

Santa Monica Daily Press

May 13-14, 2006

A newspaper with issues

Volume 5, Issue 156

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA
6 36 39 45 52
Meganumber: 45
Jackpot: \$80M

Super LOTTO
5 6 42 44 45
Meganumber: 15
Jackpot: \$28M

Fantasy 5 21 29 30 36 38

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 4 1 2
EVENING: 6 2 9

DAILY DERRY
1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1:48.46

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site: <http://www.calottery.com>

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Unexpected childbirths happen from time to time, but the genuinely surprised mother in Ojo Caliente, N.M., in February was Kayla Alire, 18, who just two hours earlier had hit two three-pointers as a starting guard for the town's high school girls' basketball team.

■ In March, Matt Robison, 21, of Ottawa, Ill., said he felt "like I've done something memorable with my life" after sitting for a 14-hour session in which he received 1,016 skin piercings to eclipse the previous Guinness Book record. (Immediately afterward, Robison had to remove each one, which he said was just as excruciating as the piercing.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 133rd day of 2006.
There are 232 days left in the year.

Twenty-five years ago, on May 13, 1981, Pope John Paul II was shot and seriously wounded in St. Peter's Square by Turkish assailant Mehmet Ali Agca.

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LOCAL

The YWCA Westside can't live without 'em

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN AVE. — A doctor, a surfer, a community activist, a service provider — all women of the year.

Amidst the backdrop of a \$175-plate chicken and orzo pilaf dinner, free-flowing wine and hundreds of supporters, the YWCA Santa Monica/Westside on Thursday night honored four Westside women for their contributions to the community at the 29th Annual Women of the Year Dinner at the Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel.

This year's honorees were: Mary Setterholm, founder of Santa Monica's official surf school — the Surf Academy — and of LA Surf Bus, which provides ocean safety and surf lessons to inner city children; Santa

See WOMEN, page 14

Upwardly mobile



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

Santa Monica Fire Department recruits show their skills during graduation ceremonies at the tower training center on Friday at the city yards.

SMC turns to state for help with teacher rift

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC — Unable to reach an agreement regarding pay raises for faculty, administrators on Thursday filed a request with the state for mediation.

The Santa Monica College Faculty Association and administrators at SMC have been negotiating a new contract since September 2004, and have come to an agreement on most issues, including health care, which the college has agreed to pay completely, representatives from the association and the college said.

However, the SMC board of trustees has been unwilling to grant two pay raises totaling 5.5 percent for faculty because of a lack of funding. The trustees are offering a raise of 3.5 percent, said Robert Sammis, the college's chief negotiator and vice president of planning and development.

See SMC RAISES, page 13

Chasing a rainbow

SM church aids Crescent City sister

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

11th STREET — While far removed from the minds of the general public, there is still a world of suffering going on in New Orleans.

But the congregation at First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica (FUMCSM) hasn't forgotten. That's why 15 people from the church put their lives on hold for one week in April, traveling to New

Orleans and working towards infusing life back into a community that desperately needs it.

Earlier this year, FUMCSM was called upon by its now sister church, Bethany United Methodist Church, to help rebuild its property and help return its community to some normalcy. The church sat for three weeks in more than 10 feet of polluted water. And whatever the water

See NEW ORLEANS, page 12



Photo by Kendra Gorlitsky

IN TATTERS More than seven months after Hurricane Katrina struck it, much of New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward still looks like it did once the waters subsided. Spray-painted markings by rescue crews indicate whether casualties were found.

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SAT DINNER 5:00PM-10:00PM

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HOROSCOPES

Top of world, Scorpio

Santa Monica Daily Press



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)

★★★★ Though your energy could be scattered, you have a way of pulling different facets together. You'll accomplish much more than you thought possible if you play the role of peacemaker, not warrior. Financial agreements are highlighted. Tonight: Let a partner treat you.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You are juggling different interests. If someone appears harsh or difficult, it is really because this person wants your attention. Not everyone is clear and direct! Understanding and a long-overdue chat prove quite healing. Tonight: Accept an invitation.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You might want to escape the many demands that keep hitting you and/or knocking on your door. You could be wondering what you can do to end or defuse some of the tension. Schedule some time away from your routine -- even today. Tonight: Make dinner easy.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ You have a way of toppling problems. You might discover much more about your friends if you kick back. Someone might share something quite special that you need to act on. Tonight: Spice up your life.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You might not be able to respond to everyone's demands. Delegate as much as you can, understanding your limits and where your energy begins and ends. Heavy authority figures or someone you see as pushy could have unreasonable expectations. Tonight: Know when to back off.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ You might want to do something that's very different or a bit wild in your book. You need to know when you have had enough and when to head in your own direction. A friend helps you see the big picture. Tonight: Where the action is.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You need to respond to a different tune or do something differently. You might have difficulty bucking a tendency to go to excess right now. A partner can help you pull back and say no. Together you can accept more responsibility. Tonight: You might want to say no.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You are positive and upbeat, no matter what goes on. People might try to insert themselves in your path, as you are very magnetic. News from a distance could affect you, as well as others. Adjust your thinking, if not plans. Tonight: On top of the world.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Take your time rehashing and thinking about what you want and expect. You might want to pull back; make that OK. Your daily routine could need updating in order to make you happy. Tonight: Move forward.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Socialize more and enjoy the great people in your life. A romantic interest could test your limits and time. The recipe for success is integrating the two elements of your social life. You can do it. Tonight: Let the kid in you out.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You might not know how to cover all the bases at once, mainly because it is an impossibility. Stop trying to do what is impossible; staying on top of situations cannot happen. Knowing when to quit might be more important. Tonight: Know that plans are changing.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Communication could overwhelm anyone right now, but it could make your day if you relax. Incorporate different ideas rather than see them as an either/or type of situation. Pulling back helps you see the big picture. Tonight: Away you go.



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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

French sounds to fill the air

By Daily Press staff

If you like France, then it will be music to your ears this weekend at Santa Monica College.

The SMC Emeritus College Band will present “Holiday in France,” a French-themed program, at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 14 in the SMC Concert Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. Admission and parking are free.

The 60-member concert band, part of SMC’s acclaimed Emeritus College for older adults, is under the baton of Wallace UMBER.

On the program will be such pieces as Gershwin’s “An American in Paris,” Offenbach’s “Orpheus in the Underworld,” “Suite Française” by Darius Milhaud, and “Quadrille” by Cole Porter.

For further information, call (310) 434-4306 or (310) 474-5271.

Spin into diabetes prevention

By Daily Press staff

The American Diabetes Association’s Tour de Cure, an annual cycling event, will spin out at the Santa Monica Pier today, May 13.

The event raises funds for diabetes research, programs and advocacy and has three levels — targeted to beginner, intermediate and advanced cyclists. The 50-mile event begins at 7 a.m.; the 25-mile ride begins at 8:30 a.m. and the five-mile family ride starts at 10 a.m. With each scenic ride, participants can expect fully-loaded rest stops and support vehicles, and a free lunch, along with music and entertainment at the completion of the event.

Teachers got themselves a day

By Daily Press staff

Teachers got a day to themselves this past week.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association (SMMCTA) joined the local school district, students and members of the community in celebrating “Day of the Teacher” on May 10. It marked the 24th anniversary of the day established to give special recognition to teachers for their contributions to education and the lives of California’s children. This year’s theme was “California Teachers: Bringing Dreams to Life.”

“Day of the Teacher has always been a time to recognize and appreciate the educators in your local schools,” said Harry Keiley, SMMCTA president. “... I can tell you that the teachers in this community are committed to excellence in our schools.”

CTA and the Association of Mexican American Educators (AMAE) sponsored the bill, SB 1546, first proclaiming Day of the Teacher. It was written by Sen. Joseph Montoya (D-El Monte) and signed into law in 1982. The California celebration is patterned after “El Dia del Maestro” celebrations in Mexico and other Latin American countries.

See BRIEFS, page 13

If you’re sober enough to read this ...

By Daily Press staff

Attention all drunk drivers: The cops will be out in full force tonight.

Throughout the evening on Saturday, May 13, the Santa Monica Police Department will be stopping cars and conducting a “sobriety

checkpoint” in the 2800 block of Wilshire Boulevard. The checkpoint is in accordance with the California Office of Traffic Safety Grant. The grant entitled, “You Drink & Drive. You Lose,” is part of a national campaign to reduce the number of people killed or injured in alcohol-related crashes.

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SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

SNOW CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN

CLOSED

JUNE MOUNTAIN

CLOSED

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH 0"	LIFT HOURS 7:30 AM - 3:00 PM	RUNS OPEN 50	LIFTS OPEN 7/28
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CONDITIONS: MACHINE GROOMED, SPRING

MOUNTAIN HIGH

CLOSED

MT. BALDY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH 12" - 18"	LIFT HOURS 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	RUNS OPEN 20	LIFTS OPEN 3/4
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CONDITIONS: MACHINE GROOMED, SPRING

SNOW SUMMIT

CLOSED

SNOW VALLEY

CLOSED

SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 59°

SWELL FORECAST (3-4 FT)
THIS WEEKEND IS WHEN OUR NEXT SW SWELL IS DUE, WITH SUNDAY BEING THE PEAK DAY TO CATCH SOME ACTION FROM THIS SWELL.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
LONG-PERIOD, INFREQUENT TASMAN SEA SWELL 16TH-17TH...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

SATURDAY				
LOW TIDE	5:20AM	-1.17FT	4:27PM	1.87FT
HIGH TIDE	11:49AM	3.67FT	10:46PM	6.18FT
SUNDAY				
LOW TIDE	6:10AM	-0.93FT	5:01PM	2.31FT
HIGH TIDE	12:52PM	3.33FT	11:24PM	5.77FT
MONDAY				
LOW TIDE	1:35AM	1.47FT	1:17PM	0.88FT
HIGH TIDE	7:14AM	3.85FT	7:46PM	4.79FT
TUESDAY				
LOW TIDE	2:09AM	0.92FT	1:41PM	1.09FT
HIGH TIDE	7:59AM	3.84FT	8:04PM	5.11FT
WEDNESDAY				
LOW TIDE	2:42AM	0.41FT	2:05PM	1.31FT
HIGH TIDE	8:41AM	3.80FT	8:25PM	5.41FT
THURSDAY				
LOW TIDE	3:14AM	-0.03FT	2:29PM	1.54FT
HIGH TIDE	9:22AM	3.74FT	8:47PM	5.67FT
FRIDAY				
LOW TIDE	3:48AM	-0.40FT	2:54PM	1.77FT
HIGH TIDE	10:04AM	3.65FT	9:13PM	5.87FT

The QLine

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THE Q-LINE RESPONSES ARE IN!

**CHECK OUT THIS
WEEK’S Q-LINE
RESPONSES ON PAGE 4.**

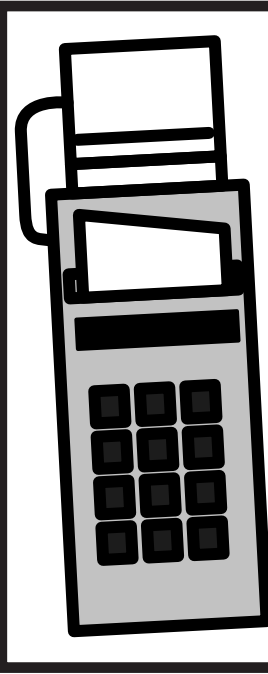


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OPINION

The Q-Line

MIDNIGHT TOKERS SEEK A COP-OUT

This past week, Q-line asked:
“Do you feel laws against personal marijuana use should be strictly enforced, or should police focus their attention elsewhere?”
Here are your responses:

- “Personal marijuana use should continue to be strictly enforced. It is a dangerous, mind-deteriorating drug and leads to further drug abuse. I am sick of walking along our streets and shopping in stores, etc., encountering people who reek of that pukey smell. I walked into the lobby of the Fifth Street post office on Saturday morning recently to mail a letter and two transients were in there smoking pot. The entire place reeked of this ghastly odor. It made me sick to my stomach.”
- “I personally shy away from stimulants and depressants. The main three being in abundance of usage are alcohol, tobacco and marijuana. I personally believe that marijuana is the lesser of these three evils and it is indicated that marijuana may have useful medical benefits. I believe that marijuana should be regulated in the same manner as alcohol and tobacco — no legal sale to minors and a standard that regulates over usage.”
- “I do believe in personal marijuana use as a very low priority and the police should focus their attention everywhere else.”
- “Several weeks ago when I was attending the Santa Monica Farmer’s Market I signed for the marijuana petition but I think it should be enforced by a doctor and I don’t think the police have any business getting mixed up in that because sometimes marijuana can help sickly people but only on that basis.”
- “Yes. The police should definitely focus their attention elsewhere other than the personal use of marijuana for people here in Santa Monica. Maybe on the homeless people, put the focus on the crime-related incidents here in Santa Monica and focus on that instead of on things people use for their own personal use. It will probably be a lot safer.”
- “They should not worry about marijuana. I mean, there are a lot of more important things that are causing a lot more problems than marijuana, such as the homeless. What they should do though is when someone is arrested for something else and they do have marijuana on them, charge them for that too. Might as well, it

- won’t hurt anything for charging them extra for having marijuana. But as far as medical marijuana is concerned, they should allow that because the doctors know a lot more about marijuana than the republicans or the Christian taliban.”
- “The police really should be focusing their attention on moving the smelly homeless people from Santa Monica. Marijuana smoke doesn’t smell that bad, at least compared to feces and urine.”
- “I think laws against marijuana for personal use should not be enforced. This would enable people with medical problems to avoid further harassment. Concentrate on stricter laws for real criminals.”
- “Again, why are we debating what should be a state problem? Because the idiots in this town want to be ‘cutting edge of society?’ Santa Monica, first hippy and pot heads. Marijuana should be regulated just like alcohol, the same laws. It’s stupid to have 12 cops bust some fool with an ounce bag like on the TV show ‘Cops.’ The police should direct their attention and many big brother cameras in this town towards the biggest crime facing Santa Monica, incompetence in city leadership. Just think of the taxes they could spend towards their social engineering programs. Let’s be on the cutting edge of progressive decay and give all of the City Council members a joint.”
- “Thomas Jefferson was going to include in our rights the freedom of medical choice but our founding fathers said that this is obviously implied in our other inalienable rights. How wrong they were. Jefferson and George Washington were pot growers. And old Tom was probably smoking while he wrote our constitution. Today, poor Tom and George would be doing 10 to 20 in Folsom for cultivation. The freedom to eat, smoke and ingest whatever we want in the safety of our own homes should have been a basic right. This war on drugs is a war on our own citizens. Many have been ruined, jailed or killed because of a few sick prudes. The only problem with pot has been the laws themselves. If our City Council was brave enough they would legalize marijuana in Santa Monica today.”

The Da Vinci load



MODERN
TIMES
BY LLOYD GARVER

The movie isn’t even out yet, and I’ve already overdosed on “The Da Vinci Code.” Publicity about the book or the movie is inescapable, as are the many commercial offshoots from Team Da Vinci. There is a Da Vinci Code jigsaw puzzle, a Da Vinci Code travel journal, and a Da Vinci Code board game. There is also “Fodor’s Guide to the Da Vinci Code,” which follows the paths of the novel’s characters. I assume there are other commercial enterprises I’m just not aware of. There must be a Da Vinci Code mobile to be hung above baby’s crib as well as Da Vinci Code breakfast cereal, guaranteed to be controversial and taste good, too. And would any of us be surprised in the near future if we hear that Broadway is welcoming the Da Vinci Code musical?

Some people feel the book is a wonderful piece of literature, and others feel it is offensive blasphemy. I don’t fall into either of those categories.

When I read the book, I didn’t understand what all the fuss was about. I considered it to be in that genre of literature that I call “airplane books.” You know what I’m talking about. You usually buy them at the airport store, and you read them all the way through on the flight. They are the kind of books that are best read in between destinations, at least 30,000 feet above sea level. They make the trip go faster. You don’t care if you spill something on them. You can skip a chapter or two. They are heavy on fast, page-turning plot, and light on character development. They are filled with so many holes in logic that they are best not discussed — or even thought about — after you have landed and grabbed your bag from the overhead bin. I’m not saying “The Da Vinci Code” is a bad book, but a 747 seems a much more appropriate place for it than a library.

I know millions of people disagree with me. That’s OK. It’s happened before, especially around election time. Declaring a book to be “good” or “bad” is a subjective thing. And I couldn’t say anybody is “wrong” for liking the book or even thinking it’s a great work of art. It just didn’t do it for me. And even if I had given the book the benefit of the doubt, I never would have

guessed that it would have spawned a popular jigsaw puzzle.

The other element that has surprised me has been the outrage that many people feel about the book. The Pope is not a fan of the book and he’s not going to be a cheerleader for the movie. Other religious groups are equally aghast. When I was in Indianapolis, I watched a late-night TV preacher demonstrate point by point how inaccurate the book was. Of course, it’s inaccurate — it’s fiction.

And that’s what I don’t get. Don’t all of those who feel that it’s sacrilegious know it’s a novel? It’s just a story. A guy made it up. It’s pretend. Nobody is saying this is a true story.

When religious people in the Middle East condemn a work of art, a cartoon, or a piece of fiction, we label them irrational extremists. How different has some of the reaction to the fictional Da Vinci Code been?

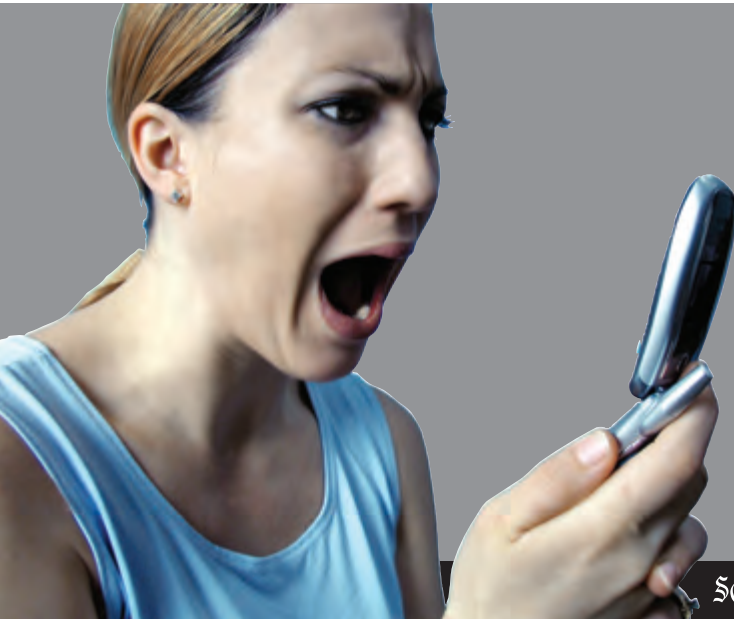
And come on, how offensive do they really think a movie from Tom Hanks and Ron Howard is going to be?

If I wrote a humorous story and said that some archaeologists discovered that Moses was actually given tablets with 11 commandments, not 10, and the 11th commandment was, “Thou shalt always turn off the light when thou leavest a room,” I don’t think religious leaders would be upset. They’d think it was either stupid or amusing, but not an attack on their religion. So, why has “The Da Vinci Code” — a piece of fiction — touched such a nerve in our culture?

Of course, the author, publisher, and filmmakers are doing nothing to extinguish the controversy. It has only made “The Da Vinci code” even more popular. I wonder how many more movie tickets will be sold because of the opposition of religious leaders.

I guess it will all blow over after the movie’s out for a while. In the meantime, I’m pretty sick of seeing things having to do with “The Da Vinci Code.” But I can’t deny its power. Somehow, it made me write a discussion of “The Da Vinci Code” in which my main point is that there’s too much discussion about it.

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



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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Squaring off



Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II/Daily Press
Josh Parish (left), 22, and his pal Anthony Bean, 19, stare each other down before playfighting on the Promenade on Thursday night. Bean's 'weapon of choice' was a plastic three-foot long shoehorn. 'He's my whipping boy,' Bean called out before the two engaged.

Forecast: Strong shaking in LA if San Andreas snaps

BY ALICIA CHANG

AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES — A powerful earthquake on the southern San Andreas fault, which hasn't ruptured in over three centuries, is capable of producing prolonged periods of strong shaking in the greater Los Angeles region, a new study finds.

The study offers one of the most detailed analyses yet of what would happen if a magnitude-7.7 temblor strikes along a 125-mile stretch of the fault between San Bernardino and Imperial counties.

The southern San Andreas last snapped in 1690, unleashing a strong quake that caused relatively little damage because few people lived in the area. But as Los Angeles and neighboring cities have become populated and built up over the decades, scientists now say a Big One could be devastating.

Computer simulations show the Los Angeles basin will experience some of the strongest ground shaking if the fault unzips from south to north.

That's because seismic waves fanning from the epicenter will have to travel through a chain of sedimentary basins between San Bernardino and downtown Los

Angeles, trapping energy and channeling it toward the Los Angeles basin. The result will be strong and localized vibration.

The basin could potentially experience several minutes of "roller coaster motion," said lead researcher Kim Olsen of San Diego State University.

"A large part of the Los Angeles area would definitely get a good shake," he said.

But Olsen said the shaking in the region likely won't produce as much damage as areas near the epicenter because the traveling seismic waves will have weakened by the time they reach the greater Los Angeles region.

If the San Andreas ruptures from north to south, the areas most at risk of violent shaking include the Imperial Valley and northern Mexico, the study found.

The study was published in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters* this month.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Geological Survey received a \$2 million federal grant to monitor the southern San Andreas fault, which has been building up stress that could lead to a big shaker.

Scientists have said the southern segment, which is overdue, has a high chance of rupturing in the next few decades, producing a quake of magnitude-7.5 or greater.

Kaiser to suspend transplants

By The Associated Press

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Kaiser Permanente suspended its kidney transplant program on Friday, a day after the health maintenance organization was sued for allegedly bungling cases that led some patients to grow seriously ill and, in one case, die.

A widow of a patient filed a wrongful death action and two patients filed personal injury suits Thursday in Alameda County Superior Court.

The actions are the first in what could be a series of suits stemming from problems at the health maintenance organization's San Francisco kidney transplant program, which is under federal and state investigations.

"Where there's smoke, there's fire," said Jeffrey Milman, a Newport Beach lawyer,

who is reviewing cases now. "My guess is that there's probably at least 1,000 or more people out there that have been wronged. The question is to what extent."

The problems with the program arose when Kaiser ordered Northern California kidney patients to transfer from University of California hospitals to its new transplant center in 2004, leading to delays blamed on botched paperwork and administrative errors.

A Kaiser official apologized this week and offered to let patients transfer to UC hospitals in San Francisco and Davis.

One plaintiff, Ella Haynes, said her husband, Ronald, died last year after Kaiser bungled his paperwork, effectively removing him from consideration for a kidney.

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STATE

New space race out of this world

Technology catches up to spaceport boom

BY ALICIA CHANG

AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES — The promise of blasting thrill-seeking tourists into space is fueling an unprecedented rush to build snazzy commercial spaceports.

The Federal Aviation Administration is reviewing proposals from New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas to be gateways for private space travel. Depending on how environmental reviews and other requirements go, approval could come as early as this year and the sites could be ferrying space tourists soon after.

The current spaceport boom recalls the mid-1990s, when the first spaceport fad generated hype but no real construction. Finally, technology may have caught up with starry-eyed plans.

Aerospace designer Burt Rutan, who is building a commercial spaceship fleet for British space tourism operator Virgin Galactic, recently expressed his amazement at the flurry of proposals.

"It's almost humorous to watch the worldwide battle of the spaceports," Rutan mused earlier this month at the International Space Development Conference.

For decades, spaceports have been used mostly by NASA and the Pentagon to rocket astronauts and satellites into orbit.

Traditional launch ranges are often spartan mixes of lonely launch pad towers, con-

crete runways and aircraft hangars. Many are located in remote coastal areas — Florida's Cape Canaveral being the best known — so that debris won't hit populated areas.

The current spaceport boom promises futuristic complexes that evoke the Jetsons. But cashing in requires a gamble.

None of the private rockets under development has been test-flown. And even once the FAA licenses any vehicles, the infant industry initially won't boast multiple daily flights — at \$100,000 to \$250,000 a head, the market is decidedly limited.

For states that invest early, however, the long-term economic benefits could be substantial. A recent study commissioned by New Mexico predicted that its proposed hub could net \$750 million in revenue and up to 5,800 new jobs by 2020. States with spaceports anchored by a reliable spaceliner and designed like a galactic Disneyland also could be a magnet for high-skill, high-wage labor and sprout cottage industries.

The rush to build commercial space hubs is spurred by entrepreneurs who want to send rich passengers into suborbital space — a region about 60 miles above Earth. Several will build their rockets this summer with tentative plans to fly as early as next year pending regulatory approval.

New Mexico, which inked a deal with Virgin Galactic last year to construct a \$225 million spaceport on 27 square miles of

desert, is expected to select a winning architectural design from six entries on June 2.

While details of the spaceport designs are secret until a winner is chosen, tentative plans call for a complex built mostly underground. The facility, which would be funded by a mix of federal, state and local money, could open in late 2009. Virgin would have a 20-year lease on the facility.

Until then, Virgin Galactic, founded by British mogul Richard Branson, plans to fly the first passengers from California's Mojave Airport, where the Rutan-designed SpaceShipOne became the first privately manned rocketship to reach space in 2004.

Outside the seven government-run launch ranges, the Mojave hosts one of five nonfederal licensed spaceports in the U.S. that serve both commercial and government interests. The nonfederal ports are either state or privately operated.

Another space tourism operator, Rocketplane Kistler, wants to launch from the Oklahoma Spaceport. Still pending FAA approval, that spaceport sits on the site of the former Clinton-Sherman Airpark in Burns Flats and boasts one of the world's longest runways.

The Oklahoma Spaceport has passed all its requirements and is expected to win an FAA license over the next several weeks, said Bill Khourie, executive director of the Oklahoma Space Industry Development Authority.

Mission control is being upgraded and there are plans for VIP lounges and other amenities.

"We ultimately plan on building more

sexy facilities," said Charles Lauer, vice president of business development at Rocketplane Kistler.

The FAA also is considering two proposed spaceports in Texas, including a private spaceport on 165,000 acres of desolate ranch land about 120 miles east of El Paso bought by Amazon.com founder Jeff Bezos. Bezos had said his space tourism firm, Blue Origin, would first build basic structures, then begin flight tests in six to seven years.

To gain a spaceport license, a facility must pass an environmental review and prove that its location won't harm surrounding communities or the public, said Patricia Grace Smith, associate administrator of the FAA Office of Commercial Space Transportation. Spaceports and launch vehicles are licensed separately.

The 1990s saw a different spaceport race.

Back then, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas were among more than a dozen states that squandered thousands of dollars trying to woo a much-hyped experimental spacecraft program.

VentureStar, a wedge-shaped spaceship by NASA and Lockheed Martin, was supposed to replace the space shuttle. But the program was plagued by engineering problems and was scrubbed in 2001.

To avoid another bust, commercial space hubs must find creative ways to supplement tourists' weightless experience by adding attractions such as theme parks, hotels and restaurants, said Derek Webber, director of Spaceport Associates, a Maryland-based consulting firm.



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STATE



Judge rules California can't require tuna warning labels

BY TERENCE CHEA

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A state judge ruled that California cannot require the nation's three largest tuna companies to place mercury warning labels on their cans.

State Attorney General Bill Lockyer sued the tuna canners two years ago to enforce Proposition 65, a 1986 state law requiring consumer warnings about reproductive toxins such as mercury, which has been linked to developmental problems in children.

With some studies showing that tuna contains potentially unsafe levels of mercury, health advocates complain that tuna companies and government agencies haven't done enough to warn consumers about the risks.

In a ruling issued late Thursday, Superior Court Judge Robert Dondero said the state's attempt to enforce the law conflicts with federal policies on tuna consumption.

The judge also found that the mercury levels in the companies' tuna were not high enough to require labels. In addition, he ruled that virtually all the mercury in canned tuna was naturally occurring, exempting them from the warning.

The defendants are Bumble Bee Seafoods LLC, the San Diego-based maker of Bumble Bee tuna; San Diego-based Tri-Union Seafoods LLC, which makes Chicken of the Sea brand tuna; and Del Monte Corp., the San Francisco maker of Starkist.

The U.S. Tuna Foundation, which represents the industry, called the ruling a victory for consumers.

"Instead of finding ways to discourage people from eating seafood, we should be busy finding ways to help everyone eat better," said David Burney, the group's execu-

tive director. "Canned tuna is so healthy and affordable that everyone can easily gain its benefits as part of a healthy diet."

Lockyer disagreed with the decision and was considering filing an objection or appeal, spokesman Tom Dresslar said Friday, noting that mercury is harmful to pregnant women and small children.

"The decision, we believe, is wrong on the law, wrong on the science and bad for consumers," Dresslar said. "When the consumers of California go into a grocery store, they have a right to be informed about the mercury that is present in canned tuna."

Lockyer's office complained about the federal government's intervention in the case. Two months before the case went to trial in October, U.S. Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Lester Crawford sent a letter to Lockyer saying that federal law pre-empts California's warning requirement.

The Aug. 12 letter, which the defendants submitted as evidence in the trial, said general warning labels could scare them away from food they should be eating.

In March, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that would prevent states from requiring food warnings that go beyond federal law. Thirty-nine attorneys general, including Lockyer, have come out against the bill.

The FDA and Environmental Protection Agency encourages Americans to consume tuna and other seafood as part of a healthy diet, but advises women who are pregnant or may become pregnant, nursing mothers and young children to avoid eating tuna.

However, the federal government doesn't require tuna companies to place consumer warning labels on their products.

Assembly votes to ensure college newspaper First Amendment rights

BY SAMANTHA YOUNG

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — University administrators would be prohibited from censoring student newspapers at California's colleges and universities under a bill approved Thursday by the Assembly.

California would be the first state to extend First Amendment protections to college journalists if the bill becomes law.

"Prior restraint and prior review are not the hallmarks of Democracy," said the bill's author, Assemblyman Leland Yee, D-San Francisco.

Lawmakers in the 80-member chamber approved the bill 76-0 without debate. It now moves to the Senate for consideration.

Yee introduced the bill in April in reaction to a federal court ruling last year in Illinois.

In July, the 7th U.S. Court of Appeals in Chicago ruled that administrators at Midwest universities could review student articles before publication. The court decided that Governors State University, a public university near Chicago, could regulate its student-run newspaper because it was published under the auspices of the college.

The decision was limited to Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana. But the California Newspaper Publishers Association and free speech advocates fear state college administrators might try to apply the ruling to campuses in other states.

counsel for the California State University system, sent a memo to the presidents of each campus suggesting they may "have more latitude than previously believed to censor the content of subsidized student newspapers."

Helwick did not immediately respond Thursday to a telephone message seeking comment.

California lawmakers are the first to propose a law guaranteeing freedom of speech and press for college journalists, said Mike Hiestand, an attorney and legal consultant to the Student Press Law Center in Arlington, Va.

"We've had over three decades of (case) law protecting college student press rights. This 7th Court ruling is a huge change," Hiestand said. "I think some college administrators have been looking at that for ammunition in engaging in student censorship."

Yee said state law protects freedom of speech on college and university campuses, but does not cover written articles.

"We need to be very clear to college administrators: Let's not use any outside influence to control the newspapers on our campuses," Yee said.

The Legislature in 1992 passed a bill shielding high school students from censorship, except for material that is obscene, libelous or slanderous. Backers say students at CSU, the University of California and community colleges should be given the same protections as professional journalists.



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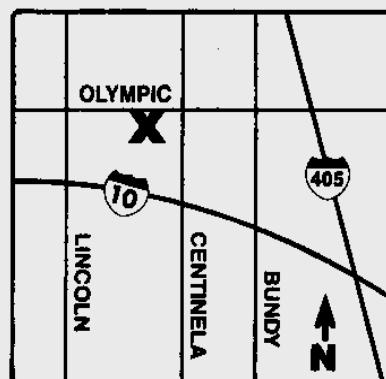


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STATE

For Air Guard, an unusual pre-emptive strike

BY SCOTT LINDLAW

Associated Press Writer

FRESNO, Calif. — California's Air National Guard pilots stand on high alert 24-7, ready to launch their fighters against a cruise missile attack or hijacked airliner. These days, they are also launching a public-relations offensive to save their base.

It's a strange new skirmish in what should be the truce following last year's base-closure fights. The stakes are huge, Air Guard officers here say, because their mission could be outsourced to faraway states as their aging aircraft grow obsolete. California's defense against terrorists might rely on Air Guard fighters based in other states, though possibly deployed within California.

"Our pitch is that, hey, as our airplanes age out, is California going to be best served in the air-defense picture, or is California being left to hang out to dry?" said Lt. Col. Clay Garrison, weapons officer and chief flight instructor for the Fresno-based 144th Fighter Wing.

The officers' concerns rest on what-ifs and inferences gleaned a world away from the military planners who will actually determine the base's future. By sounding alarms now, the Fresno officers are bucking the military's culture of tightly managed public relations.

But their message is beginning to trouble California politicians, who are pressing the Pentagon for answers about what happens to the Southwest's air defenses when the California Air Guard's fleet of F-16 Falcon jets is mothballed.

"In light of the impending retirement of the F-16C and the advanced capabilities of the F-15C, I am concerned that the 34 million residents of California are not being afforded the best protection possible from increasingly sophisticated and severe threats

to U.S. national security," Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer wrote in January to Air Force Secretary Michael W. Wynne.

She got a polite response, but not an answer to her question: When will California's Air Guard get advanced F-15 Eagle fighters?

Boxer, Garrison and many others with a stake in the Southwest's domestic security believe the F-16 will be retired by 2012, leaving the California Air Guard and others to wonder if their mission will be shelved.

"What's disturbing is, there is no plan yet," said Lt. Col. John Crocker, director of air operations for the California Air Guard, who has pressed both the National Guard Bureau and the Air Force for guidance, without success.

The Pentagon declined to comment on the future of the Air National Guard base in Fresno, citing national security concerns and unresolved planning debates.

"I think it's too early to make any kind of speculation as to the outcome of any of this," said Sgt. Patrick Murphy, a spokesman for the Air Combat Command, which is responsible for Air Force warplanes. He confirmed that some older model F-16s could be phased out by 2012, but said the timeframe for retiring the entire fleet is undetermined.

What is clear is that one of the nation's best homeland-defense fighter fleets will soon reside in the wide-open spaces of Montana, population 936,000.

The Pentagon recommended a year ago that the Montana Air National Guard's air-defense wing be dismantled, its fighters shipped to other bases or retired.

But the independent Base Closure and Realignment Commission overruled Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's recommendation. Instead, the commission gave Montana 15 F-15 Eagles, part of a larger effort to redistribute aircraft around the country and thus, it said, better ensure

homeland security. President Bush and Congress signed off, and Montana Air Guard officials expect the new jets to arrive by the fall of 2008.

Montana's empty skies give it a vast training range, with little risk of injury or damage in an accident, said Capt. Jeff Pepke, executive staff officer for the Montana Air National Guard's 120th Fighter Wing.

But Pepke said he did not know why the base commission decided to send the new F-15s to Montana. "Good question," he said.

There was a whiff of politics about the decision. Jobs were at stake, and Montana Sens. Conrad Burns, a Republican, and Max Baucus, a Democrat, took credit for lobbying the base-closure commission to get the F-15s. Burns faces a tough re-election fight this year, and the F-15s gave him a prize to trumpet to Montana voters.

California will benefit from Montana's superior planes, Pepke said. Under an arrangement established by the Pentagon, the Montana Air National Guard already operates a satellite base of up to four jets at March Air Reserve Base, east of Los Angeles.

To officials of the California Guard, watching Montana get the F-15s and knowing Montana already is flying missions from California runways feels a little like reading their own obituary.

The F-15 is a more powerful fighter with better radar — and it has a brighter future than the F-16. The Pentagon has no plan to retire the F-15 in the near future, said Lt. Col. Mike Milord, a spokesman at National Guard headquarters near Washington.

Fresno base officers are convinced they're getting soon-to-be-mothballed F-16s because the 144th's future is dim. They fear the state Guard unit will lose its status as a homeland security "main operating base," a prestigious distinction it has held since

ON THE NET

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1953.

At main operating bases, aircraft, weapons, maintenance, intelligence and other support functions are clustered for the explicit purpose of homeland security. These bases communicate directly with the Northern Command, created after the Sept. 11 attacks to ensure that the military is prepared for security threats inside U.S. borders.

If the Fresno Air National Guard base loses its main operating base status, the Southwest would be the only corner of the country without one, Garrison said.

"This is completely asinine," said Garrison, who earned the nickname "Slam" for his signature style landing fighters and is applying the same unsubtle approach in making his case for the base. Garrison and other top officers here say they are trying to get out in front of a wider fight that is sure to break out wherever bases have aging F-16s, and politicians eager to preserve jobs.

More than a dozen Air Guard bases will receive F-16s with limited lifespans as part of the base-closure commission's re-allocation of jets, and the military has not provided a picture of what happens after those jets are retired.

"This is just the opening salvo," Garrison said.

"Everyone in the Guard who flies (these F-16s) is going to come to the realization sooner or later their airplanes are going to age out before there is a replacement for them," he said. "And everybody is going to have to make a decision on how we're going to defend this country. We see it's going to happen in the Southwest sooner than it's going to happen elsewhere."



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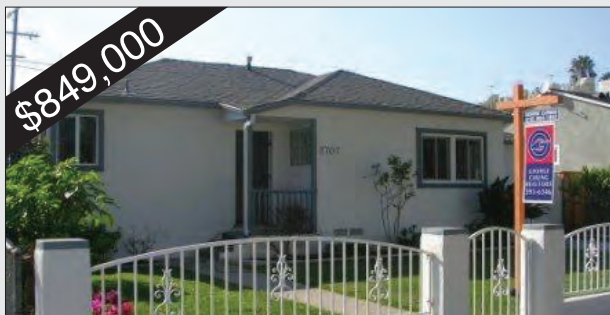
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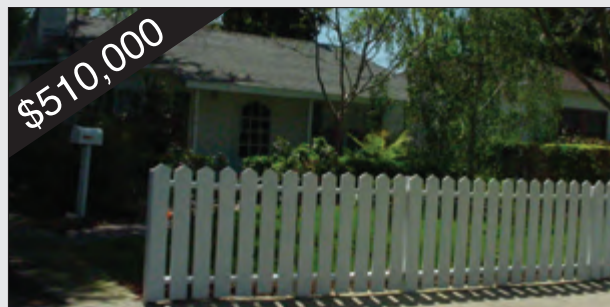
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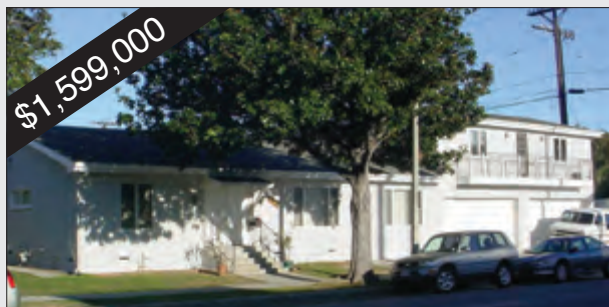
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NATIONAL

Trade gap down for second straight month

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — For the first time in more than two years, the U.S. trade deficit has declined for two months in a row. The main reasons: record U.S. exports and a big drop in the country's foreign oil bill.

The trade gap narrowed to \$62 billion in March, the smallest deficit in seven months, the Commerce Department reported Friday. It was down from a \$65.6 billion imbalance in February and an all-time high of \$68.6 billion in January.

It marked the first consecutive monthly improvements in the deficit since October-November 2003 and offered hope that the country's trade deficits, which have set

records for four straight years, may be on the verge of improving.

But private economists, who had expected the March deficit would rise to \$67 billion, cautioned that the change will not come overnight. They said the monthly deficit numbers were likely to worsen again in coming months, reflecting the recent surge in oil prices, before steady improvements start at the end of this year.

"Oil prices are likely to remain high and move up during the summer. But after that, we may see some sustained declines in the trade deficit," said Nariman Behraves, chief economist at Global Insight, a private forecasting firm.

Through the first three months of this year, the trade deficit was still running at an

annual rate of \$785 billion, up 8.4 percent from last year's record high of \$723.6 billion.

The politically charged deficit with China rose by 12.5 percent in March to \$15.6 billion even though U.S. exports to China hit an all-time high, led by a big jump in sales of commercial airplanes.

The March deficit, the lowest monthly imbalance since a gap of \$58.5 billion last August, reflected a 1.9 percent rise in U.S. exports of goods and services, which hit a record of \$114.7 billion.

The increase in exports was attributed to stronger overseas growth, which has boosted demand for American exports, and a weaker dollar versus other currencies, which makes U.S. goods cheaper and more competitive on foreign markets.

In March, some of the biggest export gains were recorded for electric generators, industrial machinery, computers and farm products including corn and soybeans.

Imports of goods and services fell for a second straight month, dropping by 0.8 percent to \$176.7 billion. Imports of foreign cars fell by \$751 million and petroleum imports dropped an even larger \$2.1 billion to \$22.5 billion, the lowest level since July, as crude oil prices dropped.

However, the oil bill is expected to rise again in coming months, reflecting crude oil prices that hit a record above \$75 per barrel in late April.

Administration critics contended the president has not done enough to fight unfair foreign trade practices in China and other countries, which they contend have

contributed to the loss of nearly 3 million manufacturing jobs since Bush has been in office and heightened anxiety among white collar workers about the outsourcing of service jobs.

"As industry after industry is downsized and outsourced, America hemorrhages good jobs while the middle class disappears before our eyes," Rep. Marcy Kaptur, D-Ohio, said Friday.

Rep. Sander Levin, D-Mich., said it was American businesses and workers who were suffering "as the Bush administration continues to sit on its hands by refusing to enforce our trade laws."

Administration officials contend that globalization cannot be stopped without erecting costly protectionist trade barriers that would raise prices for American consumers and harm the U.S. economy.

As a response to a deficit with China, which hit an all-time high of \$202 billion last year, Sens. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., and Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., have won widespread support for their legislation to impose 27.5 percent tariffs on all Chinese imports unless China moves more quickly to allow its currency, the yuan, to rise in value against the dollar.

The administration, however, refused this week to brand China a "currency manipulator" in a semiannual report to Congress, disappointing American manufacturers who argue that China is keeping its currency unfairly low against the dollar to make Chinese goods cheaper in the United States and U.S. goods more expensive in China.

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NATIONAL



Bush to address nation on immigration

BY TERENCE HUNT
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — President Bush plans to address the nation Monday night on the immigration debate, trying to build momentum for legislation that could provide millions of illegal immigrants a chance to become American citizens.

The White House said it was seeking time from television networks for the president's remarks at 8 p.m. EST. Bush is

to speak from the Oval Office and his address is expected to run less than 20 minutes.

"This is crunch time," Tony Snow, the new White House press secretary said Friday at his first off-camera, or informal, briefing.

On Thursday, Senate leaders reached a deal to revive a broad immigration bill that had appeared doomed just several weeks ago.

Key to the agreement is who will be negotiating a compromise with the House, which last December passed an

enforcement-only bill that would subject the estimated 11 million to 12 million illegal immigrants in the United States to felony charges as well as deportation.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said the Senate will send 14 Republicans and 12 Democrats to negotiate with the House, with seven of the Republicans and five Democrats coming from the Judiciary Committee. The remaining seven Republicans will be chosen by Frist and remaining seven Democrats chosen by Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.

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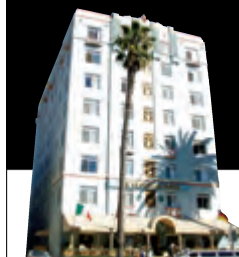
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LOCAL

Putting the pieces back together



Photo by Carl Douglas Rogers



Photo by Kendra Gorlitsky



Photo by Todd Erlandson

(Top) With the roof of Bethany United Methodist Church in New Orleans repaired, reconstruction was about to get under way on the sanctuary when a 17-member volunteer work team arrived from a partner church in Santa Monica. The Gulf Coast Work Team, from Santa Monica's First United Methodist Church, spent a week restoring a large portion of the church's landscaping lost to the flood waters of Hurricane Katrina.

(Middle) Before Katrina, this was a green park and golf course opposite the Bethany United Methodist Church, at the corner of Prentiss and Piety Streets. Tall trees surrounded the sanctuary and offices of the largest and most active African-American Methodist church in New Orleans. All but a large old oak tree died when this area sat for three weeks in more than 10 feet of salty, polluted water, and all the other trees had to be cut down. Santa Monica's First United Methodist Church provided yellow ribbons that were tied to this oak tree to welcome the congregation when they returned for the first Sunday worship service on March 19.

(Bottom) The first patch of new healthy green grass in the entire Ninth Ward of New Orleans. With the dead trees cut down, stumps removed, new sod planted, and yellow ribbons hung on the newly restored and painted wrought iron fence surrounding Bethany United.

"Why aren't people rushing in to help? It's really a sin."

CINDY MCQUADE WORK TEAM MEMBER



Photo by Carl Douglas Rogers

Workers help bring life back to the grounds of Bethany United Methodist Church in New Orleans. With sod delivered from Montgomery, Ala., members of the Gulf Coast Work Team of Santa Monica's First United Methodist Church began the greening of 7,000 square feet of the Ninth Ward on the grounds of Bethany UMC, their partner church in New Orleans' Pontchartrain Park district.

Sister city soldiers

NEW ORLEANS, from page 1



Photo by Sherry Erlandson

It's a slam dunk for Frances Erlandson in the improvised 'basket' made from plastic pots left over from the landscaping of Bethany United Methodist Church in New Orleans. Frances Erlandson and her older brother Jake spent their spring break with 15 other volunteers, working to restore the wrought iron metal fence on the perimeter of the Bethany United Methodist Church.

didn't destroy, the termites did.

"They asked for help landscaping," said work team leader Jim Krause. "We were surprised about that, given the level of devastation there, but it is literally a sepia of landscape. (The pastor's) vision was to create a visual expression of life in that neighborhood, as well as reopen the church and give them a sense of life."

The work team — all members of FUMCSM ranging in age from 7 to 82 — spent five full days working outside of the church, installing a sprinkling system, planting trees, flowers and shrubs, laying down sod and rebuilding a fence.

"Imagine from Santa Monica to LAX was devastated and there was only one patch of greenery, that's what it looks like now," said Cindy McQuade, who didn't travel to New Orleans with the team but helped organized the effort. "But who even thinks about stuff like trees? There has been no shade for these people to keep the sunlight out."

Before the team engaged in their work, FUMCSM donated hundreds of yellow bows at the request of Bethany Pastor Hadley Edwards, in an effort to make some of the area "look alive," volunteers said. The Santa Monica church also sent Easter baskets for the boys and girls in the Bethany congregation, also donating hymn books, a baptism fountain and lecterns.

The church has gone above and beyond donating materials. Last fall, FUMCSM raised tens of thousands of dollars in emergency relief when it hosted a standing-room-only concert in its massive sanctuary which featured singer-songwriters k.d. Lang and Jackson Browne. For its latest effort, FUMCSM was able to raise about \$24,000 for the New Orleans trip through red beans and rice fund-raising dinners. Still, many volunteers paid their own way to New Orleans.

"The message at the September concert was 'Be the Hope,'" said work team volunteer Kendra Fleagle Gorlitsky. "We wanted to send the message that 'you are not alone, you are not forgotten and you won't be forgotten.'"

FUMCSM plans to continue fund-raising for the Bethany congregation in the months to come.

LOCAL



Teachers threaten to cut back hours

SMC RAISES, from page 1

Professors are seeking a 2-percent raise on top of the 3.5 percent the college has offered. Faculty members feel a combined 5.5-percent raise would put them on par with administrators, who received similar raises last year.

Professors led marches on the college campus and at SMC headquarters over the last few weeks, culminating in a presentation to the board of trustees on Monday, May 8. The effort was intended to put pressure on the trustees to approve the raises.

The California Employment Relations Board (PERB), a quasi-judicial agency which oversees public sector collective bargaining in the state, is evaluating the college's request for mediation and is required to make a determination within five working days. The request was filed May 11, said Robert Thompson, general counsel for PERB.

To determine if a mediator is necessary, PERB will consider the length of negotiations, the extent to which counter offers have been made, the number of items agreed upon, and other factors, Thompson said.

This isn't the first time the college and faculty have come to an impasse, said Mitra Moassessi, a math professor at SMC and the lead negotiator for faculty.

"The district never makes negotiations easy," she said. "This has happened in virtually every contract negotiation we've had with the district."

Moassessi said if PERB approves of mediation, the association will ask its members to cut back on office hours, the number of students they allow per class, and other services they provide, but are not required under their current contract. Moassessi said

oftentimes professors will allow more students to enroll in a class than what is allowed, which means more money for the college.

"We are going to put more pressure on the district by asking our faculty to only do what we are contractually required to do," Moassessi said. "We all care about our students and our goal here is not to harm them. We are not all going to call in sick one day and not come to school. If cutting back to the required office hours is harming the students, then the students need to look to the administration."

Faculty is requesting a 2-percent raise effective January 2005, and a 3.5-percent raise effective January 2006, Moassessi said.

Sammis said SMC faculty members are already some of the highest paid in the state, and approving raises totaling 5.5 percent would put the college's balanced budget "at risk."

Sammis said the college has conducted a study looking at the last 10 years of salary increases and found that raises for all employees are just about equal. If faculty was to accept the 3.5-percent increase in pay that the college has offered, they would receive the largest increase among SMC employees — 32.6 percent, compared with 30.54 for classified employees, such as custodial staff, and 30 percent for administrators.

"I think our faculty is in a good position," Sammis said. "We're proud that our faculty are some of the highest paid anywhere."

Nancy Greenstein, president of the board of trustees, could not comment on the board's decision not to grant the pay increases requested by faculty because that decision was made in closed session, however, she said there is hope that an impartial mediator "can help us come to an agreement that is fair for everyone."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3



Welcome! SMC's 'Cabaret' is set to hit the hangar

By Daily Press staff

It's cabaret time.

The Santa Monica College Theatre Arts and Music department is presenting "Cabaret," the Broadway smash hit that was later made into an Oscar-winning film starring Liza Minelli.

The play will be presented Fridays through Sundays. Friday and Saturday shows are at 7 p.m. and Sunday performances at 1 p.m. An addition-

al matinee at 1 p.m. will be on Saturday, May 20.

"Cabaret" will be presented in the Hangar Stage, located at SMC's Airport Campus, 2800 Airport Ave. Parking is free.

Set in Berlin at the beginning of the rise of the Third Reich, "Cabaret" tells the story of the romance of an English cabaret performer and an American writer. Through the memorable songs of the cabaret's emcee and other performers, the audience witnesses the political changes that are overcoming Germany in the 1930s.

With book by Joe Masteroff, music by John Kander and lyrics by Fred Ebb, the original Broadway production was directed by Harold Prince and choreographed by Bob Fosse. "Cabaret" is based on the play by John Van Druten and stories by Christopher Isherwood.

The show runs from May 12-21. Tickets are \$15 general admission and \$10 for students and senior citizens. Call (310) 434-3000 or go to <http://www.smc.edu/theatre>.

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LOCAL

Women taking a stand

YWCA, from page 1

Monica resident Janet Salomonson, M.D., whose surgical skills and dedication to volunteerism have transformed the appearance and lives of hundreds of children born with cleft palates not only in the United States, but also Central and South America; Flora Gil Krisiloff, co-founder of the Brentwood Community Council; and Patti T. Tanenbaum, the founding chairwoman of the Beverly Hills School District's Community Service Program, which exposes students to the value of community service at an early age.

The women accepted their honors with their families and supporters cheering them on.

MARY SETTERHOLM

A lifelong surfer, mother, businesswoman and the winner of the 1972 Women's U.S. Surfing Championship at age 17, Mary Setterholm is the co-founder of the Women's International Surfing Association, and founder of the Surf Academy, which in 2002, became the official surf school for the city of Santa Monica. She also is the founder of the non-profit LA Surf Bus, the only non-profit organization in the greater Los Angeles area that offers free ocean safety and surf lessons to inner city children.

When Setterholm first started LA Surf Bus, she went to the toughest neighborhoods in LA.

"I figured they think they're tough, let a wave take them on," she joked during her acceptance speech on Thursday. "Plus, they'd be too tired to fight."

In all seriousness, Setterholm believes that nature is the missing link between peace and harmony with children, and the beach is a perfect neutral ground to show them that, she said.

She also understands what it means to face adversity and believes that surfing is all about perseverance. After getting married and having children, Setterholm left the marriage after years of abuse by her husband. She sought help at a shelter for battered women and children. She was familiar with the pattern of abuse since she had been abused by a baby-sitter and clergy when she was a child.

As a single mother, Setterholm worked several jobs, went back to school and turned to triathlons. In 1997, she won the U.S. Triathlon Series at Oceanside and qualified for the national championships. Then one day while bicycling, she was hit by a car.

"When I came to, I was overwhelmed by a sense of urgency, a feeling that I had unfinished business to attend to," she told the Westside Woman, YWCA's magazine. "While I was recovering, I went down to the beach and prayed for inspiration."

And that was when the Surf Academy was born. The

academy actively promotes and advocates on behalf of women and girls. She has developed "Surf Sisters," an ocean safety and surfing instruction program designed specifically for women and girls, providing all the necessary equipment and instructors.

Setterholm resides in Hermosa Beach and can be found in the ocean giving lessons each morning, going to school every afternoon at Loyola Marymount University while also maintaining her family of five children and her numerous business ventures.

JANET SALOMONSON, M.D.

Growing up as an only child in a middle-class neighborhood in Minnesota, Janet Salomonson, M.D., led a sheltered life. So at 20 years old, she sought to broaden her experience and became a camp counselor for a group of inner-city kids.

The kids were from broken homes, lacked basic life skills and didn't feel empowered. But by the end of the summer, after overcoming many challenges, Salomonson and her kids learned valuable lessons.

She considers that summer her wake-up call. She reapplied to medical school after being turned down once for not possessing a social conscience, according to the school's dean. She was eventually accepted into the University of Minnesota and is now considered one of the best plastic surgeons in her field.

Salomonson began international volunteering in the mid 1990s, working with the Nicaraguan Children's Fund, Fundacion Pediatrica Guatemalteca, Healing the Children and Rotaplast. The missions to Central and South America have been partnerships with local providers with opportunities for teaching in addition to providing cleft lip and palate reconstruction for hundreds of children.

Salomonson and her team bring hope to parents devastated by the birth of a child with severe facial deformities. She considers it an honor to be given the opportunity to improve the quality of life for so many children, both here and around the world. "I feel a little guilty for receiving this award because I enjoy the work so much," she said during her acceptance speech.

Salomonson began a private practice in plastic surgery in Santa Monica after completing her residency at UCLA in 1982. She is the medical director of the Cleft Palate Center at Saint John's Health Center and is a member of the pediatrics committee. She is a clinical assistant professor of plastic surgery at USC and consults at the craniofacial program at Orthopedic Hospital in Los Angeles. She has published and presented modifications of cleft lip reconstruction at national and international conferences.

See **WOMEN**, page 15



Photo courtesy

Pastor Hadley R. Edwards performs a delayed baptism at Bethany United Methodist Church for Ebony Wright, born Aug. 1, 2005, before flood waters covered 80 percent of New Orleans.

Work team plans to return

NEW ORLEANS, from page 12

"I think the financial part needs to keep going," McQuade said. "This is a partnership."

Some members of the work team are planning a return trip to New Orleans for more rebuilding efforts.

"Now that we've been there and know what they need and what their congregation needs, it's time to talk about organization," Krause said. "And I agree, we need to amass a war chest."

One of the goals for the FUMCSM work team was to rebuild the Bethany congregation so it can help others in the community like it has done in the past.

"This is a congregation similar to our own who have done a lot of mission work and we wanted to restart it," Krause said. "We needed to help these people and this congregation get back in business ... that will be part of their own healing."

Volunteers said what was so shocking was the devastation still so apparent in every section of the city. Houses are still boarded up and spray-painted to indicate whether people were still living inside. Wreaths hang on the front doors of homes where people had died. Cars and boats are still lodged in buildings. Classrooms are abandoned and rotting books are strewn about in school hallways. The volunteers described the city's appearance as reminiscent of a war zone.

"It is total appalling devastation still in that state," said volunteer Carol Reich. "It's tragic. But there was this incredible elation and satisfaction being there and being grateful that we are part of a church that can put this kind of group together."

What's more tragic, the volunteers said, is that more relief efforts haven't been made in New Orleans.

"If you lived in a bubble and didn't know what had happened down there it looks like it happened yesterday," said volunteer Jennifer Worley. "It looks like it hasn't been touched ... and you can still see the water line around the city."

New Orleans isn't much different than Southern California in that natural disasters — be it hurricanes or earthquakes — are going to happen. How people help each other afterwards is what matters.

"Why aren't people rushing in to help?" asked McQuade. "It's really a sin."

For volunteer Karen Hopkins, the reality of it all made her appreciate life in Santa Monica that much more. She also was amazed at the attitude of those who chose to stay.

"I didn't hear one person say 'poor me' or feeling sorry for themselves," Hopkins said, adding many people stopped to talk, curious about what they were doing and expressing appreciation when they learned of their efforts. "It was great seeing people with nothing be grateful."

"For me, it made me grateful for what I have," Hopkins said. "Sure, I came back to bills and 400 e-mails, but at least I have a mailbox."

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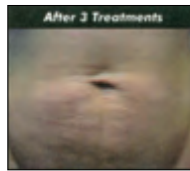
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LOCAL



YWCA Women of the Year

WOMEN, from page 14

FLORA GIL KRISLOFF

Flora Gil Krisloff's parents planned to leave their comfortable lives in Hong Kong and move to America so their children could have the best education possible.

With a degree in nursing (specializing in public health), a master's degree in nursing (with a specialty as a family nurse practitioner) and an MBA in finance and marketing, Krisloff's education shaped her path as a lifetime learner, risk-taker, negotiator, planner and inspirational leader.

"I want to share this award with my mom because there is no one as selfless as she is, she sacrificed a lot," Krisloff said.

Considered a community powerhouse, Krisloff's organizational and community building skills have shaped the Brentwood community. Through her volunteer efforts, Krisloff co-established the Brentwood Community Council, an 18-seat community group that has put an indelible mark on the landscape of Brentwood. Krisloff's leadership and persistence has paid off. She has spent the last 20 years as a full-time volunteer, wife and mother of three sons. As a member of the West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs Land Use Advisory Committee, she has been instrumental in fighting to save the VA property from being sold for commercial development.

Most recently, Krisloff became the Westside Senior Field Deputy for County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.

PATTI T. TANENBAUM

Patti T. Tanenbaum is being recognized for her devotion to community service. Tanenbaum pioneered the effort to create a K-12 community service program for the Beverly Hills Unified School District and served as the program's first chair for six years. She then led the effort that resulted in funding for the district in the amount of \$300,000 over a six-year period. Tanenbaum has spearheaded numerous projects, including Camp Heartland, an AIDS awareness service learning project for eighth graders.

Most recently, she has been an active board member of Book Ends, a group that provides service-learning, facilitating

student-run book drives to combat the critical shortage of books in many inner-city schools. With a background in teaching, she has used her talents in working with children and parents to create the effective, life changing Community Service Program for students of all ages. The program annually interfaces with more than 40 different agencies affecting a wide variety of social issues.

A member of the Community Service/Service Learning Advisory Board for more than 15 years, Tanenbaum recognizes the importance of helping children become aware of the needs of children outside their comfort zone and empowering them to help improve their world. She believes that by repeatedly giving students such experiences, throughout their schooling, it then becomes a part of them to reach out and help.

For more than 75 years, the YWCA Santa Monica/Westside has provided community service programs to women and children. The annual Women of the Year Dinner serves as a key source of funding for the organization, which operates solely on contributions from individuals, foundations, service clubs and corporations.

Community service programs of the YWCA benefit more than 2,500 women and children from 10 communities on the Westside of Los Angeles.

Proceeds fund the following YWCA programs:

- Housing and Education Program for young women emancipated from foster care, a national model program which provides shelter and guidance while young women earn an academic degree or certificate.

- LIFE program, which combines evening high school diploma classes with a child literacy/tutorial program.

- ENCORE, an exercise and support program for women who have breast cancer.

- Child Development Center, which provides on site year-round child care

- Girls In Action, a leadership program for middle school girls attending John Adams Middle School.

Sally Young, executive director of the YWCA, located at 2019 14th. St., said it is the volunteers and donors who drive the success of the organization.

"These services rely on the generosity from the people like you," she told the packed hotel ballroom.

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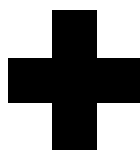
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NATIONAL

Troubled polygamous sect seeks acceptance

BY BETH DUFF-BROWN

Associated Press Writer

YAHK, British Columbia — The 16 new pupils at two-room Yahk Elementary School are wary of strangers in case they are unbelievers, apostates, journalists — anyone their church elders consider evil.

Their mothers, mostly pale and plump with hair swept back in stiff pioneer hairdos, cast their eyes down and evade questions as they pick up their kids. With their polygamous sect divided and one of its leaders wanted by the FBI, the media spotlight is all the more unwelcome.

But not to Rita Palmer. Four of her eight children are among this year's newcomers, and she's eager to set the record straight: "We're normal. We're not brainwashed."

Palmer, 34, and several other mothers of children at Yahk belong to the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, a sect that quit the Mormon Church in Utah after Mormonism banned polygamy in 1890. Frustrated in the confines of their secretive community, and too busy to home-school their many children, they have done the unthinkable — put their kids into Canada's secular public school system.

They have moved them out of Mormon Hills, the school on their religious compound in Bountiful, whose two leaders are feuding for control and are under investigation on suspicion of sexual abuse and child trafficking.

One of those leaders, Warren Jeffs, has just been placed on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list, right up there with Osama bin Laden. His rivalry with Winston Blackmore has split Bountiful and is pitting fathers against daughters and brothers against sisters.

Palmer and the other mothers bear no resemblance to the seductive and sly Hollywood actresses in "Big Love," the HBO drama series about a polygamous marriage. What they share is husbands — though Rita says hers has yet to take another wife — and the desire to follow their faith in the heavenly virtues of polygamy.

Some have moved away altogether from Bountiful — just north of the Idaho border

ON THE NET

Winston Blackmore's blog
www.sharethelight.ca

Help the Child Brides
www.childbrides.org

Independent pro-polygamy site
www.principlevoices.org

and at the foot of the towering Skimmerhorn Mountains in eastern British Columbia — and are attempting to live among the townspeople of nearby Yahk, Creston and Kitchener. They include Palmer, who moved to Kitchener because her husband has a job with one of Blackmore's lumber companies.

Yahk Elementary is tucked tightly between railroad tracks and a ridge of evergreen trees, near the Cozy Quilt Motel and the Horny Owl Saloon in this once-booming mill town of 400 people.

"This little school is working as a catalyst of hope," said Linda Allred, Yahk's lone teacher. "The public school policy is to accept everyone — Muslim, Buddhist, Catholics — and they don't question their religion or dress."

"I don't agree with polygamy," she said, but "there are so many other things that are positive about their lifestyle."

John Kettle, director of the administrative district that includes Yahk Elementary, says: "You can't punish the child for their father's sins. I think they're really reaching out and I think the community in Yahk is reaching right back."

The newcomers are Yahk Elementary's salvation. It had only three pupils and needed at least 10 to qualify for public funding. Slated to shut down this school year, it instead got 16 Bountiful kids and 14 more are registered for the coming school year.

"We don't feel like we rescued anyone; we're feeling more like the teachers rescued us," said Palmer. "I wanted them (her children) to experience meeting other people that weren't from our church, mingling with the Yahk community. It's almost like a student-exchange program."

This attitude also scores points with the outside world for Winston Blackmore by portraying him as more mainstream and

moderate than Jeffs, whose supporters refuse to talk to reporters.

About half of Bountiful's 1,000 people follow Blackmore while the rest go with Jeffs, a self-declared prophet, as do some 10,000 adherents in the twin cities of Hildale, Utah, and Colorado City, Ariz., and a growing enclave in Texas.

Jeffs, 50, was indicted last June in Arizona on charges of sexual assault and conspiracy to commit sexual conduct on a minor. His adherents live in a compound outside Eldorado, Texas, where a dozen concrete and log buildings surround a fortress-like temple.

The Mormon Church in Salt Lake City, Utah, formally named The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, excommunicates polygamists. It complains that some U.S. news organizations have misled the public by referring to believers in Bountiful as Mormons.

It issued a statement saying "Warren Jeffs and polygamist groups have no association whatsoever with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints."

The polygamists' presence in Canada dates back more than a century. It started with breakaways who moved here after the Mormons banned polygamy, even though Ottawa had outlawed the practice in 1878. Bountiful was founded in 1947 by four families to follow the original teaching of Mormon founder Joseph Smith, who glorified plural marriages.

The atmosphere in Bountiful feels fraught. Few are willing to criticize Jeffs' group outright, but the grief over the family splits caused by the feud is noticeable. Equally evident is the effort the Blackmore group makes to portray its existence as harmless and the children normal.

Susie Palmer, Rita's sister, took The Associated Press on a quick tour of the Mormon Hills school, where she is a college-certified art and music teacher. She showed off the school's computer lab and talked about the hot dog sale to raise money for the school band.

A 40-year-old mother of nine children and four grandkids, she says she has no qualms about Rita leaving the compound and sending her children to public school. However, she believes Bountiful's two private schools — Mormon Hills with about 140 pupils, and the Jeffs camp's Bountiful Elementary-Secondary with about 200 — are equally good and deserve their combined \$809,485 in public funding this school year.

Taxpayer and human rights groups allege that both schools teach racism and use an outdated curriculum. Palmer insists Mormon Hills is like any other school, saying, "We have to pass inspection or we don't get the funding."

The compound looks like any no-frills Midwest farm — barns and pickup trucks, motel-like housing for the families — but its division is reflected in Bountiful Elementary-Secondary, up the hill and off-limits to Blackmore followers.

"My father is the bishop of that community and my mother is the high school teacher there," Palmer said wistfully, pointing up the hill. Does she have contact with them? "Minimal."

Palmer's husband has four other wives. Walking into a Mormon Hills classroom, she mentions that the fourth-grade teacher is another of her mothers. The dozen kids are polite as they study grammar and copy text on the blackboard: "In the summer of 1846 thousands of saints traveled to Iowa ..."

The benign classroom scene stands in contrast to the gloomy scenario sketched by

"There's a kind of power attached to that when you're looking at the next life and the eternal perspective, when you're in the daily trenches and up to your arms in dirty diapers."

DEBBIE PALMER
"KEEP SWEET: CHILDREN OF POLYGAMY"

Rita's other sister Debbie Palmer, a former Bountiful resident and stepmother of Blackmore, who is helping investigators.

Jeffs' whereabouts are unknown, but Palmer says that if the self-declared prophet is in the Texas compound, "I've got a horrible sense of doom ... because I don't believe that he's going to give himself up without having a lot of people go down with him."

Jeffs' father, Rulon, was the group's "prophet" until his death in 2002, after which his son declared himself president of their multimillion-dollar business empire.

To reinforce his power, Jeffs excommunicated hundreds of men he felt weren't loyal or religious enough, tossed them from businesses and homes and reassigned their wives and children to other men. Blackmore was one of the excommunicated, but refused to go.

The FBI recently announced a \$100,000 reward for Jeffs' arrest, adding to bounties offered by the Utah and Arizona attorneys general. The attorneys general are also investigating whether to prosecute Bountiful members for sex abuse and trafficking in child brides.

Canada's national police force has yet to file any charges. Its spokesman in Vancouver, Staff Sgt. John Ward, said an 18-month review of activities in Bountiful is now in the hands of two investigators to determine whether any crimes have been committed.

"Really what we're dealing with is rumor and innuendo, and we're trying to determine if there's any truth to that," Ward said. "But very few people have come forward to supply us with information."

Blackmore insists: "We're just some people trying to make sense out of the fundamentals of our faith." If anything is wrong, he told the AP in Vancouver, "we'd be the first people to correct those issues."

Blackmore, 49, is estimated by Bountiful defectors, including Debbie Palmer, to have 28 wives and 102 children, but he won't confirm it.

Debbie Palmer lives in Saskatchewan, saying she fled Bountiful in 1988 when she believed her third husband was sexually interested in her 13-year-old daughter. Now 51, she says she was given as the sixth wife to a 57-year-old man when she was 15 and had five other "mothers" besides her biological one, 46 siblings, three husbands, eight children and 86 stepchildren — one of whom is Winston Blackmore.

Palmer, the author of "Keep Sweet: Children of Polygamy," believes as many as 80 teenage girls from the U.S. branches of the sect have been sent to marry older men at Bountiful, and that most went willingly.

Girls are taught that the more senior and polygamous their husband is, the better their and their children's chances are of a happy afterlife.

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NATIONAL



No states meet teacher quality goal, but most do enough to avoid penalties

BY BEN FELLER

AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON — Not a single state will have a highly qualified teacher in every core class this school year as promised by President Bush's education law. Nine states along with the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico face penalties.

The Education Department on Friday ordered every state to explain how it will have 100 percent of its core teachers qualified — belatedly — in the 2006-07 school year.

In the meantime, some states face the loss of federal aid because they didn't make enough effort to comply on time, officials said.

They are Alaska, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina and Washington, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

"At some point there was, I suspect, a little bit of notion that 'This too shall pass,'" said Henry Johnson, the assistant secretary over elementary and secondary education. "Well, the day of reckoning is here, and it's not going to pass."

Department officials would not say how much aid could be withheld from states to force compliance. But Johnson said, "In some cases, we're talking about large amounts of money."

States often fell short because they did not report accurate or complete data about the quality of the teacher corps, said Rene Islas, who oversees the department's review.

The 4-year-old No Child Left Behind law says teachers must have a bachelor's degree, a state license and proven competency in every subject they teach by this year. The first federal order of its kind, it applies to teachers of math, history and any other core class.

In grading the states, the department found that 29 have made substantial progress. They must improve but do not face looming sanctions.

Twelve other states are still under review and haven't been rated: Colorado, Connecticut, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

No matter which category they are in, all the states must submit a new plan of action.

Most states give themselves good grades on teacher quality; 33 states say 90 percent to 99 percent of their classes are taught by highly qualified teachers. Most of the rest put their numbers a tier below, in a range of 70 percent to 89 percent.

"I know the states have made great efforts in trying to meet all the prongs of the highly qualified teacher requirement," said Scott Palmer, a consultant for the Council of Chief State School Officers. "I've got to believe there are some that are very close."

As for the ones that aren't, Palmer said he hopes the department will recognize the ways states are trying to improve teacher effectiveness, even beyond the basics the law requires.

States were notified Friday. The department plans to follow up in coming days.

What the agency wants to see most, Johnson said, is what states are doing to get experienced teachers into classrooms with large numbers of poor and minority children.

The fact that no state complied with the law on time — four years after Bush signed it with great fanfare — is due in part to the enormity of the challenge.

Some teachers, particularly in small or rural areas, handle many subjects and have not met the law's details in each one. Many schools struggle just to find teachers in math, science or special education. And turnover is common, often blamed on salary and stress.

Although the federal term is "highly qualified," the definition is widely regarded as more of a minimum qualification, because it requires teachers to know what they teach.

Phyllis McClure, who supports the law and tracks it for the Citizens' Commission on Civil Rights, said the department is right to demand accurate data and results from the states.

"In some cases, we're talking about large amounts of money."

HENRY JOHNSON
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Inn it to win it

Private vacation deals abound as alternative to busy hotels

BY ALEXANDRE DA SILVA

Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU — For \$6,500 a night, 18 guests can lounge on a 10-bedroom, beachfront mansion on Maui's south coast. On Oahu, a spacious four-bedroom home on the affluent Kahala neighborhood is listed for \$2,500 a night and welcomes up to eight people.

Thousands of private vacation deals have been springing up across Hawaii as visitors look for alternatives to crowded hotels. Isle residents, in turn, are cashing in on their properties, advertising online packages that now offer French chefs, maids and even spa services.

Despite land-use ordinances restricting such rentals to residents who obtained permits before the late 1980s, short-term private rentals are growing beyond control. Residents say they bring traffic and noise into tranquil communities and make it harder for people to find long-term, affordable rentals and leases.

"There's no sense of community, because you've got strangers coming in all the time for two to three days," said Kalana Best, who lives in Kailua and joined the Save Oahu's Neighborhoods, a nonprofit working to preserve residential areas. "It's like a tsunami in slow motion, but instead of a wave of water, it's a wave of people."

As concern grows, the state Tax Department is investigating 216 rentals and bed-and-breakfast operations in the islands that may violate tax laws.

On Oahu, only 1,000 homeowners have a certificate that allows them to rent rooms for less than 30 days. However, there are more than 2,000 online advertisements for the rentals on the island, according to a 2005 state study.

Legal vacation rentals on Oahu are limited to homeowners who applied for a certificate to operate before a 1989 ban on short-term residential rentals took effect. New applications are no longer accepted. Other counties either don't have a permitting process or have limited enforcement, said Marsha Wienert, state tourism liaison.

The trend could be driven by regular island visitors who are exploring other options to Waikiki, Wienert said. Hotels were especially busy last year when Hawaii welcomed a record 7.4 million tourists.

"Visitors — especially as they repeat — are seeking different types of accommodations," Wienert said. "And because it has become such a lucrative market, people are not going through the process and getting the type of zonings that are needed."

Resident Larry Bartley began noticing signs of visitors creeping into his Kailua neighborhood about three years ago: houses stayed empty for a few days, then were suddenly packed with loud tenants who drove rental cars.

So he formed Save Oahu's Neighborhoods last year to lobby for tougher enforcement against illegal vacation operators on all islands.

"It wasn't just a Kailua issue," he said.

Until last year, officials had relied largely on finger-

ON THE NET

Save Oahu's Neighborhood
home.hawaii.rr.com/sonwebsite/

Hawaii Tax Department:
www.state.hi.us/tax/

Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
www.state.hi.us/dbedt/

pointing by neighbors to catch people who were secretly converting their homes into holiday getaways without proper documentation. Now, proposals are floating in several counties to regulate the industry and improve enforcement of zoning laws.

On Maui, Councilman Robert Carroll introduced a bill to force vacation home operators to display permit numbers in any advertisement. Honolulu is considering similar controls.

"We really don't know how much is out there," said Carroll. "Some people are totally under the radar. It's like the Wild West out there."

As more landlords set aside their property for wealthy visitors, it's becoming harder for people on Maui to find homes to rent, said Alice Lee, the county's housing director. Some end up crowding into one place to share the rent.

"When we are dealing with the homeless and are trying to place people, it's taking much longer," Lee said.

On Kauai, luxurious home rentals make up about 40 percent of all housing in the rural town of Hanalei, according to F. Kenneth Stokes, an economist with the Kauaian Institute.

Stokes, whose group monitors real estate, demographic and geographic data, published a report saying that the transient vacation business is manageable and much smaller, consisting of about 4,200 units for all islands combined.

"There are only a handful of places where the share of vacation housing is what you may call excessive," he said. "I thought that was fairly good news."

But Henry Eng, director of the Department of Planning and Permitting in Honolulu, said complaints from residents, online ads and other independent studies suggest otherwise.

"The enforcement against illegal vacation rentals has increased significantly over the last year," he said.

The state Tax Department is going over lists of more than 6,900 vacation rentals and 1,452 bed-and-breakfasts identified online by the Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

After looking at less than half of all operators traced, tax officials have already begun 93 audits of vacation rentals on Oahu alone and 123 audits of bed-and-breakfasts statewide. Tax Department records show the businesses didn't file a required 7.25 percent tourist accommodation tax and a 4 percent general excise tax.

"We are checking them out," said Sandra Yahiro, the department's deputy director.

Meanwhile, Bartley will keep a close watch on his neighborhood for signs of illegal rentals, a job he said isn't very difficult.

"In the same driveway, one week has a couple of cars, then next week there's different cars. Different people coming and going," he said. "Sometimes it's pretty easy to spot tourists."

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Deadly pipeline blast exacts toll in Nigeria

Ghastly blast leaves dozens of charred corpses in its wake

BY DULUE MBACHU
Associated Press Writer

ILADO, Nigeria — Gasoline gushing from a ruptured pipeline exploded Friday as villagers scavenged for fuel, setting off an inferno that killed up to 200 and left charred bodies scattered around the site in this oil-rich country of mostly poor people.

Grim-faced rescue workers swung corpses into a mass grave as dozens of other scorched bodies awaited collection. It appeared some victims tried to flee the unfolding disaster only to be overtaken by flames spreading across the fuel slick.

The stark outlines of white skeletons lay against a beach charred black by fire. Other bodies floated alongside dozens of plastic jerrycans in the nearby waters of the coastal mangrove swamp. The jerrycans, which had contained pilfered gas, were twisted by the heat of the explosion.

More than 1,000 people in Nigeria, Africa's oil giant, have died in recent years when fuel they were pilfering from pipelines caught fire — and officials said it would likely happen again.

"Because this thing has happened many times before, we thought it would be a deterrent, but apparently it wasn't enough deterrent for these people who died," said Lagos State Health Commissioner Tola Kasali, surveying the scene near Ilado, about 30 miles east of the main city of Lagos.

"Anywhere you have a pipeline in this country, you have this problem because people are greedy and they want quick money," Kasali said.

It was not known what set off the fire. An FBI official in Washington said the bureau was working on the case but did not explain whether foul play was suspected. The FBI often gets involved in criminal investigations abroad when Americans are involved or when asked by the host country.

Police and rescue workers said villagers were collecting the gushing gas when the fuel ignited, and Lagos Police Commissioner Emmanuel Adebayo said 150 to 200 people died. The Red Cross had said it was treating survivors, but no live victims were seen.

By day's end, about 100 of the dead had been interred, and Kasali said cleanup efforts would resume Saturday.

He said the uncollected bodies pose a health risk to the

millions of inhabitants of Lagos, whose skyline could be seen on the horizon.

"We just decided to give them a mass burial because no one can recognize them — even their family members can't identify them," he said. "We're concerned that if we don't do that, we'll create a health emergency in Lagos since it happened by the shore and the water will just flow back into the city."

The blaze took place far from the center of the fishing village of Ilado, and it was unclear if there were witnesses. Boatmen said they heard an explosion before dawn and saw the glow of flames.

The pipeline was run by Nigeria's state oil company and was used to transport gasoline across the country for national consumption.

The impoverished people of Nigeria often tap pipelines, seeking fuel for cooking or resale on the black market. The highly volatile gasoline can ignite, incinerating those collecting it.

In 2004 a pipeline exploded near Lagos as thieves tried to siphon fuel, killing as many as 50 people. A 1998 pipeline blast killed more than 700 in southern Nigeria.

Most of Nigeria's oil is pumped in the southern Niger Delta region, far from Lagos. Pipes carry the crude to refineries across the nation.

Nigeria, which normally pumps 2.5 million barrels of crude per day, is Africa's largest producer and the fifth-largest source of imports to the United States. It was unlikely Friday's blast would affect exports.

The pipeline explosion slowed a drop in crude oil futures as the International Energy Agency sharply cut its forecasts for world oil demand.

Nigerian militants have kidnapped foreign oil workers to press their demands for local control of oil revenues by inhabitants of the oil-producing south, who feel cheated out of the wealth produced in their backyards.

Other groups have used kidnappings as bargaining chips to prod oil companies to increase jobs or improve benefits. Hostages are usually released unharmed.

Three captive foreign oil workers in the oil hub of Port Harcourt were released Friday, a day after they were snatched from a bus as they headed to work, regional police commander Samuel Adetuyi said.

Defiant Iran taps into anti-Western feelings

BY ERIC TALMADGE
Associated Press Writer

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the man at the center of the showdown over Tehran's nuclear ambitions, doesn't immediately come across as a firebrand.

Like most of his countrymen, he dresses conservatively in shades of gray. Giving speeches, he rarely shows much expression, rarely raises his voice, or his fists.

Among many Muslims, he's fast becoming a model of defiance.

Here and elsewhere in the Muslim world, Ahmadinejad is working to build a reputation as a courageous, hard-line leader unafraid to stand up to the West, speak his mind on Israel — which he has said should be "wiped off the map" — or lecture President Bush on history and religious values.

"Fight America, fight Israel!" a crowd shouted after the Iranian leader offered prayers Friday at the main mosque in Indonesia's capital, Jakarta.

To a cheering audience Thursday at the University of Indonesia, he called Israel "a tyrannical regime that one day will be destroyed." Many students held up posters of support. One read "Iran in our Hearts."

Before about 1,000 students at the Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University on Jakarta's southern outskirts, he lashed out at the "double standard" of the big powers, eliciting loud applause when he asked, "If nuclear technology is bad, why do they have it?"

Despite the growing pressure on Iran to allow international inspections of its nuclear facilities or possibly face U.N. sanctions, Ahmadinejad was on friendly ground in this country, the world's most populous Muslim nation.

"I think you are the man of the year," one student stood to say. "We will always be with you. You will never walk alone," said another.

Although Indonesia is relatively moderate and maintains generally cordial relations with the West, the Iranian leader's message resonates with many of its young people.

"He impresses me," said Riswanto Hidayat, 21, who attended the rally at Islamic University. "He gives a voice to the opposition of Muslims to the arrogance of the United States."

It is often an angry voice.

In a letter to Bush earlier this week, Ahmadinejad brushed aside the concerns over Tehran's nuclear program, choosing instead to press other buttons — suggesting a U.S. government-led conspiracy was behind the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, for example, or that the Holocaust that killed 6 million Jews never happened.

Educated Muslims don't necessarily share those views.

"I understand the frustrations, but his position is too extreme and I don't think he represents the mainstream of Islam," said 19-year-old Nurmela Sari. "His positions just bring out the anger in the West and Israel."

Ahmadinejad's own countrymen have mixed feelings about his fiery style. His announcement last month that Iran produced enriched uranium for the first time was a source of national pride. Yet some Iranians have expressed concern that his tough rhetoric is worsening the country's isolation.

Ahmadinejad has demonstrated a knack for tapping into a pool of frustration over the perception that Washington is, at best, insensitive to a wide range of Muslim concerns or, at worse, a bully trying to keep Muslims down.

"We want to use technology for peace and the welfare of the Muslim people around the world," he said. "But they want to use it to invade other countries. This is the difference between us and them."

At a dialogue with Indonesian Islamic leaders Friday, one member of the audience urged Ahmadinejad to go ahead and develop nuclear weapons, saying the "enemies of Islam" also had them.

The Iranian leader did not reply directly, but quipped that "every young man in the Islamic world is an atomic bomb because they have faith, God and love the character of the Prophet Muhammad."

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McGraw, Hill ‘will not stop’

By The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Mississippi native Faith Hill and husband Tim McGraw say they plan to donate proceeds from their summer concert to benefit Gulf Coast hurricane relief efforts.

Hill and McGraw will perform July 5 at the New Orleans Arena as part of their “Soul2Soul II” tour. Hill is a native of Star, Miss.; McGraw grew up in Start, La.

“We will not stop, we will not forget, we will not quit, until we see our friends, our families and our neighbors returned to the lives that they once knew,” the country singers said Thursday in a statement. “We hope to give everyone who comes out a few hours to just enjoy.”

Proceeds will go to their new Neighbor’s Keeper Foundation and other organizations assisting individuals in Mississippi and Louisiana who are suffering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina.

Half of the floor seats will be given to Katrina volunteer workers, according to the statement.

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Twisted Sister singer Dee Snider and some of his biker buddies are planning a ride to raise money for premature babies.

Two of the Long Island native’s four children were born 7 1/2 weeks premature, prompting his involvement in the March of Dimes’ “Bikers for Babies” event May 21.

“When you’re in there in that preemie ward, you see a lot of seriously ill babies,” the 51-year-old singer says. “Your baby is in there at 4 pounds and you’re so worried, and they’re bringing in 1-pounders, 1 1/2-pounders. You look at these kids with respiratory problems and circulatory system issues and all kinds of problems, and the medical expenses are astronomical.”

He’s asking fans to sponsor him by pledging any amount through a link on his Web site.

The 45-mile ride, one of many being held nationwide, will start at Nassau Coliseum and finish at Brookhaven Town Hall. Snider’s band mate, Mark “The Animal” Mendoza, the group’s bassist and an avid biker, also will participate.

“Bikers are real softies when it comes to babies,” Snider says. “You see some of them with stuffed animals on their bikes.

SALTSBURG, Pa. — Cable TV network OLN has hired a 57-year-old western Pennsylvania man named Stanley Cup to promote the National Hockey League playoffs.

“This is the first year we’ve had the playoffs, and we were trying to figure out some kind of stunt” to promote it, said network spokeswoman Amy Phillips.

OLN found two people named Stanley Cup, but could track down only one. Cup, of Saltsburg, is a descendant of Pennsylvania coal miners who works at a steel mill. He is 6 feet tall, and etched with tattoos.

The network will fly Cup to New York City next week to tape some promotional spots. He is taking vacation from work to do the promotions, and OLN will cover his travel expenses and provide a small stipend.

Cup wants only three things for his trouble: a picture with the real Stanley Cup trophy, tickets to one playoff game and another tattoo.

“I told my friends at work that when I get back, I’m going to get another tattoo,” he was quoted as telling The Indiana Gazette. “Definitely of the cup, as soon as I get back.”

LOS ANGELES — In a scene from his new candid-camera program “Juiced,” O.J. Simpson pulls a prank involving the infamous white Bronco, drawing criticism from the family of a man he was accused of killing.

As part of the pay-per-view show, Simpson pretends to sell the Bronco at a used car lot and boasts to a prospective buyer that he made the vehicle famous, according to a segment aired Thursday on “Inside Edition.”

“It was good for me _ it helped me get away,” Simpson said, referring to the slow-speed, televised police chase that preceded his 1994 arrest on charges of murdering his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

Goldman’s father, Fred, told “Inside Edition”

he found Simpson’s comment “morally reprehensible.”

Simpson was acquitted of murder. A civil jury later held him liable for the deaths and ordered him to pay \$33.5 million to the Brown and Goldman families.

Much of that judgment remains unpaid. “Any money that he makes, I hope, will go to satisfy the multimillion dollar judgment made against him in the civil case,” said Brown family attorney Gloria Allred.

The hour-long program is airing on pay-per-view this month, and a DVD offering uncensored material will be made available soon, “Juiced” executive producer Rick Mahr said.

Other practical jokes include Simpson disguised as an Elvis impersonator, a vagabond selling oranges for money and an elderly man leading a Bingo game. Simpson was not paid for the program, Mahr said.

“Basically O.J. Simpson has decided to do this because he wants to do it, and he wanted to have fun with it,” Mahr said.

LOS ANGELES — Leif Garrett was sentenced to 90 days in jail and three years’ probation after opting out of a drug treatment program.

The 44-year-old former teen idol was given credit Thursday for the jail time he had already served since being taken into custody March 30 after a Superior Court commissioner determined he failed several drug tests while staying in a live-in drug diversion program.

Garrett’s attorney, Andrew Flier, said his client decided to leave the program, which required frequent tests and daily counseling, because it was too strict.

Garrett pleaded guilty last year to attempted possession of cocaine-based narcotics based on a 2004 arrest and was placed in a less stringent, outpatient rehab program. Earlier this year, he checked into the live-in program after he failed a drug test and acknowledged he needed more help.

He has appeared in three dozen films, mostly in the 1970s and ‘80s, and has released 10 music albums.

Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVIEGUIDE

SHOWTIMES: WEEKEND EDITION, MAY 13-14, 2006

Broadway Loews Cineplex
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-6232

An American Haunting (PG-13)
1:00, 3:20, 5:35, 8:00, 10:30

Inside Man (R)
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

Just My Luck (PG-13)
2:10, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15

United 93 (R)
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

Mann's Criterion Theatre
1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599

Ice Age: The Meltdown (PG)
11:10am, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40

Mission: Impossible III (PG-13)
11:20am, 12:00, 1:10, 2:20, 3:10, 4:20, 5:10, 6:20, 7:20, 8:00, 9:30, 10:20, 11:00

Poseidon (PG-13)
11:00am, 11:30am, 1:30, 2:00, 4:00, 4:30, 6:30, 7:00, 7:50, 9:10, 9:40, 10:30, 11:45

AMC7 Santa Monica
1310 3rd Street
(310)289-4262

Akeelah and the Bee (PG)
11:25am, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50

Goal! The Dream Begins (PG)
11:30am, 2:20, 5:05, 7:50, 10:35

Hoot (PG)
11:00am, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00

Keeping Up With the Steins (PG-13)
11:20am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

RV (PG)
11:50am, 2:30, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

Scary Movie 4 (PG-13)
2:25, 4:50, 7:05, 9:30

Silent Hill (R)
11:40am, 10:20

Stick It (PG-13)
11:10am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

Nuwilshire Theatre
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310)281-8228

Art School Confidential (R)
11:30am, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50

Thank You for Smoking (R)
11:40am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00

Laemmle 4-Plex Theatre
1332 2nd Street
(310)394-9741

Down in the Valley (R)
1:30, 4:15, 7:10, 9:55

Friends With Money (R)
12:45, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

Wah-Wah (R)
1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45

Water (PG-13)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55

Information: calendar@smdp.com

MORE TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1842, composer Sir Arthur Sullivan, who collaborated with Sir William Gilbert in writing 14 comic operas, was born in London.

In 1846, the United States declared that a state of war already existed against Mexico.

In 1917, three peasant children near Fatima, Portugal, reported seeing a vision of the Virgin Mary.

In 1918, the first U.S. airmail stamps, featuring a picture of an airplane, were introduced. (On some of the stamps, the airplane was printed upside-down, making them collector’s items.)

In 1940, in his first speech as prime minister of Britain, Winston Churchill told the House of Commons, “I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat.”

In 1954, President Eisenhower signed into law the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Act.



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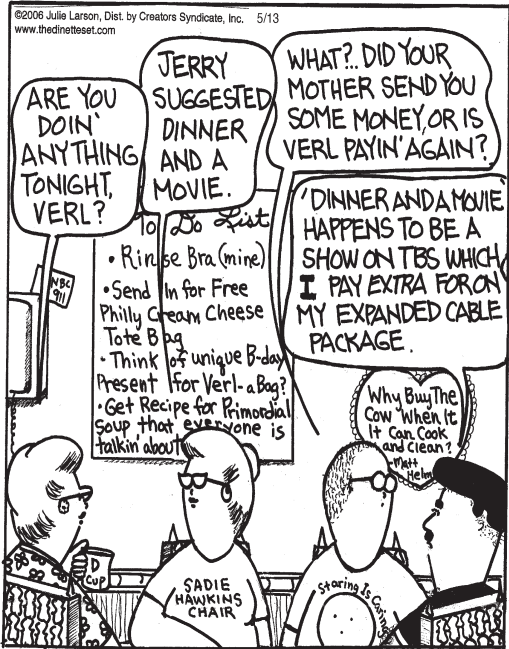
"If you're gonna play the game you're gonna need the energy"



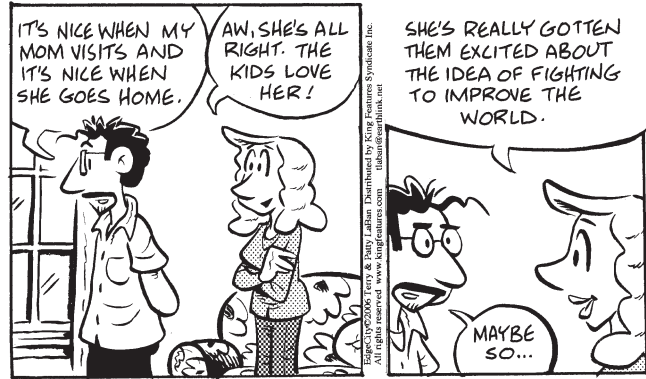


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By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Tex-Mex treat
- 7 Diploma holder
- 11 Honey-suckle's cousin
- 12 Hold power
- 13 Whodunit event
- 14 "In your dreams!"
- 15 Is a snoop
- 16 Blackjack call
- 17 Spotted
- 18 Visit
- 19 Slopes sight
- 21 Wrap up
- 22 Ship launched in 1934
- 25 Eat late
- 26 Comfy place
- 27 Pulled in
- 29 Clean
- 33 Left on a boat
- 34 Slogan
- 35 One of the Bears
- 36 Diamond makeup
- 37 Pronto
- 38 Reduced
- 39 Sea dogs
- 40 Moistened

DOWN

- 1 Packs
- 2 Sky shade
- 3 Ray-mond's TV mom
- 4 Chewy
- 5 Noted Virginia family
- 6 Stirrup setting
- 7 Knight's quest
- 8 One who takes stock?
- 9 Splitting cost
- 10 Protect
- 16 Damages
- 18 Fixed seats

- 20 "John Brown's Body" poet
- 22 Mexican greeting
- 23 Not substandard
- 24 Minimally
- 25 Attack verbally
- 28 Catches
- 30 Ready to hit
- 31 Took the wrong way
- 32 Sharpened
- 34 Mustang feature
- 36 Intimidate

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5-13

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This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 4/14/2006. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTI-TIOUS 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 under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 5/13/2006, 5/20/2006, 5/27/2006, 6/3/2006

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 06 0825809 FIRST FILING. The following per-son(s) is (are) doing business as SIXTH SENSE IN-VESTMENTS VII, 11755 WILSHIRE BLVD., SUITE 900, LOS ANGELES, CA 90025. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : MARK UMEMOTO, 4383 CAM-ERO AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90027, YUNNA BARATS, 14812 DICKENS STREET, #201, SHER-MAN OAKS, CA 91403, YOON KIM, 19144 INDEX STREET, UNIT 4, NORTHBRIDGE, CA 91326, KOUR-

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KEN TOMASSIAN, 1243 E. LEXINGTON DR, GLEN-DALE, CA 91206, JEAN-PIERRE MOUREN-LAU-RENS, 6449 COLUMBUS AVE, VAN NUYS, CA 91411 This Business is being conducted by, a general partnership. Signed: The registrant com-menced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)12/22/2006. /s/: MARK UMEMOTO
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 04/14/06. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTI-TIOUS 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 under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 5/13/2006, 5/20/2006, 5/27/2006, 6/3/2006

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