior services for the more than 8,000 people who each year use the center's services. Ticket price is \$275 per person. For information and reservations call, (310) 396-6468, ext. 328.

Library hosts 'heat wave'

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Public Library will become a summer hot spot.

The library will present "Heat Wave at the Library," a book reading and talk by author Jill Marie Landis on Thursday, May 20 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave.

Jill Marie Landis is a nationally best-selling author who has been writing since 1988. Her novel "Summer Moon" was chosen by Library Journal as one of the top five romance fiction novels of 2001.

Landis has written numerous historical romances and has begun a trilogy of contemporary novels. Booklist called the first book in the series, "Lover's Lane," "heart-touching and impossible to put down."

The former kindergarten teacher grew up in California and now splits her time between California and Hawaii.

Sponsored by the Santa Monica Public Library, the event is free and open to the public. Barnes & Noble will be selling copies of "Heat Wave," Landis' most recent novel.

For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

surf report

Look for fading NW wind and ground swell and slowly fading S swell today. Northern LA spots see surf in the knee- to waist-high range, with some occasional chest-high sets at stand-out S/combo breaks. South Bay spots see mostly the NW energy with ankle- to knee-high surf at average areas and some waist- to chest-high sets at best NW/combo breaks in the north half of the bay. Winds will be light out of the S to light and variable in the morning, building out of the SW to W up to 10 knots+ in the afternoon.

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

Today the water is:

66'

	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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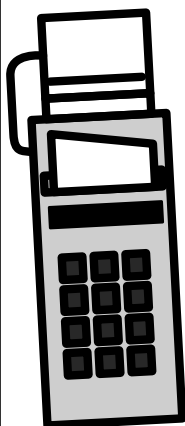
The Santa Monica City Council is considering raising the bed tax on hotel users. The tax hike would have to be voted on by Santa Monica citizens this November.

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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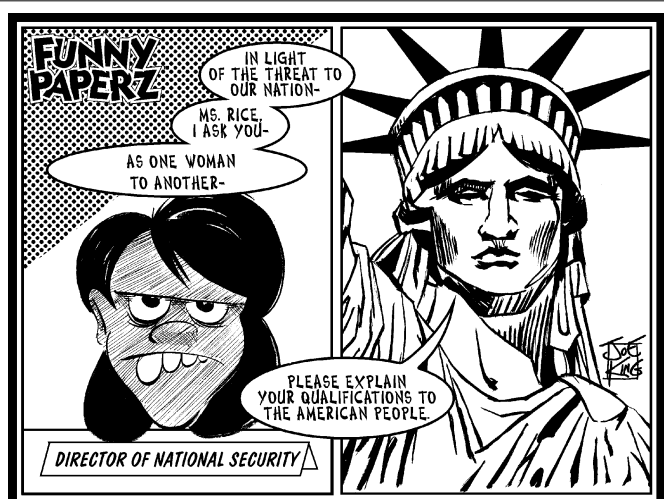
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OPINION

LETTERS



Member: AAEC, NCS, SCCS

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City Hall has money for a mural?

Editor:

Talk about foolish things to do when funding is tight at all levels statewide — Santa Monica spending \$100,000 of hard earned taxpayer's money to pay some outsiders, the "eastside streetscape" (smacks of former guerilla graffiti writers) artists to paint a new mural at the new Virginia Park reconstruction project has to top the list (SMDP, May 4, page 1). And I suppose it will have some kind of Latino theme to it to boot ... Like that's the only ethnicity that should be represented anywhere around here. Better to cancel the mural painting and use the \$100,000 to help feed the unfortunate homeless, deprived of any work on that huge government block grant funded project, and who are the brunt of so much hate and bashing in Santa Monica these days.

Or let the artists paint the mural, if they agree to donate the \$100,000 to feed the poor.

Don Johnson
Venice

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

PLEASE SEND LETTERS TO:

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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.

Buckle up, we may be riding a runaway train

NEWS on the EDGE

By Ron Scott Smith



Uh oh. Repeat. Uh oh. A recent snapshot sent home by the Hubble Space Telescope — and God only knows what else that thing sees — takes a look all the way back to the beginning, to the edge of the big bang. It reveals a "chaotic scrambling of odd galaxies smashing into each other and reforming into bizarre shapes." Those are the words of the Associated Press, folks, not some whacked local columnist for a free daily. It's a mosh pit out there. We're talking science in here. Steven V.W. Beckwith, director of the Space Telescope Science Institute, said the universe "looks like a train wreck."

Mary J. Blige, the queen of hip hop, is the latest subject of investigation by the newly activist FCC, as it considers bringing charges against her for uttering the "S" word during a recent "60 Minutes" interview. That word may not conjure up the most pleasing aspect of the human body but, like it or not, it's all part of nature's big "train wreck," and to dish out punishment for saying it on TV goes beyond the outer reaches of stupid. And why do beautiful black female singers seem to be the ones stuck in the middle of the FCC's bullseye? Janet Jackson's two-second Super Bowl theatrics put her through buckets of that stuff, and set off this ongoing, insane over-reaction by a Bushamerica that insists upon turning time back — upon itself. And by the way, how did Justin Timberlake manage to free-skate through that whole fiasco, even though he's the one that reached over there like a young bull in heat and malfunctioned her wardrobe?

But beautiful black female singers aren't the only things drawing the ire of the FCC these days. Take Howard Stern for instance. Bush says, "Please take him." Millions of the most unexpected and unactivated citizens — Howard's legions — are poised to deluge the ballot box in November at the bidding of their leader. If fully ramped up by then, and if they can find the polling place, they could be the swing vote that turns the tide in John Kerry's favor. Howard says, "My fans are energizing 18-25 year olds who sometimes vote, sometimes don't. They just need a cause and their cause is me. We, the Million Moron March, we will vote against Bush." Look for the FCC, at the president's instruction, to renege on the millions of dollars in fines levied against Stern sometime soon, but it may be too late. He already has the minions stirred beyond the point of no return with his own unique brand of Bush-bashing. "You think Courtney Love is nuts? Bush is 50 times crazier."

It looked for a moment like the FCC might even try to block Ted Koppel from using his Nightline show to present a non-stop, hour-long stream of photos of the some-700 Americans killed in our dual wars. In fact, one major national distributor pulled the show in deference to the whining and railing over such an anti-American concept. But if it's so painful to merely show the pictures of those who give their lives to war, America better start to reevaluate, even if the Commander-In-Chief never will. When asked if he ever appealed to George H.W. Bush for fatherly advice before turning all hell loose in Iraq — advice that may have kept alive those 700 faces seen on Nightline — the younger Bush told Bob Woodward of the Washington Post, "He is the wrong father to appeal to ... there is a higher father that I appeal to." When you appeal all the way up there, you better get the message right, and if might makes right, then this administration has got it. The senior U.S. official in Iraq, Paul Bremer, was full-to-the-brim with might/right when he said, in response to the recent bloody uprisings all over Iraq, "We have more people, more power, more money than them, and we will win." Meanwhile, Sheik Hassan Tueiyima in Baghdad was understated by comparison, "Iraq is burning from the north to the south. The coalition has underestimated the Iraqi temperament." Do you think?

Americans are beginning to burn, too, as news and photos roll in on the blatant abuse of Iraqi prisoners of war. At the request of Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, the commander of all U.S. forces in Iraq, the following words were written by his underling, Maj. Gen. Antonio M. Taguba, to describe activities that have taken place in a U.S.-run military prison:

"I find that the intentional abuse of detainees included the following acts:

- Punching, slapping and kicking detainees, and jumping on their feet.
- Forcing naked male detainees to wear women's underwear.
- Arranging naked male detainees in a pile and then jumping on them.
- Positioning a naked detainee on a box, with a sandbag on his head, and attaching wires to his fingers, toes, and penis to simulate electric torture."

The list goes on, but you, like the detainees, get the point. War is hell, so what's new? "Shoot," said Rush Limbaugh on his radio show Tuesday, deftly avoiding the "S" word that could land him in even more trouble than he's found with his drug addiction. "Here comes another damned investigation of the good guys." His is the most-listened-to radio show in the universe, but then, the universe — as noted earlier — might not be rolling on a full two tracks.

(Ron Scott Smith might be headed for his own train wreck. Send warnings to EdgeoftheWest@aol.com).

OPINION



Race to the White House begins with the basics



HERE'S THE THING

By Lara M. Brown, Ph.D.

Despite what you've seen on the news, President Bush still has the advantage. He's the incumbent. Our country tends to like change in theory, much more than we like it in fact.

Since 1900, we've had 11 presidential elections where an incumbent who won the office (rather than assuming it after a death or a resignation) ran for reelection. Only three times has a challenger beat the sitting president — Roosevelt over Hoover; Reagan over Carter; and Clinton over Bush. Not impossible, just improbable. To win, you have to be exceptional.

These presidents (Roosevelt, Reagan and Clinton) are considered by historians to be some of the great communicators — extraordinary rhetorical skills coupled with an ability to relate to people. They listened, empathized, reassured, and persuaded large enough coalitions to get not only elected, but also reelected. It's no accident.

The presidency is an office of survival of the fittest, not survival of the best, wisest or most qualified person. It's the person who is most able to articulate a vision and connect with the public — the best politician.

All sorts of things factor into whether or not specific candidates have more success than others at certain times in history, but the basic political skills of the nominee have to be there. No amount of packaging by the campaigns can make up for it.

Democrats during the primaries told pollsters that "electability" was the only trait that mattered in a candidate. Most felt that Sen. John Kerry, given his political experience and distinguished resume, would be the best nominee. Many were willing to overlook his tendency towards long-winded responses. Many believed his biography would overcome his personality.

While the polls are close about who

will win (Bush and Kerry are within a few points of each other), Kerry's numbers suggest that his campaign's hopes of creating a favorable impression among voters with a \$27.5 million television advertising buy may soon be dashed.

The New York Times/CBS News Poll, conducted from April 23-27, places the percentage of voters who hold a favorable opinion of Kerry at 27 percent, while 33 percent hold an unfavorable opinion. Twenty-six percent are undecided and 14 percent feel they haven't heard enough to form an opinion. The same poll taken four months earlier, Jan. 12-15, is markedly different. Back then 19 percent had a favorable opinion of Kerry, 15 percent an unfavorable opinion, 27 percent were undecided, and 38 percent did not have enough information.

It is not usual that as a candidate becomes more known, his "unfavorables" rise. But what is disconcerting is the proportion of voters Kerry seems to be winning versus losing (8 percent favorable versus 18 percent unfavorable). These shifts led to the 25 percent decrease in those who were undecided or needed more information, which means that the pool of voters who are open to receiving the advertisements' message is shrinking. While 40 percent have yet to form an opinion, if the "likeability" proportion stays the same, Kerry can only expect his "favorables" to increase about 18 percent, while his "unfavorables" will rise about 22 percent.

In short, were Kerry better known, he would not necessarily be better liked. His numbers might settle somewhere close to 45 percent favorable and 51 percent unfavorable.

President Bush — well known as the incumbent — has relatively stable numbers. In April, 38 percent perceived him favorably, 43 percent perceived him unfavorably, 18 percent were undecided, and only 1 percent felt they hadn't heard enough. In January, 41 percent held a favorable opinion of Bush, 38 percent held an unfavorable opinion, 16 percent were undecided, and 4 percent hadn't heard enough (margins of error +/- 3 percent).

A Granite State Poll conducted in April by researchers at the University of New Hampshire mirrors the above projections. Kerry is well known in New Hampshire, being both a neighbor and having just run an intensive primary campaign in the state. As a result, 46 percent of likely voters hold favorable opinions of him, 42 percent unfavorable, 10 percent are neutral, and 2 percent feel they need more information.

Yet Kerry's numbers are worsening at a more rapid rate than Bush's. In February, 59 percent of likely voters held a favorable opinion of Kerry (13 percent decrease from April), 32 percent held an unfavorable opinion (10 percent increase), and 7 percent were neutral, while 2 percent felt that they needed more information. Conversely, in February, 47 percent held favorable opinions of Bush,

49 percent unfavorable, and 4 percent were neutral; and in April 49 percent held favorable opinions of Bush, 47 percent were unfavorable, and 4 percent were neutral (margins of error +/- 4.4 percent).

Here's The Thing:

Kerry needs to focus on his communication and people skills — not just issue positions. Advertisements won't do it. Maybe when he comes to Los Angeles, instead of solely raising money, he might consider taking an acting class. Maybe Governor Schwarzenegger would agree to private lessons.

(Lara M. Brown, Ph.D., is an education policy consultant and a visiting scholar at UCLA's Institute for Social Science Research. She can be reached at larambrown@aol.com).

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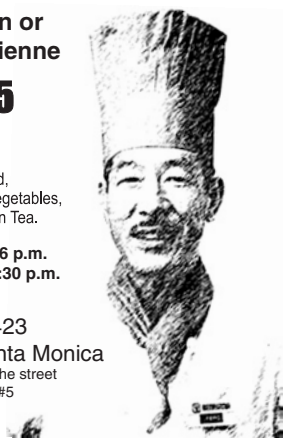
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LOCAL

School board to consider funding compromise

CEPS, from page 1

belief that this should be the only solution to our joint work ... I personally do not see the need for any charter amendment to adjust or amend the charter of the city of Santa Monica for the purposes of enhancing or adjusting Santa Monica-Malibu Unified school funding, and thus do not support such an action. This must be clearly understood to mean not supporting the action of filing any proposed initiative ...," Deasy wrote.

Deasy later added in a telephone interview, "There's a lot at stake. A great deal of thought went into my recommendation and it's based on two parts. The goal, which was a long-term contract with increased revenue — predictable, increased revenue — but the second part was to preserve the relationship with the city, the partnership that we have ... I felt that there was a chance that, absent this agreement, CEPS may have jeopardized that relationship. It would have brought more money in, but it would have jeopardized the relationship we have."

According to the terms negotiated by Deasy and McCarthy, a group of school and city leaders — including the city manager, superintendent of schools, mayor, school board president, and finance officials from City Hall and the school district — will meet in January 2007 to reassess the agreement. That group will decide whether to adjust the base funding by \$1 million, at most.

In making that determination, officials will look at the "big eight" revenue generators — property tax, sales tax, utility users tax, transient occupancy tax, business licenses tax, real property transfer tax, parking facilities tax, and fines and forfeitures. If the cumulative growth of the big eight exceeds the inflation growth by 4 percent in 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 combined, and exceeds 1.25 percent in both years, the

group will discuss adjusting the base payment by an additional three-fourths of 1 percent of big eight revenues, up to \$1 million, according to the agreement.

If growth doesn't meet those levels or declines, the group will discuss whether base payments should be increased anyway, held constant, or reduced by a maximum of \$1 million, according to the agreement. They also will consider whether to withhold inflation adjustments. In extraordinary circumstances — where big eight revenue shrinks or grows by at least 7.5 percent two consecutive years — the group will consider increasing payments or suspending the contract altogether.

Deasy said negotiations, which lasted for months, hinged mostly around what scenarios would prompt an increase in the base, and how much that increase would be.

"We both had to begin to narrow the parameters of possibilities for escalators, that probably was the biggest issue, and that took time to get there," he said. "It was important and, you know, it was hard work, and it required thinking and you had to make assumptions about the future. And it also — it's one of those things where Susan and I don't typically negotiate things, so it was a role that was not typical for both of us, very respectful."

The proposal will go before the school board tonight and the City Council on May 11. Both boards must back the compromise in order for it to become active.

McCarthy declined, through her spokeswoman, to answer questions related to the agreement. In a prepared statement issued to the media, she said, "I believe that the proposed terms represent a fair exchange of value and preserve the ability of the City Council to respond to broader community needs. If the elected officials concur, the city and district staff will work with their legal counsels to develop a formal agreement for execution."

Election will hinge on funding, housing, SMRR leader says

SMRR, from page 1

for our schools will be important.

"And certainly, the underlying issue on development is traffic," added Zane, who helped found SMRR 25 years ago. "The city's fiscal health in the face of state crisis is certainly going to be on the minds of voters and candidates."

The SMRR platform covers 12 different areas, from rent control, affordable housing and education to development, the environment and crime. Zane characterized the overall platform as "a pragmatic, progressive program that addresses major concerns of social justice, environmental quality, and economic and cultural development."

The changes to the platform this year were more modest than in previous years, when SMRR members voted to support a living wage in Santa Monica, limit some development and promote affordable housing, among other issues, Zane said. Though a SMRR committee drafts recommended platform amendments ahead of time, many issues are raised at the meetings by members, who then cast votes on each proposal.

SMRR was formed in 1979 out of a coalition of organizations that banded together to sponsor the local rent control law. The powerful, left-leaning group has spearheaded a variety of progressive local measures throughout the years. In 1981, SMRR first gained the majority of seats on the City Council, and it has retained control over City Hall since 1988. Five of the seven current council members are backed by SMRR.

SMRR support is seen as key to a candidate's success because the party mails out to targeted groups up to eight "slate" mailers, which list its endorsements. The cost of doing so is about \$70,000, making it prohibitive for many independent candidates to run successfully.

Opponents this year have stressed their commitment to defeating SMRR, which they say has lost touch with the majority of locals who want to see leaders be more aggressive in reducing the homeless population and cutting down on City Hall bureaucracy. SMRR members counter they've been hit with those accusations before and maintain they still represent the majority of Santa Monicans' interests.

WANT TO KNOW YOUR DAILY FORECAST?

CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 2

LOCAL

Emergency room traffic has residents concerned about crossing safety

INTERSECTION, from page 1

deterrent to drive on the busy street. Patrons leaving bars on Wilshire Boulevard have caused many of the problems, as well as motorists who use the secondary road to get to the freeway.

"They're cruising through the four-way stop sign because they see the green light on Wilshire," said John Keefer, who has lived near the intersection for three years.

Casually seated on child-sized lunch tables in the school cafeteria, the residents exchanged horror stories of hit-and-runs, sideswipes and near-misses as cars zoom past pedestrians walking through the intersection.

"I swear they're going 70," said Keefer, adding that he can barely back out of his driveway without nearly being hit. "I've had people come back and slash my tires because I've yelled at them to slow down."

In the past year-and-a-half, Maria Perez's car has been hit three times by hit-and-run drivers.

And Ulrich, whose sons' school is only three blocks away, drives them the short distance every day.

"I won't let them walk to school, they think I'm crazy," Ulrich said. "The minute they take a step off the curb, I'm wondering if they're going to make it to school."

The residents suggested City Hall install speed bumps, dips, additional stop signs or a traffic light at the intersection to slow drivers down.

Making those changes is not in the Santa Monica Police Department's jurisdiction, said Lt. Carolin Shepard, who attended Tuesday's meeting and is the representative for the area as part of the SMPD's neighborhood policing program. "We are limited because we can conduct education, we can do enforcement, but we can only offer input to the city."

The SMPD has a program designed specifically to address residents' concerns about traffic safety, which is called the "Problem Solving Safety Team," or PSST, said Lt. Frank Fabrega. The SMPD's traffic enforcement division identifies problem areas based on citizen complaints, and

areas with a high amount of accidents and violations. The SMPD will then take measures to educate the public and enforce the laws in those areas. In the past three years, there have been four accidents at the intersection — one in 2002; two in 2003 and one so far this year, police said.

"I promise you, you will see increased enforcement in that area," SMPD Sgt. Jay Trisler told the group, adding that a specific day this week an officer would be at the intersection ticketing violators.

Trisler said he would station a decoy squad car at the intersection, as well as a radar trailer and message board that tell drivers how fast they are going and to slow down. More sobriety checkpoints will be scheduled near the bars on Wilshire Boulevard, he said.

The residents said they would plan another meeting with a representative of City Hall's transportation management division, which authorizes engineering changes to streets, such as the speed bumps the residents suggested.

But even without city traffic officials at the meeting, the group may already have encountered a roadblock.

Saint John's Health Center is on the same block, and emergency response vehicles need to be able to travel down adjacent streets as quickly as possible.

"Of all places you don't want people slowing down," said Councilman Kevin McKeown, who sat in the back of the cafeteria, unnoticed for most of the meeting, as some residents lambasted City Hall for its failure to listen to their needs.

"There's probably not much we can do about increasing traffic, it's increasing all over Southern California," McKeown said. "How much more can you do besides stop signs and crosswalks?"

With Saint John's slated to open its emergency room on Arizona Avenue soon, bringing even more traffic to the area, residents planned to continue meeting until they found a solution.

"You think it's bad now ... but wait until they open the emergency room," Keefer said.

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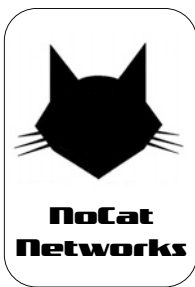
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BUSINESS

Divorce? Handle your estate wisely and save alimony



IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

By John Kim

Maintaining your financial security, and that of any dependent children, is one of the toughest challenges you are likely to encounter when facing a separation or divorce. But once you have decided to divorce, there are a number of estate and gift tax opportunities — as well as pitfalls that may arise as a result of your new status as an unmarried individual.

As you go through the process, consider the following:

■ Your children's anticipated inheritance from you and your former spouse can be protected in the event that either of you subsequently remarries. Such protection can be achieved by using certain trusts.

■ If you have done any irrevocable charitable planning, you may be able to divide your charitable trust or family foundation between you and your former spouse. Not only could this step provide you with the closure you desire, but also

the opportunity to make future independent charitable choices without the need to consult your former spouse.

■ Remember to coordinate the change of all beneficiary designations pending a divorce.

■ If children are named as life insurance beneficiaries, and one parent dies, the other parent usually gains custody of the children. If so, the surviving parent (e.g., the ex-spouse) could control any money left to the children from life insurance. One strategy for dealing with this problem is to have the insurance policy payable to a trust for the children, or to a separate living trust that you control.

As with any estate planning issue, it is imperative to get the help of legal and tax professionals who are familiar with dealing with the unique circumstances that can arise from the division of marital assets.

(John S. Kim is a financial consultant with Smith Barney, located in Beverly Hills. Call (310) 205-4939 or visit his www.fc.smithbarney.com/jkim. This article is based, in whole or in part, on information provided by the consulting group of Smith Barney. Smith Barney and Consulting Group are divisions of Citigroup Global Markets. Member SIPC).

SM firm awarded major client

By Daily Press staff

The Phelps Group was recently selected by Malaysia Airlines, one of the world's leading carriers, to carry out a full integrated marketing communications campaign for the airline.

The campaign will consist of advertising, public relations, promotions and interactive marketing to support the airline's air routes in North and South America. In addition, the agency will handle marketing and communications for Golden Holidays, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Malaysia Airlines, which offers a variety of travel packages and tours to Malaysia. The Phelps Group also is helping the airline design and build a new database system.

NuSil Technology, the leading formulator and manufacturer of silicone compounds for the healthcare, aerospace and electronics industries, also recently selected The Phelps Group for marketing and communication services. The agency will handle advertising, public relations, direct marketing and interactive marketing for NuSil and its subsidiary, Morehouse-Cowles, which supplies equipment and technology for milling, mixing and dissolving for the chemicals, paints, pigments and coatings industries.

"We are delighted to have been chosen by companies that are leaders in their respective industries," noted Hank Shaw, vice president and team leader at The Phelps Group. "Since it began service in 1947, Malaysia Airlines has grown into an award-winning airline with a fleet of more than 100 aircraft serving destinations across six continents. It has also won accolades from business and pleasure travelers alike for its safety, comfort, punctuality and friendly service."

"NuSil, which has manufacturing facilities and operations in both the United States and Europe, is another prestigious account and a major addition to our growing roster of business-to-business accounts," Shaw added. "Especially grat-



Photo courtesy

(Counter clockwise): Joe Phelps, CEO and president, The Phelps Group; Dato' Ahmad Fuaad Dahlan, managing director, Malaysia Airlines; Salleh Tabrani, vice president, Americas; Fadhilah Mustaffa, manager, Corporate Communications; Vladimir Velasco, marketing manager, Americas; Judy Lynes, vice president of public relations, The Phelps Group and Hank Shaw, vice president and team leader, The Phelps Group.

ifying about Malaysia Airlines and NuSil is that they both selected us for campaigns in which advertising, public relations and other marketing disciplines will be integrated. That, we believe, will provide the strongest return on their investment."

Based in Santa Monica, with another office in Laguna Beach, The Phelps Group is an integrated marketing communications firm offering public relations, advertising, direct response, promotions, strategic alliance and interactive services. Its clients, most of which are world leaders in their industry, include ARAMARK, Tahiti Tourisme, Countrywide, City of Hope, Crystal Cruises, Fairmont Hotels, IndyMac Bank, NuSil Technology, Panasonic, PETCO, Whole Foods Markets, Dunn-Edwards Paints, Monrovia Growers and divisions of TDK and Seiko. The agency has more than 70 associates and annual billings in excess of \$55 million. For more information about The Phelps Group, visit www.thephelps-group.com

STATE



Managing growth is key strategy to prevent base closings

Senator from Santa Monica authored bill, making notification required

BY JIM WASSERMAN
Associated Press Writer

FAIRFIELD — More than 100,000 times a year, giant dark-hued cargo planes cruise above this fast-growing city northeast of San Francisco, coming and going on the runways of Travis Air Force Base.

Locals watching the planes see 13,000 jobs and \$1.3 billion a year in the economy. Many would do anything to keep Travis — including shutting down developers, even as thousands clamor to buy houses in their city of 103,000.

"We have to," said the city's vice mayor, Harry Price. "Once you develop, you lose your facility."

Last November, voters passed Measure L, requiring citywide elections for development plans anywhere near the 60-year-old air base that was once in the middle of nowhere. Outgunned local developers called it just another antigrowth measure, masquerading as concern for the military.

Now builders are voicing similar alarm over a statewide alliance of admirals and environmentalists who want to slow development beneath all of California's military flight paths. Aerial routes 10 miles wide, created

during the 1950s and 1960s to train fighter pilots flying 500 mph at 200 feet are fast becoming growth corridors, worrying the military and those who want to keep it in California.

Environmentalists want to save "vast areas of habitat" beneath military flight paths carved out when the state held half the population it does now.

Indeed, as the Defense Department prepares to announce nearly 100 base closures next year, stricter growth management is becoming a key strategy in California and several other states to keep bases off the hit list. California, Florida, Texas, Arizona, Washington and more are passing new laws and putting land off limits — signaling the Pentagon of their seriousness about keeping bases viable.

Florida created the 100-mile Northwest Florida Greenway between the Gulf of Mexico and Eglin Air Force Base. Texas, Arizona and Washington passed bills making cities and counties get input from military commanders on development plans. Florida and Texas are also considering whether to buy land to protect military bases and flyways.

In California, which lost 29 military bases between 1988 and 1995, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has become a key advocate for similar ideas. Talks in the governor's office recently kept alive legislation nearly sunk by builder opposition that — for the first time — would notify the military of new development plans in and near their dozens of air routes and 62 bases.

Originally, the bill applied only to Southern California, proposing an eight-county Military Greenway Commission to which cities and counties would report development plans that could potentially affect the military.

Now expanded statewide, the pending bill would instead make cities, counties, school districts and other government entities notify military authorities directly of development plans beneath their military flyways. Local government planners would have to consider the military's concerns and arrange for mediators to work out differences.

Backers say it does not give military authorities power to stop projects.

The bill has already cleared a key committee and is headed for the Senate floor. It must pass the Senate by May 28, clear the Assembly by late August and be signed by Schwarzenegger to become law.

"The idea is to send a signal that California is serious about keeping military bases here," said its author, Sen. Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica.

Navy Capt. Robert Rutherford, a former F/A-18 fighter pilot and manager of the Navy's air operations in the

Southwest United States, has expressed to the Senate "our strongest support for the need to protect military air space and training routes in California."

Rutherford, commanding officer of Lemoore Naval Air Station south of Fresno, called unobstructed routes vital for low-altitude simulated combat training. Rutherford noted that California and the Southwest, home to some of the nation's fastest growth, has some of the world's most varied geography for flight training.

Navy officials also told Schwarzenegger they're worried about plans for a new city of 60,000 people on Tejon Ranch in rural Kern and Los Angeles counties. The city, to be named Centennial, would rise below numerous intersecting low altitude training routes that extend hundreds of miles between ocean-based carriers, Edwards Air Force Base and other bases in inland California, Arizona and Nevada.

Rutherford told lawmakers last month the military is wary of moving air routes to accommodate growth, saying it took three years to move one route 12 miles, away from Joshua Tree National Park in Riverside County.

But builders and their allies fear it might take just as many years for the military to analyze a development proposal.

Rex Hime, lobbyist for the California Business Properties Association, a group of shopping center owners, cited what he called the "hurry up and wait" attitude of the military.

"Those of you who have been in the military understand it," he said. "Property owners fear delays while the military bureaucracy considers their proposals."

Home builders are most wary of the bill's cornerstone: making mediation with the military a requirement of the 1970 California Environmental Quality Act which regulates environmental consequences of land development. While environmentalists consider that provision the bill's strength, homebuilders see new ammunition for opponents.

Richard Lyon, lobbyist for the California Building Industry Association, said the change "adds more opportunity to stop projects. That in concept becomes a problem for us."

Both groups say they want more flexibility.

In Fairfield, such talk has a familiar sound.

But Vice Mayor Price recalled the local shock a decade ago when the Pentagon closed Mare Island Naval Shipyard in nearby Vallejo.

"With our backs against the wall, we decided some land use initiatives were necessary," said Price. "We want to make Travis so valuable that the Department of Defense would not eliminate it. You do that by land use initiatives. That's the first thing."

How states are managing growth in military areas

By The Associated Press

How states are managing growth in military areas:

California: Senate Local Government Committee approved SB1462 on March 28, requiring cities, counties, school districts and other local governments to notify the military of development plans within or near flight paths. Makes local governments consider military concerns and use mediators to resolve differences. Bill must pass full Senate by May 28, Assembly by Aug. 31 and be signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to become law.

Florida: Gov. Jeb Bush signed November 2003 agreement with the Defense Department and the Nature Conservancy to establish 750,000-acre Northwest Florida Greenway. The 100-mile corridor spans six counties of the Florida's Panhandle and follows military training flight paths between the Gulf of Mexico and Eglin Air Force Base. Bush also established \$3 billion 10-year Florida Forever initiative to buy land around military bases.

Texas: Gov. Rick Perry signed a bill in May 2003 to create the Texas Military Preparedness Commission and require cities and counties to analyze a defense base's expected need for open space. It makes local governments consult with the military about development proposals that could impact bases and flight paths and requires them to analyze military concerns before making a final decision. Texas is also eyeing state bond money to buy land to protect bases and flight zones.

Arizona: Legislature passed laws in 2000 and 2001 setting tougher standards to develop property near military airports and making cities and counties notify the state attorney general of proposed land use changes near bases. It makes cities and counties consider the effect of proposed development plans on military airport operations and requires notifying the nearest military base of public hearings.

Washington: Gov. Gary Locke signed SB6401 in March, creating a state policy banning cities and counties near bases from approving development that hinders the installation's mission.

Source: States of California, Florida, Texas, Arizona, Washington

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House committee passes California water bill

BY ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A divided House committee passed a sweeping California water bill Wednesday that is meant to restore California's Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and ensure supplies for millions of farmers and residents.

A Senate committee approved a similar measure a week ago. There are important differences between the two bills, but key lawmakers sounded optimistic that they could be resolved, putting passage of a CalFed bill within reach after years of controversy.

"They're remarkably the same," said Rep. Ken Calvert, R-Corona, author of the House version. "I think we've answered most people's objections. Will we ever answer everyone's objections? Probably not."

The House Resources Committee passed Calvert's \$389 million CalFed bill on a voice vote. It includes numerous plans for new water conveyance and levee reconstruction projects and measures to increase storage.

The price tag on the bill was the same as on the Senate version, authored by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., that unanimously passed the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee last week. The cost of both measures was slashed from previous CalFed bills, which bore price tags as high as \$2.4 billion. The cost was reduced by leaving out projects that have been dealt with individually over the years.

Some Democrats objected strongly to Calvert's bill, particularly a provision that would allow the secretary of the interior to approve water projects without congressional signoff. Congress would be

given 120 days to disapprove of projects, but would not be asked to approve them.

Democrats and environmentalists said that would allow potentially controversial dams and other storage projects to win approval with insufficient oversight.

Rep. Grace Napolitano, D-Norwalk, said the measure would lead to "basically unrestricted authorization of water storage projects" and would be "a very serious mistake."

"I fear this approach will not produce new storage but rather only new lawsuits," she said.

Rep. George Miller, D-Martinez, tried to amend Calvert's bill to substitute Feinstein's version, which didn't include the provision. His amendment failed, 28-11.

Calvert contended that Congress would continue to have oversight because even after projects are authorized congressional appropriators have to fund them. And he said the projects were already envisioned in the CalFed framework plan agreed to in 2000.

Differences between the two bills would have to be resolved by a House-Senate conference committee after the House and Senate pass their separate versions, unless congressional negotiators can resolve the discrepancies before the bills pass.

The CalFed program, a state-federal effort, has been in the works for a decade. The current effort stems from a 2000 agreement, reached after years of negotiations, on a package of projects to restore the delta region and ensure water for different groups of users. About 80 percent of California's drinking water passes through the delta.

New report suggests major changes across West

By The Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Eight Western states grew three times faster than the national average during the past three decades, according to a new report.

States included in the research by Colorado College include Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana.

The report shows the region's population grew by 124 percent from 1970 to 2001, while the national population grew 40 percent during the same time. The report was released at the first State of the Rockies Conference.

The booming population means income gaps are increasing, newcomers are less likely to take part in civic life and once-desolate land is being turned into subdivisions, the report concluded.

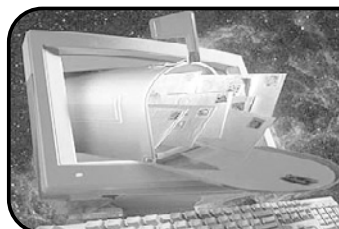
The project was started to find out how the region's changes affect the overall population and land resources, said Patrick Holmes, the program coordinator for Colorado College.

"It's a first stab at seeing which places in the West are dealing with change," Holmes said.

The report found that Colorado is converting farmland into housing developments faster than other Rocky Mountain states. The state, however, is making changes to combat growth, Holmes said.

For example, Steamboat Springs in 1996 approved a tax increase specifically for purchasing development rights to prevent rampant growth. Other states are looking for ways to slow growth, too.

"There is an urgency to be progressive in the face of this change," Holmes said.



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WORLD BRIEFLY

Greece bombed before Olympics

By The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Three bombs exploded outside a police station Wednesday in a series of timed blasts, causing serious damage and rattling security forces just 100 days before the Olympic Games. No injuries were reported.

The pre-dawn explosions, which occurred within a half hour, came before events to mark the final stretch to the Aug. 13-29 Olympics. An anonymous caller to an Athens newspaper warned of the attacks about 10 minutes in advance, but gave no motive or claim of responsibility.

Police believe the bombings were linked to domestic groups and not international terrorism.

The bombs — each made from three sticks of dynamite triggered by alarm clocks — appeared timed to cause casualties despite the tip to the newspaper, police claimed. Parts of the building, which includes several police agencies, were damaged and windows were shattered in nearby apartment blocks in the densely populated Kalithea suburb.

Bush grills pancakes, Kerry

By The Associated Press

MAUMEE, Ohio — President Bush flipped a few pancakes at a campaign rally here, then grilled his Democratic opponent for suggesting that he, not the president, would win a popularity contest abroad.

Earlier in this campaign, Democrat John Kerry suggested that opposition to Bush is so widespread in foreign capitals that a variety of politicians were rooting for the president to lose. Republicans have demanded that Kerry name the leaders supposedly supporting him.

"I've got a hunch this whole thing might be a case of mistaken identity," Bush told supporters at a pancake breakfast at a recreation center just outside Toledo. "Whoever these mystery men are, they're not going to

be deciding this election. The American people will be deciding this election."

As he did in Michigan on Monday, the first leg of a two-day, nearly 300-mile campaign bus tour, Bush acknowledged the despair faced by unemployed workers in Ohio and assured them that the U.S. economy is on an upswing.

"There are people in parts of Ohio who haven't felt the recovery yet," Bush said at a campaign event in Dayton, Ohio. "We're getting better. ... I'm running because I want to make sure the pro-growth agenda doesn't get disrupted."

Kerry knocks Bush's book smarts

By The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Two years after President Bush fulfilled a campaign promise to enact sweeping education changes, Democratic challenger John Kerry is trying to use the president's signature domestic issue against him.

"Education reform was supposed to be the single biggest effort of this administration," Kerry said Tuesday as he started a three-day education tour. "And all over our nation I'm meeting teachers who are burdened, teachers reaching into their own pockets, paying money out of their own salaries in order to put materials in front of their kids in school. That's unacceptable when you are giving tax cuts to the wealthiest people in America."

Four years ago, Bush made inroads with parents, particularly mothers, when he campaigned on a promise to increase federal education spending and use the money to make educators accountable for student failures.

But now Kerry is highlighting the cause of unhappy parents and teachers and looking to reclaim the issue for Democrats. The Massachusetts senator's mention of the No Child Left Behind law brought heckles during his visit to Albuquerque's Longfellow Elementary School.

Presidential candidates court Hispanics

BY ANABELLE GARAY
Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — As they vie for the White House, both presidential candidates are hoping voter registration drives, advertisements in Spanish and English and community events will gain them favor with Hispanic voters.

Camps for President Bush and Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry learned a lesson from the previous election: they need an aggressive grass-roots effort to reach Hispanics at the community level, said Adam Segal, director of the Hispanic Voter Project at Johns Hopkins University.

"This is the time when both campaigns are starting to announce their local Hispanic supporters in the key battleground states where they believe Latinos will make the difference," Segal said. "Clearly, Arizona is considered to be one of top four target areas for both the Bush and Kerry campaigns."

Strategists for both candidates believe that by focusing on Latinos in Florida, New Mexico, Nevada, and Arizona — where a quarter of the population is Hispanic — they can offset the difference in votes seen during the 2000 election.

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson's name has been tossed out for months as a possible running mate. When asked by reporters on Tuesday about whether he'd discussed the vice presidential nomination with the Kerry campaign, Richardson — the nation's only Hispanic governor — responded with a "no comment."

This week alone, several scheduled events point to how both parties are focusing on Latino voters.

In a New Mexico appearance Tuesday, Kerry listened to the Pledge of Allegiance in Spanish and said every kid in America should be bilingual. He called Longfellow Elementary, which he visited, an "extraordinary school" but said there's no reason every school in America can't be extraordinary.

"That's what this choice for presidency of the United States is about," he said. "It's about fulfilling our dreams

as Americans, about fulfilling our promise as a nation that talks to all its citizens about opening the doors of opportunity and fulfilling the full promise of citizenship."

Bilingual representatives will tout Kerry during a picnic at a Phoenix park on Saturday. Kerry is scheduled to stop in Arizona to attend a fund-raiser on Thursday and deliver a speech to Democrats the next day.

Also this week, the president's camp announced its Viva Bush Coalition in Arizona, an initiative that tries to energize support for Bush among Hispanics. During the announcement Tuesday, former U.S. Treasurer Rosario Marin told supporters how Bush gave her, the daughter of Mexican immigrants, the chance to serve at one of the highest levels of government.

Marin's story might sound especially interesting to foreign-born Latino immigrants, who account for about half of the Hispanic voting bloc. For many immigrant Hispanics, Spanish tends to be their predominant language. So reaching those voters requires bilingual tactics, said Sharon Castillo, a spokeswoman for the Bush-Cheney campaign.

Both the Bush campaign and the New Democrat Network, an independent group, produced Spanish television ads. Kerry will also use advertising to spread his message to Hispanics, said Sarah Rosen, spokeswoman for the Arizona Democratic Party.

"In the end, it all comes down to informing voters. If their primary language is Spanish, then we'll do it in Spanish," Rosen said.

Now, the challenge for both candidates is to go beyond the talk and begin tackling the issues that Latinos face, Segal said.

Included in those topics is immigration, particularly in Arizona, which has become the busiest illegal entry point along the U.S.-Mexico border.

By announcing an immigration proposal, Bush helped inoculate himself from those who criticized him of not fulfilling his promise during the 2000 campaign to focus on the issue, Segal said.

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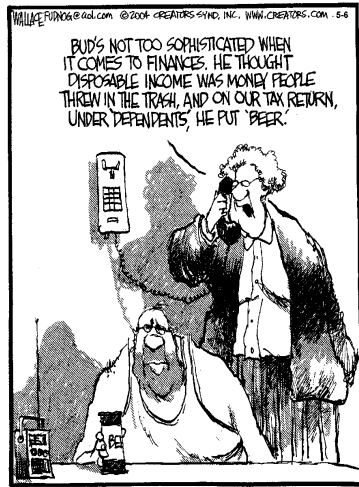
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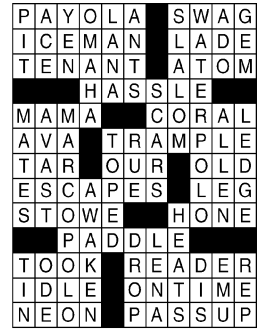
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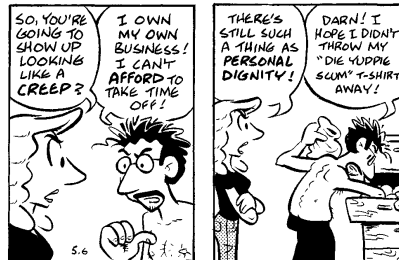
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4 Letter after sharply
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7 Spoils
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9 "Heavens!"
11 Minimally
17 Pen fill
19 Cautious taste
22 Addresses
24 Went wild for
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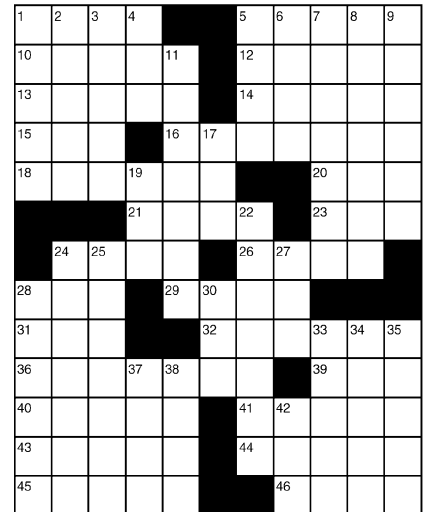
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

B.B. King and Gyoergy Ligeti polarized with award

By The Associated Press

■ **ALBANY, N.Y.** — Montel Williams threw his support behind legalizing medical marijuana in New York, saying pot helps him cope with multiple sclerosis.

Williams, who was diagnosed with the neurological disease in 1999, said he uses marijuana every night before bed to relieve the pain in his legs and feet.

"I'm breaking the law every day, and I will continue to break the law," Williams, host of the syndicated "Montel Williams Show," said Tuesday.

Williams recalled during a news conference how prescription painkillers and even morphine failed to control his tremors and spasms.

Nine states — Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Nevada, Oregon and Washington state — allow medical marijuana use.

Williams, 47, said he can legally obtain marijuana in California, where he owns property, but argued that as a New York state taxpayer, he should have the same right there.

Opponents of legalizing marijuana for medical purposes fear rogue doctors or patients may abuse it.

■ **NEW YORK** — "Bug," Tracy Letts' dark drama of paranoia, has received the 2004 Lucille Lortel Award for best off-Broadway play and "Caroline, or Change" was chosen best off-Broadway musical.

Both productions received four awards Monday, with "Bug" also picking up prizes for best director (Dexter Bullard), sound (Brian Ronan) and lighting design (Tyler Micoeau).

Tonya Pinkins was chosen best actress for her per-

formance in "Caroline." The show, written by Tony Kushner and Jeanine Tesori, also received prizes for choreography (Hope Clarke) and featured actress (Anika Noni Rose).

The best-actor prize was given to Brian O'Byrne, who portrays a serial killer in "Frozen." The featured-actor prize went to Will McCormack of "The Long Christmas Ride Home."

The awards, administered by the League of Off-Broadway Theatres and Producers, are named for the producer of many off-Broadway and Broadway productions.

■ **STOCKHOLM, Sweden** — Former Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page and conductor Elgar Howarth will award the 2004 Polar Music Prize to bluesman B.B. King and composer Gyoergy Ligeti, organizers said Tuesday.

Page will read the prize citation for King and Howarth will do the same for Ligeti at the May 24 prize ceremony. King Carl XVI Gustaf will hand out the award to both winners.

The award was founded in 1989 by Stig Anderson, manager of Swedish pop group ABBA, through a donation to The Royal Swedish Academy of Music.

King and Ligeti will each receive \$130,887.

■ **NEW YORK** — Tom Selleck stars as Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower in the A&E original movie "Ike: Countdown to D-Day," set to air May 31.

The June 6, 1944, Allied assault on the beaches of Normandy in northern France turned the tide of World War II, beginning the liberation of Europe.

Selleck, 59, starred as Thomas Magnum in the '80s TV action-drama series "Magnum P.I." His films include "Three Men and a Cradle" and "In & Out."

■ **HONG KONG** — Spending \$12.8 million on a concert series featuring the Rolling Stones to lift spirits after a SARS outbreak may not have been cost-effective, said Hong Kong's financial secretary.

"We may have overestimated the impact of organizing 16 concerts," Henry Tang told a legislative panel investigating the government's handling of last year's event.

The Rolling Stones drew a good turnout, but overall the concerts were plagued by poor ticket sales and lineup flip-flops. Other performers included Carlos Santana, Prince and British R&B singer Craig David.

A recent government audit report said surveys showed the event "was on the whole not perceived by the public as good value for (the) money."

On average, 43 percent of the tickets were sold. Officials had expected the public to be more interested, Tang said Monday.

■ **NEW YORK** — Pop singer Jessica Simpson is scheduled to perform at the Play Safe in the Park Concert set for May 22 in Central Park.

Proceeds will benefit the nonprofit Skin Cancer Foundation, which provides education and raises public awareness of the need for sun protection and reducing the incidence of skin cancer.

The event, to be held at Rumsey Playfield, is sponsored by Allure magazine.



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