

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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Megamember: 5
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FANTASY 5

3, 8, 15, 31, 34

DAILY 3

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DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 08, Gorgeous George
2nd Place: 12, Lucky Charms
3rd Place: 05, California Classic
Race Time: 1:47.53



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

MORE SCENES OF THE SURREAL

In December, police in Lewiston, Maine, chased down a patient from St. Mary's Regional Medical Center who, apparently fed up with his hospital regimen, had fled the building on foot, clad only in his gown in the icy rain, and dragging his wheeled IV pole behind him. And Gary C. Laine, 48, wanted on a fugitive murder warrant from California, turned himself in to police in Kerrville, Texas, in February and, apparently seeking to look cooperative, had already handcuffed himself before walking into the station.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"People who like this sort of thing will find this sort of thing they like."

— Hilary Corke



INDEX

Horoscopes

Gem, hop on the computer 2

Local

The surf is up 3

Opinion

City's problem is its name 4

National

Alaskans prepare for spring 8

Politics

The Nader factor 10

Classifieds

The classiest gig in town 13

People

Buffett in trouble with City Hall 16

The Mother's Day rush



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

People line up Sunday in front of 7-Eleven on Wilshire Boulevard to get their last-minute Mother's Day bouquets. A team of workers furiously tried to keep with the demand.



CITY HALL: DOLLARS & SENSE

A month-long series examining Santa Monica City Hall finances

City Hall keeps bond rating high in trying times

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

While it may be lacking in a surplus of cash, at least City Hall has good credit.

Santa Monica is the only city in California that has a triple-A bond rating from all three of the major rating agencies.

So when officials from City Hall need money and decide to issue a bond, they can be confident investors will be interested. The triple-A rating also means low interest rates for City Hall.

This will be the third consecutive year of budget deficits within City Hall — totaling \$28 million. This year, city officials must close a \$4 million deficit. City Hall in

2002 faced an \$8 million shortfall, and was able to cut \$2.2 million in operating costs and \$6.6 million in capital improvement projects. In 2003, City Hall plugged a \$16 million shortfall by cutting expenses and increasing revenues. Thirty-one positions were eliminated with City Hall as part of the cuts.

But a good bond rating helps. It's the result of prudent forecasting and conservative budgeting, said Steve Stark, the city's finance director.

In evaluating a bond, raters look at four indicators — the city's overall economy, its debt, financial history, and the philosophy of its management team and policy makers.

See BONDS, page 5

Susan McCarthy: On the top of her game

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



BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer



As a child raised in the suburbs of Washington D.C., City Manager Susan McCarthy grew up surrounded by politics but it wouldn't be until she was an adult that she would realize how much it had an impact on her.

Decades later, McCarthy oversees more than 1,000 employees within City Hall, manages the day-to-day operations of one of the most dynamic and diverse cities in the world, and handles a \$350 million budget.

McCarthy, 58, came to Santa Monica in 1974 after her husband, Kevin, was hired as a researcher for the Rand Corp., a

job that he still holds today. Just before moving here, McCarthy was working as a transportation planner for the state of Wisconsin while Kevin was in the doctoral program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

To stay apprised of what was going on in the world, McCarthy cherished her grandmother's gift of the Washington Post mailed each week.

"I knew about Watergate long before it appeared in the papers in the Midwest," she said. "I would say that I've been a policy buff for a long time."

Coming to Southern California was the "other side of the world" in McCarthy's mind. But after

walking the streets of Santa Monica in search of an apartment with a map given to her by employees at her hotel — the Travel Lodge on Ocean Avenue — she had found her new home.

A graduate from Mt. Holyoke in New England, McCarthy embarked on her career in city government a year after she moved to Santa Monica. She has been involved in Santa Monica's business off and on for the past 20 years.

In college, McCarthy studied economic and urban geography. She was interested in "central place theory," the circumstances of why, how and where cities develop.

See MCCARTHY, page 6

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Happy Birthday John Wood!



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)

★★★★ Visualize and create. Your perceptions could be extraordinarily insightful, not only for you but for all those in your immediate orb. Listen well to what someone shares, even if you believe it is off-the-wall. Understand that imagination breeds new ideas. Tonight: Socialize all you want.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Stay on top of what you want. Think "success," but be prepared to take the lead. How you handle a personal matter could make a big difference in how you handle another situation. A boss might not be clear, but he or she is full of ideas. Tonight: Work as late as you want.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You might need to clear the air some, as another might not see eye to eye with you. Know that this person isn't always practical, but could stimulate many ideas. Brainstorm away. Look for solutions that are out of the box. Tonight: Find experts. Hop on the computer.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Work with one other person, keeping in mind what you need to do in order to make headway. Together you'll come up with unusual ideas. Share something that you haven't up till now, as you were worried about another's judgment. Tonight: Exchange feelings and ideas.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Others might delight you with their imagination and forthright attitude. Now ideas can flow left and right. You might want to carefully rethink a plan or idea that revolves around another key player in your life. Tonight: Let go and relax.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Your ideas are well-received by both bosses and those close to you. You seem to have the wherewithal to convince others of the correctness of your ideas. Deal with work, health and day-to-day matters. Your creativity emerges and delights others. Tonight: Take a walk after dinner.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You're full of play and happiness. You might not be able to settle in because all you can think about doesn't involve work. Understand this fact. Consider taking a personal day. You will settle in later in the week. Tonight: Make light.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Your ambition emerges, but you must handle a personal or real estate matter first. What you believe could be a moneymaking idea is. Take your time investigating the pros and cons. You won't make a mistake that way. Tonight: Order in.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Slow down and don't take a leap of faith. Understand the dynamics within certain key relationships, not only yours but also those of others. You will learn a lot by sitting back and observing more. Zero in when you are ready. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Use your good financial sense, and you'll gain. Check out what seems like a gift horse. You know better than to accept an offer blankly. Discuss expectations before you sign on the dotted line. Trust your judgment. Tonight: Go over your budget.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You feel that you can finally get others to understand what has only been a dream up till now. Realize more of what you want through expressing your unique charm and humor. Keep communication flowing. Tonight: As you like it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Ducking doesn't mean you're not a player. It simply means you are less obvious. A financial investment in your security could make all the difference. Think long term. Don't let someone else run you over emotionally. Claim your power. Tonight: Get some extra rest.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SMC hits the high notes

By Daily Press staff

Opera is the theme this weekend at Santa Monica College. The Emmy Award-winning SMC Theatre will present Bel Canto Opera Gala 2004 at 8 p.m. on Saturday and 4 p.m. on Sunday in the SMC Concert Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd.

The May 15 performance also will feature the presentation of the 2004 Piedad F. Robertson award to JoAnn Ortiz, executive director of the SMC Foundation, for her dedication and support. The award is named after the president of SMC.

The concert will feature selections from the operas of Donizetti, Bellini and Rossini. Bel Canto — which means beautiful singing in Italian — refers to the art of singing in the Italian style with beauty, elegance, flexibility, assured technique and a certain bravura, officials said. It also refers to the type of operas written in Italy in the first half of the 19th century.

Featured artists will be soprano Terrie Barna, bass Stephen Breen and baritone Ryutaro Iijima. Hung-Gi Cindy Hsu is the accompanist, and Siobhan Leeway is the costume designer.

Pinner is an SMC voice professor, professional opera singer and internationally renowned recording artist, who won a 2001 Emmy for the video of the SMC production of "Faust," which aired on Los Angeles City Channel 36 and City TV-Channel 16 in Santa Monica. Pinner was the executive producer and lead performer. She also had leading roles in the TV opera videos of "La Boheme" and "Dialogue of the Carmelites."

Tickets are \$16 general admission and \$10 for students and senior citizens. For information, call (310) 434-3000.

Actor Anthony Hopkins honored by Saint John's

By Daily Press staff

Saint John's Irene Dunne Guild, a longtime hospital support group, is hosting the 2004 Caritas Award Gala honoring Academy Award-winning actor Anthony Hopkins. The black-tie fundraiser will be held May 21 at the Regent Beverly Wilshire in Beverly Hills, and is the kick-off event for the opening of Saint John's new inpatient pavilion in the fall. Proceeds raised will benefit the emergency department at Saint John's Health Center.

In addition, Saint John's will present the first Spirit of Saint John's award to Dr. Ruben F. Mettler, the retired chairman and CEO of TRW, Inc. Mettler is active on Saint John's Foundation Board of Trustees.

The award gala is hosted each year by the Saint John's Health Center Foundation and the Irene Dunne Guild, named after the late actress Irene Dunne, who is considered the "first lady" of Saint John's, officials said.

With a membership of 90 women, the guild provides a variety of volunteer services and philanthropic support to Saint John's, including the Angels of the ER program, which provides non-medical assistance to emergency room patients and their families. The program is staffed by guild members and community volunteers.

Gala tickets are \$375 each, and sponsorships are available. For tickets and information, call Saint John's foundation office at (310) 829-8424.



From one surfer to another, the warm-up has been epic, dude. Today, our mix of SSW-SW swell (185-210) will be hitting its peaks and mixing with a strong dose of NW windswell. Most exposed spots will be seeing waist-head high surf while the best combo breaks and good SW/NW spots will be overhead. Expect 4-5 foot, shoulder to head high, occasionally 7 feet, with poor to fair conditions.

Look for S-SW winds around 10 knots this morning with NW winds 10-15+20 knots on tap for the most exposed breaks by the afternoon. Similar conditions with slightly slower winds are expected Tuesday and Wednesday.

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

Today the water is:

67°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	7:20	-1.1	6:09	2.7	NA	NA	2:28	3.3
SUNDAY	8:31	-0.8	7:40	3.0	12:35	5.6	4:03	3.5
MONDAY	9:45	-0.5	9:44	2.9	1:48	5.1	5:15	3.8
TUESDAY	10:52	-0.4	11:23	2.4	3:20	4.6	6:04	4.2
WEDNESDAY	11:48	-0.2	NA	NA	4:50	4.4	6:41	4.6
THURSDAY	12:31	1.7	12:33	0.1	6:05	4.3	7:12	5.0
FRIDAY	1:23	1.1	1:10	0.4	7:07	4.2	7:40	5.3

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The Q-Line

The draft of the 2004-05 budget is nearly complete. It will be released to the public within days. The Santa Monica City Council will hold a series of workshops open to the public at the end of this month. And while the budget is pretty much set, it is an opportunity for residents to understand where and how their money is spent. The final budget must be adopted by July.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know,

"If you had your way, where do you think the City Council should spend your money?"

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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mom right."**



OPINION

Santa Monica's name the root of its problems?

COMMON SCENTS

By Carole Orlin

When my husband and I arrived in Santa Monica nearly four years ago from the East Coast, I believed that my contributions to the community would be focused on my extensive background in health care planning. As I quickly became entrenched in Santa Monica, my education in the workings and politics of the city allowed me to take a firsthand look at the workings of City Hall, the mayor and City Council, the Planning Commission, the Architectural Review Board, the Rent Control Board, the police department, the courthouse, and even Santa Monica College. As a tenant and as a landlord, as a business owner and as a consumer, I found myself intrigued, and at times befuddled by issues ranging from the living wage to widespread homelessness, from traffic and parking enforcement to dog parks.

As I have time to look around and take in the smells of our unique beach community, I am struck by the lack of a common sense approach to most of the important issues, especially when it comes to the local governing authorities. I hope to be able to call attention to problems and discuss solutions that are reality based, perhaps not always politically correct and perhaps a bit more moderate or conservative than the liberal establishment has found itself accustomed to in the past.

Almost from the time I arrived in Santa Monica in 2000, I have been looking to come up with a sensible reason and solution for the disproportionate number of homeless people living here. Over the last four years I have been witness to numerous complaints about harassment, criminal activity — such as breaking and entering and destruction of property — public urination, defecation, the list goes on. Surely our local government cannot be that out of touch with reality to not see the severity of the problem, or not realize that whatever actions, or inactions, they were adopting are making things go from bad to worse.

Is it possible that the failure to adequately deal with this far-reaching prob-

lem is not really a failure of our local government? Could the real fault rest with our namesake, Saint Monica? It's so simple, why didn't I see it before? You see, she herself was a recovering alcoholic and is the patron saint for, among other things, alcoholics, alcoholism and disappointing children. Alas, perhaps Santa Monica was destined to be a haven for the homeless! It was in the cards. Now, I am aware that not all homeless people are substance abusers, but let's face it, a significant majority of them do imbibe a lot.

If the problem can be directly connected to the name of our fair city, is the solution not a very simple one? Let's change our name! I happen to have a few suggestions. How about becoming "Santa Eurosia," whose patronage protects us from bad weather, or "San Medard," another protector from bad weather who also favors brewers and vineyards? On second thought, maybe that's not a good idea. Another possibility is "San Vitus," a saint whose patronage includes protection from oversleeping — an ongoing problem, I must admit, and protection for actors and comedians, dog lovers, and against storms. I also would submit "San Maurus," whose patronage among other things includes

protection against cold weather, gout and protection for shoemakers. We cannot overestimate the importance of shoemakers. Jimmy and Manolo, are you listening? I'd even take "San Ambrose of Milan," patron saint of bees, beekeepers, candle makers, chandlers (not Bing) and domestic animals. Should we consider "Santa Apollonia," whose patronage protects against tooth disease and toothaches? Or, how about "San Brice," who protects us from stomach disease? I could go on, but you get my point.

We were set up.

In giving this more thought, perhaps being named after a saint is too much to ask of any community. How about something simple like Happy Acres? I would proffer that even our city officials could embrace this solution. This would enable them to continue to pursue a policy approach that has no real accountability for the homeless community, except insisting that every homeless person be happy. Don't worry ...

(Carole is a health care professional and freelance writer. She can be reached at tangling833@aol.com).

The big, empty house on the hill is full of lost dreams



HIP TO BE SQUARE

By Caroline Bodkin

Alex built a big house in the hills.

The views, the seven-layer crown moldings, the already 20-foot tall palm tree that was brought in with all the rest of the landscaping, were impressive.

The separate maid's quarters, the pool, the pool table, the bar, the upstairs patio, the gym and the fact that it all sits above the city's hottest strip of nightlife were all impressive. The edgy painting of the naked woman in a compromised position above the bed in the master bedroom also was impressive.

It was a house built for parties, for people to wander through and drink in. It was built to host 200 thirsty night owls until all hours of the night and when you pull up to it, when you know that Alex designed it himself, that he wanted it this way, you are impressed.

What a grand idea. What a big event. Is it true that he can rent it out for \$50,000 a month?

Impressive.

But what's most impressive about the house, so full of ideas and intention, is how absolutely empty it is.

Alex built a big, empty house in the hills. For a party that has come and gone, leaving its host quite alone.

Alex is in rehab.

His cocaine habit started when he was a young hot shot, making waves in the industry, biting at the heels of soon to be has-beens. It gave him confidence, energy, something to do at nightclubs and something to share with his friends. Eventually nighttime use turned into daytime use. Sneaking off with his friends at the party turned into sneaking out of meetings to find a bathroom.

Years passed, his work suffered. The only friends he still had were those whose habit was just as bad and so they let him slide. The more he craved control, the more he used and so the less control he had.

Eventually, the business he'd dreamed of owning and worked to build was suffering. Everyone on the outside knew what was going on in there.

People used to say, "Alex lives a full

life. Alex is full of big ideas. Alex is the kind of guy younger guys might want to be like." Then they just said, "Alex is in trouble," and they'd shake their heads.

My friend works for him. He started off as an intern at Alex's company during college and upon graduation, he took a position as an assistant.

Eight years later, he found himself with a VP title, sitting across from Alex, his boss — whose rear end he'd saved many times, whose absence from meetings he'd explained many times — at breakfast on his birthday talking about rehab.

No one had ever had this conversation with Alex. Not his friends, not the brother who helped him to build the house, no one.

He spent three years building the place. He'd leave the office almost daily to make sure it was on schedule and up to par. And when it was finally done, he threw a huge party and everyone ooh-ed and aah-ed over it, its details and grandeur.

But even with all those people in it, it was big and empty.

The breakfast took four hours. But after they paid the bill, they got in the car and headed for Pleasant Pastures, or whatever that facility's called. He left his house empty. The house would be empty as long as he was empty.

The company's in more trouble, my friend's job is in question, his loyalty, which extended beyond any call of duty and might have saved Alex's life, has left him with very little security.

After Alex went into rehab, his "good friends" and close business associates quickly stopped calling. No one checked in on him. No one came to help when they had to move out of their expensive offices into smaller ones.

There's a lot that Alex probably thought he would become. Maybe he'd end up like his successful real estate developer father. Maybe he'd become a legend in the industry. Maybe he'd be able to keep his cocaine habit at bay.

I really doubt he ever thought he'd end up alone in rehab. I doubt he built that big, beautiful, house to leave it empty.

I bet he thought the facade of it was enough to keep the inside alive. That moldings could support walls.

Lucky for him there was at least one person he didn't impress.

(Caroline Bodkin lives in LA and hopes to make it out alive. You can e-mail her at hiptobesquarebybodkin@yahoo.com)

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.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

PLEASE SEND LETTERS TO:

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LOCAL



City Hall pays \$15M a year on \$191M debt

BONDS, from page 1

City Hall last issued a bond in 2002, to raise money for the new library. The \$25 million bond sold with interest rates between 2 percent and 4.6 percent, depending on the length of the investor's commitment.

At that time, City Hall applied for and was given a triple-A rating from Moody's, Standard and Poor's, and Fitch — the three agencies that evaluate all bonds, including those in the private sector. The rating scale for bonds goes from triple-A at the top, down to single-C at the bottom.

"The bond rating lets the community know several things about its city government and how it's run," Stark said. "It shows that the city is strong financially, that it has low debt levels, that it's conservative in its budgeting, that it has expenditure flexibility."

The rating also lets investors know something about City Hall.

"(The rating companies') purpose is to educate investors as to the quality of the bond issues and the bond issuers, and they try to give an independent appraisal of the credit quality of a bond," Stark said.

Municipal bonds are called "tax exempt" bonds and are favored by investors because they accrue interest, Stark added.

City Hall currently has \$191.5 million in bond debt, or \$2,144 for each of the city's 89,333 residents, as estimated by the state finance department. That debt was accrued from 12 bonds issued in the last 14 years, and is being paid off at \$15.4 million each year, Stark said.

When City Hall decides it needs money and wants to go into bond debt, it first determines exactly how much money it needs. City Hall financiers then call bond underwriters, present the bonds to the marketplace — Wall Street — and markets and sells the bonds, Stark said.

There are four types of bonds City Hall can issue. The most common is a "general obligation" bond, meaning it is "backed by the full faith and credit of the city's general fund, meaning the first priority on the city's general fund revenue is to pay the bonds," Stark said.

Then there are "revenue" bonds, where City Hall must dedicate a particular revenue source to repay the bond. The third type is called a "tax allocation" bond, where certain taxes are set aside to repay the bond. Finally, there's an "enterprise fund" bond, where the money comes from a self-supporting source, Stark said, adding the water department and airport are both considered enterprise funds.

Each bond is rated before it's sold to investors. Though City Hall hasn't applied for a formal rating since it issued the \$25 million bond for the library, Stark said its standing hasn't changed.

"We've not gone through an official rating since August of 2002," he said. "However, annually, we send to our rating agencies our financial statement, our budget, our budget message, our financial outlook, and they review that. And, as the case of the state of California, if the rating agencies were concerned, they could downgrade your rating ... Even though you technically get rated when you issue a bond, you're constantly reviewed and analyzed for changes."

In Santa Monica, revenue is derived primarily from what's called the "big eight"

"Santa Monica is very conservative in debt issue. It's obvious, or it wouldn't be receiving the highest possible credit rating."

— STEVE STARK
Finance director

— property tax, sales tax, utility users tax, transient occupancy tax, business licenses tax, real property transfer tax, parking facilities tax, and fines and forfeitures.

"One of our attributes is that we have a diverse revenue base, so we're not overly reliant on one revenue stream," Stark said. "For example, if we were a city that was funded 70 percent by sales tax, that would be a concern, because if the economy went down, sales tax went down — that would be a concern, because we wouldn't have the flexibility."

Raters next look at debt. Santa Monica has \$191.5 million in bond debt, plus \$4.6 million in loans. Bonds were issued in 1990, 1993, 1995 and 1998. In 1999, City Hall issued three bonds and in 2002 it issued five bonds, though the number of bonds can be misleading, Stark said, because City Hall was refinancing the same debt in some of those bonds to take advantage of low interest rates.

"Santa Monica is very conservative in debt issue," he said. "It's obvious, or it wouldn't be receiving the highest possible credit rating."

Third, bond assessors look to the financial condition of the city, meaning how it has historically managed its finances and responded to changes in economic conditions. Stark said City Hall bodes well in this category because of conservative budgeting — especially in the last few years of constrained budgeting.

Finally, the raters look at the philosophy and values of the city manager and policy makers. A key issue there is how much money cities keep socked away for difficult times, Stark said.

City Hall has \$17.4 million in reserves — plus \$4 million it set aside fearing Sacramento wouldn't share vehicle license fee revenue with local cities. Another \$138 million is technically reserved because it's "encumbered" for things like capital improvement projects, but that money isn't viewed in the same way because it's designated, Stark said.

City Hall also puts aside money on an ongoing basis for things like replacing aging cars, so that, for example, policy makers aren't stuck with a decision between police cruisers and funding a community program, Stark said.

It's foresighted economic planning like that which keeps City Hall's bond rating high.

"We set aside those monies for the unknowns," Stark said. "That is a positive attribute driven by the City Council and city manager."

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LOCAL



MCCARTHY, from page 1

McCarthy's very first stint in local government was as an administrative analyst at the Big Blue Bus — a job she described as a jack of all trades and the foundation of her career. She was climbing the ladder within City Hall when she left to pursue her master's degree in communication management at the Annenberg School at the University of Southern California. While studying, she volunteered at the Natural History Museum across the street, working in the public relations department. She came back to City Hall in 1985 and has been there ever since. She's held positions in the cultural affairs department, worked her way up to the director of human resources, served as assistant city manager and now, City Hall's top job — city manager.

There is no typical day for McCarthy, but meeting frequently with department heads and answering to the community's concerns are part of the norm.

She has just finished drafting the city's massive budget, which she and her staff have spent the past several weeks slaving over so the City Council can pass a balanced budget in June. McCarthy admits being the city manager in the mid-1990s would have been more fun, since the past few years have meant scaling back in order to close deficits. As a result of the cutbacks, McCarthy believes — as do many city officials — there has been a steady erosion of services offered to the public throughout the city.

She commutes to work with her husband, but often walks home from City Hall and almost always walks to work the day after a City Council meeting — a ritual that helps to restore her mind.

McCarthy and her husband have lived mostly in the North of Wilshire neighborhood, with a short stint in Malibu. The two of them can be seen walking the Santa Monica neighborhood frequently.

Here the Daily Press caught up with McCarthy in her office at City Hall.

Why did you choose an all-women's college?

"I wanted to be in a different part of the country that I had grown up in. It's a

beautiful campus and it is a small, private school so you didn't fit into lecture halls with hundreds of people. When I entered college, the women's movement was really just beginning ... it was an interesting time that women could do whatever they wanted."

Did you know what you wanted to do when you went to college?

"Absolutely not. I think the whole value of a liberal arts education is that it opens up countless possibilities."

What was your first job?

"I went back to the Washington D.C. area and I had worked summers for American Express in Washington D.C. downtown. Then I took the federal service entrance examination. At that point, John Kennedy was gone but the whole concept of public service had elevated certainly in the minds of a lot of young people. And sad to say, I don't think that's the case today. The war on poverty was underway ... it was an exciting time."

Where did you meet your husband?

"He was at a men's school and I was at a women's school in New England. They used to bus us back and forth. I dated a friend of his and we became friends, which is a good way to begin a relationship. We were married in the spring of 1968 and just celebrated an anniversary."

After working for several years in City Hall, why did you leave in the '80s?

"I felt it was time. I never intended to be in human resources, not that it wasn't rewarding. You learn a great deal about an organization and a lot about human nature. But it wasn't what I wanted to do as a career and sometimes once you get pigeon holed you need to do something to break the mold so it was time for me to break the mold. You know, it was really neat going back to school ... thinking big thoughts."

Why did you come back to City Hall?

"They had just combined recreation, open space management, cultural affairs, the civic auditorium and human services into one department and that's what I came back for. It was neat to be back, actually. It was very comfortable. One of the things that distinguishes city government is that it's a lot more transparent than the private sector ... I found ultimately that Santa Monica's local government was more broad minded in some interesting

ways. I was pleased to be back."

The second time you came back to City Hall, were you eyeing the City Manager's position?

"There were lots of things going on. We were updating the recreation and parks master plan. And this will crack you up, we were going through the whole issue of dog parks and the (community debate) was whether dogs were more important than children. There was no lack of interesting stuff going on but certainly having come from human resources, which gives you that global organizational perspective, there was an attraction to the City Manager position."

You've seen the city go through a lot of changes. What is most interesting to you in the evolution of Santa Monica?

"There is no question that in the mid '70s, I remember reading an article in LA Magazine that referred to Santa Monica as shabby and things were quiet and kind of run-down. So what's happened over that period of time has really been that the community has sharpened as a distinctive part of the greater metropolitan area. The identity of Santa Monica, other than having a beach, was a lot like every other city. Over that period of time, both politically and physically, the community had changed. The identity is very different. The development of the Promenade was a factor. The period during which hotel development occurred, which attracted the national and international visitor. The politics of the community became a wider arena. The name recognition of Santa Monica during the time I've been involved with the city in one way or another has increased tremendously. I travel a lot and there is no question that Santa Monica is known."

And you get the distinct pleasure of being in charge of that now. Do you lie awake at night thinking about everything you are in charge of?

"It keeps you up nights sometimes. You keep a notepad beside your bed and a good book in case you can't fall back asleep."

You've got a huge job. What are your main responsibilities?

"It is the day-to-day operations of the city and the only exception to that really is that I am not in charge of the legal function and elections function. Santa Monica is a full-service city and actually has some

non-standard functions like the airport, bus company, the civic auditorium and a pleasure pier. But our basic services that people everywhere rely upon on — on a day-to-day basis — people want their trash removed and they want their water to come out of the faucet when they turn it on, and they want to be safe walking on their streets and they are interested in the basic amenities that city government provides. That is our first job.

"Santa Monica in the time I've been here has taken on other functions that exceed what other communities do. We have a tremendous amount of nonprofits and we have relationships with that community. I think that is not entirely a standard elsewhere. The city's commitment to education and the environment are not a standard elsewhere. When you look at the breadth of the things the city is doing, they all require some degree of attention on a daily basis.

"It's also making government transparent to people, helping them understand, 'why are they doing this?' A lot of the job is dealing with people — residents who are happy and unhappy with things who need a chance to talk, or complain, or carry their messages. A lot of it has to do with employees' concerns and interactions. The preparation of the city budget is part of the city manager's job. That is a tremendous part of the job."

Is that your most stressful part of the job, the budget?

"For an intense period of time, it is probably the most stressful. Obviously, there are personnel and resident issues that are weighty as well."

How do you handle all of those responsibilities?

"You get up every morning and come to the office and do the things that need doing. You try to keep your eyes on the horizon. One of the challenges is that you can get very immersed in the day-to-day operations and you have to keep the operational functions of the city moving at an appropriate level. You have to balance where the organization is going and how you can help the council in their policy work to try and get the community to those places."

The City Council is your boss, but its members take a significant amount of direction from you. How do you bal-

See MCCARTHY, page 7

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LOCAL



Community Profiles

MCCARTHY, from page 2

ance that?

"There aren't a lot of jobs in which you have seven bosses, which is certainly something unique. Any city manager will tell you that if there can be that reliance and level of trust, and the city manager is confident in the council's commitment to the community, you have a good situation. If the confidence breaks down on either side, it can be more problematic. I can talk about seven bosses, but we don't run around in seven different directions. I work for the City Council as a body so one of the challenges is communication. A council member can't pick up the phone and say, 'I want this, this and this.' It's always kind of a balancing act. It takes a great deal of work. It's a unit that has seven very different personalities but it is as a unit that they make the city's business go on."

How political is your job?

"I think city managers have to be politically aware and not politically active. And that goes to the ethics of the profession and the practical realities of the work."

Are your politics ever in conflict with the job?

"I've never felt compromised in the job. Not just in Santa Monica, but in the city management profession, we actually give up some of our rights to political expression in the service of the job we are doing."

What's your favorite part of the job?

"My favorite part of the job is also the most taxing part of the job, which is the

interactions of the staff both with community members and employees ... People are infinitely interesting, infinitely different from each other. All those interactions are fascinating."

What would you like to do more of in your job that you don't currently?

"I wouldn't mind being in the community a little bit more. One thing about Santa Monica is that I bump into people — you have those informal interactions. Every once in a while at the supermarket, somebody will look at me over the produce counter and I can tell they are trying to decide whether they've seen me on City T.V. or something weird like that. But one of the neat things about living in a community this size is I think people feel more immediately connected to their government."

What do you like to do in your off time?

"I am a voracious reader. If I was smart I would use my library card more than my Barnes & Noble card. My husband and I like to travel. We don't get away as much as we'd like. I have a great family, both on Kevin's side and mine, all of whom are on the East Coast so part of what we do is see our nieces and nephews and keep our family close."

Susan McCarthy became the city manager in 1999, after serving more than a decade in various departments within City Hall.

Salary: \$219,534, includes salary and benefits.

Education: A product of public school. Bachelor's degree in 1967 from Mt. Holyoke and a master's degree from USC.

Family: Married to Kevin for 36 years. No children.

She has three nieces on her side of the family, all of whom started college last fall. One of them is enrolled in Occidental College, in Los Angeles, which McCarthy feels fortunate to have her nearby. McCarthy has two sisters — one is a professor at Brown University in Rhode Island and another who works in the financial sector in Manhattan. Her brother works in real estate in Virginia. Her parents, Marjorie and Charles Edwards, both in their 80s, live outside of Washington D.C. While McCarthy was growing up, her father was an engineer, working for the federal government and was a pilot during WWII. Her mother was a stay-at-home mom.

What about your parents, were they political?

"They were pretty terrific parents. One of the neat things about them was that they gave all of us the sense that we could be anything we put our minds to and they were supportive of the different things we were interested in."

"We've always been good voters. One of the things about being a city manager is that I am most comfortable with people thinking that regardless of the way I vote, I am thinking about all of their municipal concerns."

Where's your favorite place in Santa Monica?

"I walk in the mornings wherever I am in the world. I can tell you absolutely that Palisades Park is a world-class amenity. I like the beach, but walking in Palisades Park in the morning connects me to Santa Monica in a very fundamental way."

Why?

"It's how old it is. If you walk along, there are some interesting buildings — not all of them were knocked down during the 1950s. It's the fascinating geology of those bluffs and thinking about the days when there was a railroad and bathhouse right there beneath you and looking

out across the Pacific. If you are out early and it's still dark enough and seeing the Ferris wheel lit up and thinking about the amusement park that was there many years ago. It's a great community and a fabulous natural setting."

If you could change one thing about Santa Monica what would it be?

"As both a resident and a city manager, I wish we were closer to finding solutions to the homeless problem and that certainly has been an extraordinary challenge. I know it affects the people on the street who are unhoused and it affects our housed residents on a daily basis. It's a great disappointment that we haven't been able with our resources to resolve it. It is most assuredly not something Santa Monica can resolve itself and I'm glad the mayor is involved in the regional effort. We are always thinking about what can be done."

Where will you retire?

"I haven't thought about it. It's hard to imagine something more pleasant than this. When I visit the Washington D.C. area when it is not the dead of summer or the dead of winter, I often think it would be nice to be back on the East Coast ... But I would like to host a dinner party with five of the most interesting people in Santa Monica, people you could never get in the same room again."

Who would you invite?

"I don't know. But now that I've thought about it, I'll start thinking about that list."

Where do you see yourself in five years?

"I think in five years, I will be retired. I would hope to have an opportunity to enjoy life. I've seen too many people hang on without time to do some of the things they've postponed for a long time."

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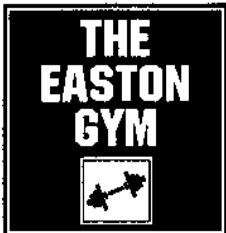
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NATIONAL

Alaskans prepare to bury their deceased

BY MATT VOLZ
Associated Press Writer

FAIRBANKS, Alaska — As spring thaws the ground made hard as granite by a long Alaska winter, cemeteries across the state are preparing to bury scores of people who died during the past seven months.

Since October, when digging through the earth became next to impossible, many of Alaska's dead have been stored in coolers and containers. Now, families will finally be able to inter their loved ones in a somber Far North rite of spring.

"It's around Memorial Day when we go down 6 feet," said David Erickson, cemetery manager of Northern Lights Mortuary and Memorial Park in Fairbanks. "We'll start earlier for infants and urns."

Funeral homes and cemeteries have begun contacting families to schedule graveside services through June.

Dave Jacoby, public works director for Fairbanks, which operates Birch Hill cemetery, said burials there began Monday. Scheduling is flexible for those families coming from outside Alaska.

This year, there will be 22 burials at Birch Hill. City workers will double as pallbearers for some services that take place over the next several weeks.

Northern Lights, which stored about 15 bodies this winter, begins its burials near the latter part of May because it's at a higher elevation and gets less exposure to the sun.

In Fairbanks, located in Interior Alaska, winter temperatures can dip to 40 below zero or lower. Even in places with milder climates, such as Anchorage, the ground still freezes, and many cemeteries close in the fall.

The amount of time it takes to dig through the frozen ground, and the possibility of defiling other graves with heavy equipment, led to the practice of storing bodies decades ago.

"The ground is so hard we'd be digging a grave for three days," Jacoby said.

Delayed burials occur in other frigid climes across the North, including New England and northern Minnesota. But in Canada, winter burials are the norm, said Roger Yador, director of Heritage North Funeral Home in the Yukon Territory city of Whitehorse.

The storage crypts where the bodies are held for the winter in Alaska vary. At Northern Lights, it is a simple metal container hidden from view of the grave markers, alongside the backhoes and crypt liners.

Birch Hill's cold storage resembles a mausoleum. The brick building has three rows of brass doors on either side and can hold more than 50 coffins. An opening on the roof draws the cold air inside and helps preserve the bodies, which are treated with formaldehyde.

Angelus Memorial Park has the only storage cooler in Anchorage. It's indoors and refrigerated, with the temperature kept between 34 and 38 degrees. It can hold as many as 100 bodies. Six funeral homes store bodies in the cooler at a cost of \$3 per day for bodies not being buried at the cemetery.

There is no state or federal oversight of these storage facilities, and no inspections are made.

Erickson said the lack of oversight does not pose a problem. The families make sure nothing wrong happens, he said.

"It's something you have to self-regulate to stay out of court," he said.

Angelus Memorial Park's executive director, William Hamilton, said his cooler has been inspected by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and an engineer at the cemetery's request. There has never been a switched or misplaced body, he said.

Winter storage wasn't always the practice in Alaska. Before the cold storage units were built, winter burials were common. They're still common outside the bigger cities. Alaska Natives in particular choose not to wait to bury their dead.

"Why wait? We live in the cold and snow and ice. It seems barbaric to store them above ground and wait until springtime," said Shirley Demientieff, an Athabaskan who buried her grandmother Mary in the village of Nenana in January.

In her grandmother's burial, relatives first cleared snow from the site, Demientieff said. Fire then slowly thawed the ground. As the ground became soft enough to dig, the fire was moved aside and the grave hand-dug with shovels and pick axes. When the diggers again hit frozen earth, the fire was moved back into the hole.

The Rev. Scott Fisher, a priest for the 1,200 members of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Fairbanks, said he disagrees with the practice of storing bodies over the winter. The flow of a service from church to graveside is important psychologically for grieving families, he said.

"The sound of the earth on the casket — ka-thud — breaks through some of the shock and the grief," he said.

"Say somebody dies and nothing happens for seven months. By that amount of time — five months, six months, seven months — a thin veneer of feeling has begun and it gets ripped off," he said.

Fisher will hold services at two spring burials this year. Twenty-four members of his congregation died over the winter, but the great majority were Native Alaskans and are already buried in villages outside of Fairbanks.

He said he holds a special service at graveside because of the time that's passed.

"You've got to go back into the moment. We have to pull ourselves where we were when the funeral service ended," Fisher said.

Jacoby said some families choose not to have graveside services in the spring, but ask the cemetery to notify them when a loved one is buried.

"I've seen people worse at the interment than at the actual service, because they relive it twice," he said.

Erickson said Northern Lights has tried different ways to bury during the winter. Once the cemetery thawed a grave site by using steam, but it was a costly process and more than most families could afford.

Another time, cemetery workers tried digging graves in advance, before the ground froze. That didn't work either.

"It turned out nobody wanted those graves. They wanted to be by their relatives or in another spot," Erickson said.

NATIONAL



Verdict still out on whether war will help or hurt Bush

BY TOM RAUM
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Wars can help presidents get re-elected — or drive them from office.

World War II helped land Franklin D. Roosevelt an unprecedented fourth term in 1944.

A deteriorating Korean War compelled Harry Truman not to seek re-election in 1952. An increasingly unpopular Vietnam War did the same for Lyndon Johnson in 1968.

Pundits say the jury is out on how President Bush's war — both in Iraq and the broader one against global terrorism — will play out politically in November. It depends on what happens on the ground between now and the election, most agree. But history may offer some guidance.

"We're seeing a volatile war situation which could either make or break this president, depending not on what he says but what actually happens in the war," said Allan J. Lichtman, a history professor at American University. "And everything is relevant, including these revelations of prison abuse."

The international outcry over the mistreatment and humiliation of Iraqi prisoners by U.S. forces drew a rare apology last week from Bush as he stood alongside the king of Jordan in the White House Rose Garden.

Lichtman draws a parallel with the summer of 1864. The Civil War was not going well for the war-weary North. President Abraham Lincoln, under heavy political criticism, feared he would lose his bid for re-election. It took battlefield victories in the fall to turn things around for Lincoln, Lichtman said.

Bush has made his performance as a wartime president a main campaign theme. But six months before Election Day, Americans are expressing doubts about his Iraq policy. His approval ratings are slumping as violence in Iraq escalates and the prison abuse scandal is playing out.

Polls show that Bush continues to hold an advantage, though declining, over Democratic rival John Kerry on foreign policy and terrorism-related leadership.

"So long as the war in Iraq is seen as part of the war on terrorism, that definitely helps Bush," said pollster Andrew Kohut, director of the Pew Research Center in Washington.

National security crises can rally the public around a president.

Bush's approval ratings soared after the Sept. 11 attacks and got a smaller boost after the Iraq war began in March 2003.

Public sympathy, however, has its lim-

its. Memories, too, can be short: Humiliation at Iran's prolonged holding of U.S. hostages contributed to Jimmy Carter's defeat in 1980.

While wars can drive up public approval ratings, such support can evaporate once the fighting has ended, as Bush's father found out. The elder Bush's surge in popularity from the 1991 Gulf War disappeared when the public lost confidence in the way he handled the slumping economy.

Woodrow Wilson enjoyed broad approval during World War I, a war he told Congress would make the world "safe for democracy." Once the fighting was over, voters in the 1918 midterm elections rejected Wilson's appeal to return a Democratic majority to both the House and Senate.

Republicans won control of Congress and blocked Wilson's proposal for a League of Nations that was part of the 1919 Versailles peace agreement he helped negotiate in Paris.

Dwight Eisenhower used his extreme popularity as a World War II hero and a vague promise to end the fighting in Korea to propel himself into the Oval Office in 1952. Richard Nixon won re-election in 1972 after holding out the prospect of bringing a final end to U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

Ronald Reagan's performance as a Cold War commander — and a defense buildup that helped speed the demise of the Soviet Union — contributed to his 1984 re-election success.

Not all foreign policy fiascos have dire consequences for presidents.

After the mid-April 1961 collapse of the CIA-organized Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, President Kennedy declared that "victory has a hundred fathers and defeat is an orphan" and took responsibility for the botched attack.

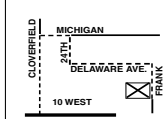
Kennedy's popularity increased — from a 73 percent approval rating in March 1961 to 83 percent in early May 1961, according to a Gallup poll.

That may show the value of taking responsibility, a lesson Bush and his advisers should heed, as Kerry and critics of the president have suggested. "As president, I will not be the last to know what is going on in my command," Kerry said last week.

Some historians suggest Kennedy's rise in the polls probably had more to do with successful spin control. As Kennedy was taking public responsibility, his aides were busy circulating among reporters to privately blame Eisenhower for laying the groundwork for the ill-fated invasion.

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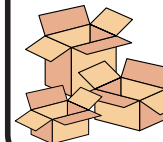


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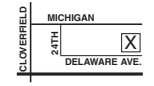
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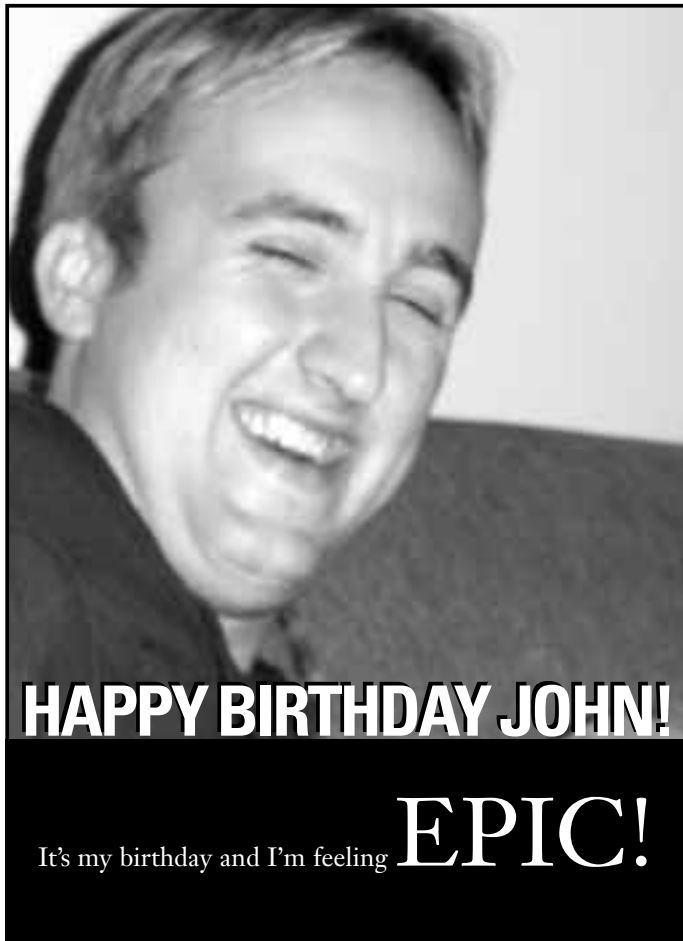
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NATIONAL

Some see their vote for Nader as a protest of George Bush and Kerry

BY SIOBHAN McDONOUGH
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — As someone who would sooner "vote for Scooby-Doo" than George W. Bush or John Kerry, Cathy Allen is not the kind of voter the two parties would spend much time courting.

But at the moment, the 38-year-old Baltimore woman is supporting another character for president, the very real Ralph Nader, and people like her will loom large if the coming election is a squeaker like the last one.

By most measures, Nader is a marginal player who gets less than 10 percent in the polls and faces a daunting task in getting his name on the ballot in all 50 states. But if the election is won and lost on the margins as it was in 2000, people like Allen will count.

"Right now I'll vote for Nader," she says, "just to throw my vote away."

As a registered Democrat, she plays to the party's worst fears — that Nader will draw away just enough Democrats to tip the balance in Bush's favor.

Democrats contend that's what happened in 2000, when Al Gore would have gone over the top by winning one more state. They say Gore almost certainly would have won Florida or New Hampshire or both if Nader hadn't been a factor. That's why liberal groups have been begging the liberal Nader to get out.

Nader scoffs at the argument and insists he will draw his support this time from Republicans or conservative independents who can't stand Bush. Most analysts dismiss that scenario. But such voters exist.

Pat Lister, 44, of Des Plaines, Ill., recently lost her job as a data-entry clerk and her husband has been unemployed for two years. "Dan and I very much are far worse off than four years ago," she said. "We need a change and it better come quick."

But she's been a Republican since the cradle.

"Republicans, good, and Democrats are bad, is the way I grew up thinking," she said. "That darn upbringing is what haunts me."

She said she would feel disloyal abandoning the GOP for the Democrats, "but if I voted for Nader I won't feel so bad about it."

A poll conducted this week for The Associated Press by Ipsos-Public Affairs

put Nader's support at 7 percent, compared with 46 percent for Bush and 43 percent for Kerry. Nader was at that level or higher during 2000, but his numbers dropped as the election approached. He won 2.7 percent of the vote as the Green Party candidate.

Scott Keeter, associate director of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, wouldn't be surprised if that kind of fade happens again.

"Right now every poll I've seen shows him taking votes away from John Kerry," he said. "The question is whether people who like Nader can flirt with him at no cost right now and whether they'll change their mind come Election Day."

Karlyn Bowman, who specializes in public opinion at the conservative American Enterprise Institute, said Nader is bound to finish lower than his current poll numbers because of his difficulty getting on many state ballots. And Bowman doesn't think much of Nader's theory that he will draw from anti-Bush Republicans.

"If he's counting on conservatives, I think he will be out of luck," she said. "Bush has extraordinary support with conservatives and Republicans at this point and I don't see much evidence that they'll be inclined to switch and give support to Nader."

In Wakefield, R.I., engineer Doug Bower says there's a 50 percent chance he'll vote for Nader, as he did in 2000. Kerry is the other possibility. He's a bit worried about "throwing the election" to Bush.

"I think Bush is way too far right and religious and scary," Bower said. "I don't really trust Kerry."

Greg Ryan, 41, a Venice, N.Y., farmworker, figures his vote is wasted anyway because his state is certain to go for Kerry. But he plans to support Nader, with Bush being his second choice.

"I don't see Kerry doing anything for us," Ryan said. "I see his liberal record. I see him taking more money out of our pockets." Because he sees his vote as a protest, it does not matter that Nader is more liberal than the Democrat.

In Hallettsville, Texas, Frank Eckert, 76, says he'll probably throw his vote away on Nader, too.

"I like Nader's honesty, his simplicity," Eckert said. "Some ideas I don't like. We have bad choices this time, though."

"It's a wasted vote," he went on, "but I like to vote."

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WORLD BRIEFLY

Student confesses to breeding worm

By The Associated Press

HANOVER, Germany —A German high-school student has confessed to creating the "Sasser" worm that generated chaos across the globe by infecting hundreds of thousands of computers, authorities said.

The teenager, whose name was not released, was arrested Friday in the northern village of Waffensen, where he lives with his family. In a search of the suspect's home, German investigators confiscated his customized computer, which contained the worm's source code.

"As a result of the student's detailed testimony about the viruses he spread, he has been identified clearly as the author," the state criminal office in Hanover said in a statement. Spokesman Detlef Ehrke said he is being investigated on suspicion of computer sabotage, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison.

After being questioned, the teenager was released pending charges.

Brits hold their own

By The Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq —British soldiers beat back attacks by militiamen loyal to a radical Shiite cleric in southern cities this past weekend, and U.S. forces stormed Muqtada al-Sadr's stronghold in Baghdad.

Al-Sadr's militia launched attacks in Basra and Amarah in an apparent attempt to open up new fronts after another cleric called for a jihad, or holy war, against British troops and promised rewards for the capture of coalition soldiers.

Sheik Abdul-Sattar al-Bahadli, al-Sadr's main representative in Basra, 340 miles southeast of Baghdad, fired up worshippers during Friday prayers with denunciations of U.S. abuse of prisoners and alleged rapes of Iraqi women.

Coalition forces responded to the violence with moves against officials in al-Sadr's movement, arresting his main representative in the southern city of Nasiriyah, Sheik Moayad al-Asadi.

U.S. troops backed by armored vehicles and helicopters also stormed al-Sadr's office in Baghdad's Shiite district of Sadr City, a militia stronghold, and detained three people, witnesses said.

Teenager survives boat accident

By The Associated Press

TIVERTON, R.I. —Shivering with cold, his bare feet cut and bleeding, the 14-year-old frantically banged on the Roses' front door about 1 a.m. Saturday.

"He kept saying, 'There's been an accident. I swam to

shore. I'm sure the boat sank by now,'" Karen Rose said.

Christopher Duarte swam in darkness for 60 to 90 minutes in 50-degree water to reach shore after the small pleasure boat carrying his family capsized in or near Mount Hope Bay, the Coast Guard said.

At least three of the six people aboard the boat died; the search for a fourth victim, the boy's aunt, was called off late Saturday afternoon.

Duarte told Rose and her husband, Dave, that last time he saw his mother, she was clinging to a fender on the boat, without a life jacket.

Duarte's mother, Edwina, 34, was found alive, but died on the way to the hospital, Coast Guard Petty Officer Andrew Shinn said. Duarte's father, Allen, 35, was rescued and was in critical condition in a hospital.

Kerry calls on young to get involved

By The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS —John Kerry on Saturday urged college graduates to commit to public service, saying their participation in the Peace Corps and other programs can overcome the damage to America's image from the prisoner abuse scandal in Iraq.

"America needs your generation to surprise those who underestimate the idealism and commitment of young people in the United States of America," the Democratic presidential candidate said at commencement ceremonies at Southern University at New Orleans.

"If there was ever a time when everyday people in the most deprived countries, cities and villages of the world need to see idealistic Americans working to help them, it is today when we are engaged in a struggle to win the hearts and minds of people everywhere," he said at the historically black college, which awarded degrees to 670 graduates during the ceremony.

The Massachusetts senator said the Peace Corps was "the most powerful symbol of nonmilitary service in our history."

American hostage returns home

By The Associated Press

MACON, Miss. —Former hostage Thomas Hamill returned to American soil Saturday to a chorus of cheering family and friends, but people close to him say his thoughts are with Americans still in harm's way in Iraq.

"Tommy is extremely concerned about his comrades in Iraq and thinking about them is his priority," said family spokeswoman Aly Goodwin-Gregg.

The 44-year-old Hamill, and his wife, Kellie, spoke only to friends and relatives after returning home on a flight from Germany about 1 a.m. Saturday. They were

met at the plane by about a dozen friends and neighbors; members of the media outnumbered the supporters 2 to 1.

A family friend told The Associated Press that Hamill was expected to speak Saturday night at a vigil outside the court house.

Hamill, whose plight captured the attention of the nation, escaped his Iraqi captors Sunday and has been treated for an arm injury at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. He was wounded when his convoy was ambushed April 9.

Air Force Academy cadets call it quits

By The Associated Press

DENVER —Six cadets have resigned from the Air Force Academy during an investigation in which 70 freshmen cadets are accused of cheating on a 25-question online test.

Fourteen of the other 64 being investigated have admitted cheating, academy spokesman Johnny Whitaker said Saturday. There are about 1,150 freshmen at the academy.

Although it is not the first time large numbers of cadets have been caught cheating, it comes in the wake of a sexual assault scandal that resulted in the ouster of all four academy commanders last year.

"It's another indication of the cultural issues we are facing, just like the sexual assault scandal. Obviously we are disappointed," said Whitaker.

The cheating was discovered barely a month before graduation. President Bush is to be the main speaker. Whitaker said the academy will try to resolve all the cases before the June 2 graduation.

Future looks bleak for Bush

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON —In one of the darkest weeks of his administration, President Bush saw America's reputation sullied, the U.S. effort in Iraq damaged and his own campaign for re-election clouded.

And more bad news may be on the way.

While the world already has been horrified by pictures of American soldiers abusing Iraqi prisoners, the Pentagon warns there are many more photos and videos that have not been disclosed.

They show "acts that can only be described as blatantly sadistic, cruel and inhuman," embattled Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told Congress.

From the White House to Capitol Hill, policy-makers are worried that the United States faces lasting damage abroad — particularly in the Middle East — from the pictures of naked Arab men being tortured and humiliated by American soldiers, the same forces sent to Iraq to liberate the country from Saddam Hussein's torture and repression.

Analysts describe the pictures as great recruiting tools for al-Qaida and other extremist groups and said they undermine America's claims to a moral high ground. Rumsfeld said the impact was "radioactive."

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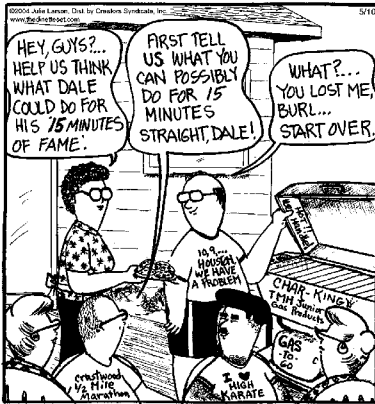
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DID YOU KNOW?: Every President has worn glasses; some just didn't want to be seen with them in the public.

COMICS

The Dinette Set



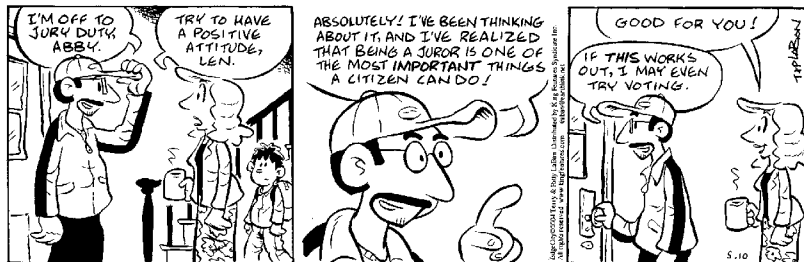
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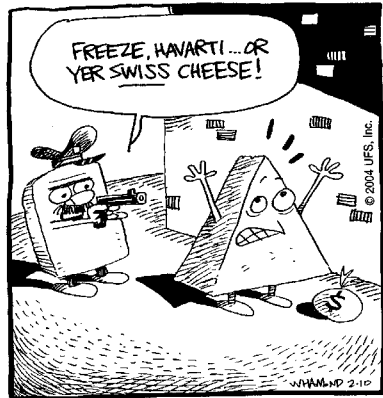
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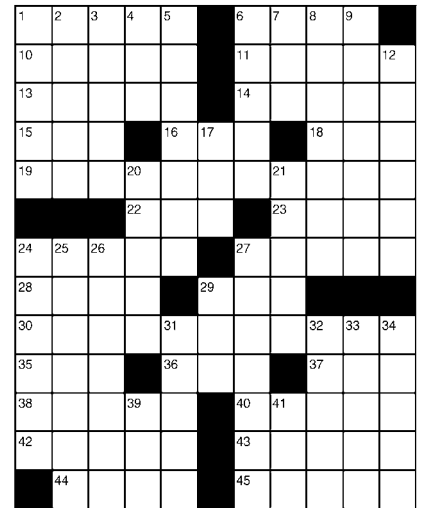
By THOMAS JOSEPH

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- Add up
 - Storage building
 - Common daisy
 - New York's — Island
 - Low cards in pinocle
 - Swiftly
 - Wedding words
 - Polite address
 - Big snake
 - Features of some magazines
 - Pen contents
 - Convene
 - Molecule makeup
 - Sloppy
 - Part to play
 - Oinker
 - Baines and Quincy
 - Each and every
 - Rink makeup
 - Fire-fighter's tool
 - Forest goddess
 - Take it easy
 - Flexible conjunction
 - Designer Simpson
- 44** Workout sites
- 45** Overwhelming desires
- DOWN**
- Bar mixer
 - Rust, for example
 - Mortise's partner
 - Pro vote
 - Diminishes
 - Neck wrap
 - Move like a bunny
 - Facilitates
 - Breaks a cipher
 - Like some breads
 - Annoy
 - Used a stopwatch
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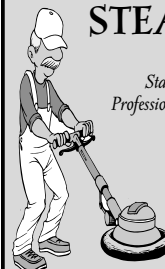
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENTS THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: Timberlake Publishing., 1438 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405 The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Timberlake Global Group, Inc., (CALIFORNIA) 1438 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405 This Business is being conducted, A Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name/names listed above on: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business

DBA'S

under the fictitious business name or names listed herein. I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A Registrant who declares true, information which he knows to be false is guilty of a crime)

/s/: H.T. Lindsay Alexander

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 3/16/2004 indicated by the file stamp above.

NOTICE- THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq. Business and Professions Code).

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

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FILE NO. 04-0924390
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENTS THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: Executive Health Services, 853 16th Street #3 Santa Monica, CA 90403 The full name of registrant(s) is/are : Donald Richard Furnival, Leslie Ann Furnival. This Business is being conducted, Husband & Wife The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name/names listed above on: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed herein. I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A Registrant who declares true, information which he knows to be false is guilty of a crime)

/s/: Donald Richard Furnival, Leslie Ann Furnival

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 4/15/04 indicated by the file stamp above.

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FILE NO. 04-1117306
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENTS THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: European Festival Tours, 843 Yale St., Santa Monica, CA 90403. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: European Piano Festival Tours (CALIFORNIA) 843 Yale St., Santa Monica, CA 90403.
This Business is being conducted, Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name/names listed above on: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed herein.
I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A Registrant who declares true, information which he knows to be false is guilty of a crime)

/s/: Deborah H. How

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 5/4/2004 indicated by the file stamp above.

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FILE NO. 04-1117307
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENTS THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: Starline Enterprises 2106 Glyndon Ave. Venice, CA 90291. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Starline Enterprises (CALIFORNIA) 2106 Glyndon Ave. Venice, CA 90291. This Business is being conducted, Co-Partners. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name/names listed above on: March 1, 2004.

I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. (A Registrant who declares true, information which he knows to be false is guilty of a crime)

/s/: Karl VonWarkentin, Kurt Max

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 5/04/2004 indicated by the file stamp above.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

City Hall wants Jimmy Buffett to turn it down

By The Associated Press

■ **MIDDLETON, Wis.** — Violinist Sarah Chang began studying music at age 4 and has performed with major symphony orchestras, but she's also a fan of pop culture.

Chang, 23, said she was frustrated when a rehearsal for Saturday's performance with the Madison Symphony Orchestra forced her to miss the final episode of "Friends."

"I'm staying in a hotel, so I couldn't videotape it and I couldn't reach any of my friends to find out how it turned out," Chang told a group of Middleton High School orchestra students.

Chang said she is also a fan of almost every reality television show ever aired.

Chang's taste in music might surprise a few classical music devotees. She prefers listening to rapper 50 Cent and Carlos Santana in the car.

"I have a hard time switching my mind off. If I hear a violin piece, I have to pull over and listen," she said. "So, when I'm driving, I pop in a popular music or a rock CD."

Chang said she winces when she enters a restaurant and the manager, as a gesture of respect, plays one of her CDs. "The last thing I want to do when I'm eating is listen to me," she said.

■ **GULF SHORES, Ala.** — City officials say they are going to crack down

on loud music at Lulu's, the coastal restaurant owned by singer Jimmy Buffett and his sister, Lucy Buffett.

"It sounds like we need to have some serious discussion with them about what is expected over there," said Mayor David Bodenhamer at a city council work session.

Jason Newsom, manager of Lulu's, said the restaurant has made compromises to accommodate its neighbors, including limiting outdoor performances to the daytime.

"It's tough, you know, it's 2 p.m.," he said. "We're next to an airport, for goodness sake."

Resident Phillip Dierks asked officials to stop the outdoor music at Lulu's.

"My windows actually vibrate, and I'm almost a third of a mile away from them," Dierks said. "As long as that band is outside, we've got problems."

Buffett, a native of nearby Mobile, made it big singing about the vagaries of life in the tropics. His hits include "Margaritaville" and "Cheeseburger in Paradise."

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Celebrities gathered for the opening of the Ricardo Montalban Theatre, owned by a group that advocates greater roles for Hispanics in Hollywood.

The theater is a "dream come true," said the 83-year-old actor, who has long sought a home for Nosotros, the nonprofit theater group he founded in 1970.

The audience Saturday included

Hector Elizondo, Robert Goulet and Valerie Harper.

The 1,200-seat theater, the largest theater in the country bearing the name of a Hispanic artist, is the latest remodeling of a historic Hollywood building dating to the 1920s. Most recently named the James A. Doolittle Theatre and previously the Huntington Hartford, it is co-owned by Nosotros and a nonprofit foundation.

Nosotros — "Us" in Spanish — set goals of increasing employment for Hispanics in the industry, improving the skills of actors and attracting new talent. Its original board included Desi Arnaz, Vicki Carr and Anthony Quinn, and it became a training ground for actors such as Edward James Olmos, Salma Hayek, Lupe Ontiveros and Lorenzo Lamas.

■ **LITTLE ROCK** — The farmhouse featured in the film version of author John Grisham's best-seller "A Painted House" will open to the public.

Mayor Dale Dunlap said residents of Lepanto in northeastern Arkansas, where many of the movie's scenes were shot, hope the house will attract Grisham fans and curious travelers passing by on nearby highways.

"Lepanto being a small town out here in the middle of nowhere, the only thing we've been known for until this year is the (annual) Terrapin Derby," he said.

"A Painted House" is Grisham's 2001

tale of life in Arkansas cotton country in the 1950s. He was born in Jonesboro, about 25 miles northwest of Lepanto, in 1955 and lived on a cotton farm until age 7. The book became a Hallmark Hall of Fame made-for-TV movie.

Many of the house's furnishings are from the movie set. The interior is period-authentic, even down to the canned goods in the kitchen, Dunlap said.

■ **SELMA, Ala.** — Actress Drew Barrymore toured Selma, the birthplace of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as part of a documentary she's filming on the importance of voting.

The actress visited the National Voting Rights Museum on Thursday before traveling 20 miles to the tiny community of Suttle, where she met with children involved in youth leadership.

Barrymore and her crew taped interviews with state Sen. Hank Sanders and his wife, activist Faya Rose Toure, at the youth leadership center.

Barrymore, 29, declined interviews, saying the details of her project will be announced later.

Selma civil rights leaders said they were impressed with Barrymore's knowledge of the voting rights movement as she toured a museum at the base of the historic Edmund Pettus Bridge, where marchers clashed with state troops and sheriff's officers in March 1965.



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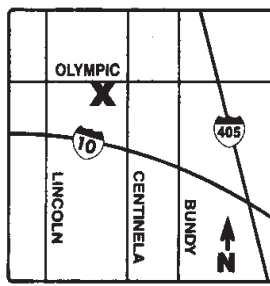
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