

FREE

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Santa Monica Daily Press

The city's only daily newspaper.

Major budget cuts loom for City Hall

Cuts haven't been this severe since '92

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Staring at an \$8 million revenue shortfall for the upcoming year, the city is facing the most severe budget cuts it's felt in a decade.

The public can expect to see the budgets for city services, city staff, public safety and a host of capital improvements cut drastically.

Fourth of July celebrations have been canceled, neighborhood and street improvements will be delayed, and organizations will get less money allocated to them by the city council.

Also, vacant city positions won't get filled, city employees will receive minimal raises and their benefits won't be enhanced.

After months of pouring over the numbers, city administrators outlined the harsh realities of Santa Monica's faltering economy in a proposed 2002-2003 budget released Friday by City Manager Susan McCarthy.

The city's total budget is \$387.3 million, a decrease of \$23.1 million from last year.

"We tried very hard to pick items that would impact the community the least," she said. "We're trimming around the edges."

The trim translates into more than \$2 million being cut from City Hall's departments. About \$20 million in capital improvements will be cut from what was budgeted last year.

As a result, planning for several projects like the \$148 million civic center redevelopment plan, the \$1.8 million Santa Monica Pier improvement plan, more affordable housing

and general improvements around the city most likely will be put on hold indefinitely.

What won't be cut from the capital budget is the Virginia Avenue Park expansion, the Santa Monica Library redesign and a new park at the airport.

The city made deep cuts in 1992, but recovered quickly because of a decade of unprecedented fiscal expansion.

"We tried very hard to pick items that would impact the community the least. We're trimming around the edges."

— SUSAN MCCARTHY
Santa Monica City Manager

McCarthy said just like now, the 1992 cuts were a result of an economic recession. But the difference this time is that the negative effects on local economies, particularly ones that rely on tourism, are related to terrorism.

City Councilman Ken Genser remembers the tough choices made in 1992. As he and his fellow council members begin the arduous task of approving the cuts this month, they must make tough decisions about what are "luxury items" and what are necessities. What's tougher, however, is making the public understand the

See BUDGET, page 6

An African jam



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Aziz of 'Aziz Fay' (center) performs with his dancers, Silvia Mograbi (left) and Alecia Hudson (right) in front of hundreds Sunday at the city's community festival.

Head SM judge watching civic center plan closely

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Noise and security concerns top the list of issues at the Santa Monica Courthouse if the city's civic center redevelopment plan ever becomes a reality, a judge said.

But West District Supervising Judge Alan B. Haber said he is confident the two sides can come to an understanding.

Haber and county officials are concerned that the addition of an athletic field to the civic center will severely impact eight courtrooms and jury deliberation rooms across from where the field is proposed.

But Haber said negotiations have progressed well between the city and Los Angeles County, which owns the courthouse.

"The court intends to cooperate with the city to facilitate their plans, except for where the city plans would interfere with court operations," Haber said. "And the only issue we have is making sure the courthouse is secure and that any of the actions near or adjacent to the courthouse do not jeopardize our day-to-day operations."

Haber said he contacted Los Angeles County officials to get involved in negotiations over the proposed civic center plan at the city's request. The city officials wanted Haber to use his connections at the county to get the plan approved, he said.

The city needs the county's OK because of a 1960's-era agreement between the two governments. The county is allowed an 80-foot buffer

See CIVIC CENTER, page 7

Santa Monica College theater proposal under public review

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Concerns over the controversial theater proposed at Santa Monica College are now being officially addressed.

About two dozen neighbors of SMC's Madison campus gathered Saturday to offer their suggestions as to what should be included in a state-mandated Environmental

Impact Report for the project.

The report will address the project's impact on the surrounding neighborhood, including traffic, parking, access, air quality, noise, aesthetics and many other issues.

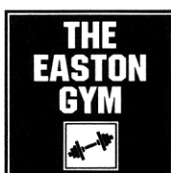
While SMC has had several meetings over the past year to hear neighbors' concerns about its proposed 536-seat performing arts theater at 11th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard, the purpose of

Saturday's meeting was to obtain the public's input about potential environmental impacts, project alternatives and other issues that should be addressed in the EIR.

SMC is proposing to build a new 27,100-square-foot theater and convert the existing school auditorium into a classroom and rehearsal hall. The campus is 39,540 square feet. The project would increase the campus to about 66,640 square feet.

SMC officials see the performing arts center as filling a large void on the west-side for cultural activities. In addition to lectures and rehearsals, the facility would provide a venue for theater performances, dance, chorale, symphony orchestra and guest speakers. College officials envision the facility to be the cultural center on the

See SMC, page 7



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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Use your diplomatic skills and unusual assets to gain more of what you want. Confusion surrounds communication. Pull back and think through recent conversations. You might not be pleased with what is going on. Decide to make a difference. Tonight: Play away.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You could be disappointed by someone. Talk about a problematic money matter. You might not be able to agree with an associate or brainstorm together. Start the process of negotiation. Stay upbeat. Tonight: Catch up on another's news.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★ Financial matters play a bigger role in a personal matter than you realize. Strong interactions point to changing possibilities and alliances. Don't toss any barriers out before you're sure you can deal with the consequences. Think end results. Tonight: Your treat.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Much goes on behind the scenes, impacting your emotions and needs. You could be down and out or perhaps feeling as if someone doesn't understand. Float with new possibilities. Don't even entertain the idea that everything has to be the same. Tonight: Keep smiling.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★ You could be quite disconcerted by a development around you. You might not be exactly sure which way you want to go or how to handle a personal matter. Console yourself with the concept "this, too, will pass." The more relaxed you are, the happier you'll be. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Others naturally challenge your authority and your ideas. You might not like this attitude, but you might not be able to change another's perspective. Your creativity helps you weave through a difficult situation. Do what you need to do to resolve a problem. Tonight: Do something just for yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★ Chill out and avoid getting into a brouhaha. Ultimately, you will be a lot happier if you go with the flow. Listen carefully to another's feedback. Realize your limits within the present situation. Go off and do your own thing. Tonight: Success greets you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Use a meeting to emphasize your goals. Some might network. Others might use the moment to enlist others' help on a project. Still, others might be cranky or difficult. Be smart. Don't make more of a situation than you need to. Tonight: Join a pal for a game of racquetball.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★ You feel as if you're in a pressure cooker. Your assessment might not be far from wrong. Carefully consider options that surround associates. Avoid getting involved in a problem and taking an unusually strong stance. Consider options rather than closing doors. Tonight: Put in needed hours.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Others go out of their way for you. What is going on here? Worry less and enjoy what is happening. Don't get uptight about problems that emerge during the day. You'll find many ways of dealing with them. Tonight: Detach from immediate uproar.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ If someone wants to run the show, don't worry about it. Rather, go with the current situation. Be happy that you don't need to get into trouble over a problem or cause yourself any aggravation. Go with the flow. Be the easygoing Water Bearer. Tonight: Say "yes."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Others dominate but also inadvertently contribute to your current pressures. Start working on what you must, carefully sorting through a problem. Use your imagination, and you could clear several hurdles at once. Detach. Tonight: Say "yes."

CORRECTION — Due to an editing error in Friday's edition, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was characterized inaccurately. The writer agrees that the civil rights leader is a celebrated man.

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Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913
530 Wilshire Blvd., Suite #200 • Santa Monica, CA 90401

PUBLISHER Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com	CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE Angela Downen angela@smdp.com
EDITOR Carolyn Sackariason . . .sack@smdp.com	SALES REPRESENTATIVE Steve Kenedy steve@smdp.com
NIGHT EDITOR Jason Auslander jason@smdp.com	SALES REPRESENTATIVE William Pattnosh william@smdp.com
STAFF WRITER Andrew H. Fixmer andy@smdp.com	CIRCULATION MANAGER Kiutzu Cruz kiutzu@smdp.com
PRODUCTION MANAGER Del Pastrana del@smdp.com	ERRAND RUNNER Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com
PRODUCTION ARTIST Corinne Ohannessian . .corinne@smdp.com	

LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Religious leaders recruit congregations for street patrol

By Daily Press staff

In response to increased violence on Santa Monica's eastside, congregations from two area churches are taking to the streets to reclaim their neighborhood.

Rev. Ronald L. Williams from First A.M.E. Church by the Sea said the first organizational and training meeting for volunteers was to be held last week at his church located at 1823 Michigan Ave., in the Pico neighborhood.

The neighborhood has been inundated with gang violence and drug activity for years. During the past four months, there have been several shootings. No one has died, though several people have been injured.

Santa Monica Police increased patrols in the neighborhood earlier this year until the gang activity subsided. SMPD also has enlisted the help of Hawthorne Police, who patrol the neighborhood by helicopter.

Williams said he and Father Mike Gutierrez from St. Anne's Church, 2017 Colorado Ave., and their congregations will join together and walk the streets of the Pico neighborhood to send a message of non-violence.

"We want to help keep calm and peace in our paradise," Williams said. "We want to make a difference in our community with communication instead of taking to the skies."

Williams said he understands that the police presence is necessary, but he wants to make an impact at the community level.

"I don't think we should sit still until the next shooting happens," he said. "We want to be proactive rather than reactive."

New principals appointed at schools

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica High School has a new principal.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District board voted last week to appoint Dr. Ilene Straus as the high school's chief educational officer. Straus is charged with guiding and directing the educational program at the high school.

For the past 16 years, Straus has been the principal of Lincoln Middle School. She will assume her new role at Samohi on July 1.

Under her leadership, Lincoln Middle School was named a "California State Distinguished School." Straus was named the YWCA's woman of the year in 1996 and the state's secondary principal of the year in 1991.

"I believe two of Ilene Straus' most important talents are her ability to attract, recruit and maintain an excellent staff and her courage," said Don Shalvey, CEO of Aspire Public Schools. "She establishes high standards, supports each individual in their own growth and demonstrates the courage to take the difficult stand on accountability."

The school board also appointed Chi Kim as the new principal of Point Dume Marine Science Elementary School.

Kim most recently was principal of Reed Elementary School in Tiburon in Northern California. She also was an assistant principal, district liaison, team leader and school site coordinator in the Inglewood School District.

Pier-beach shuttle begins this Friday

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Pier-Beach shuttle will fire up May 24 for the summer.

The shuttle will operate its free beach run in a 10-minute loop between Lot 4 South at 2030 Barnard Way to the pier on the weekends through Labor Day. Fees for parking at Lot 4 are \$6 a day and \$3 after 6 p.m.

Shuttle hours are Fridays, 6-9 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays between noon and 9 p.m.

On Thursdays, June 27 through Aug. 29, and Wednesday, July 3, the 6 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. schedule will accommodate the parking for the Pier Twilight Dance Series.

"Over the years, the pier/beach shuttle has become well-known as the kick-off of Santa Monica's many summertime beach services," said Elaine Polachek, the city open space manager. "It's the easiest way to the beach."

To get to Lot 4 and the shuttle, follow the street signs in downtown Santa Monica or take the Fourth Street exit off the I-10 freeway. Signs direct drivers southbound to Pico Boulevard and west to Lot 4 South.

More than 20,000 people take advantage of the city-sponsored service every year.

Community festival 2002

Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

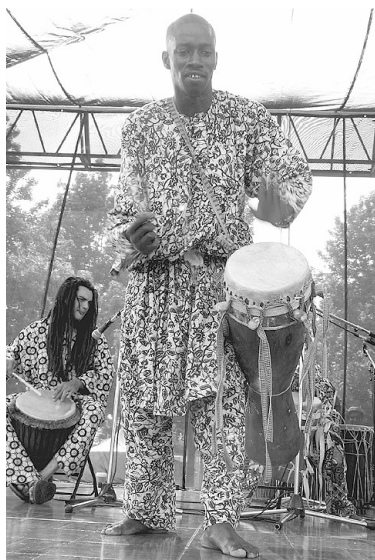
Right: Ashley Maher shakes a leg on stage as part of her performance with the popular African band, 'Aziz Fay,' at the city's community festival at Clover Park.

Bottom left: 'Aziz' jams on the drum.

Bottom right: Aziz's eclectic music had the kids groovin' in front of the stage.

The city-sponsored festival attracted hundreds of people Sunday, who sampled a blend of music, food and crafts.

The festival highlighted the city's cultural resources and the environment.



The Q Line

The powers that be in City Hall are kicking around the idea of re-naming the Santa Monica Public Library. One idea is to name the building after the celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King, one of the most distinguished American leaders of the civil rights movement.

As the City Council continues to move forward with its plans to rebuild the building for \$50 million, our elected officials want to gauge the public's thoughts

on this idea.

So, this week's Q-Line question wants to know:

"If you had your way, what should the library be called and why?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less; it might help to think first about the wording of your response.



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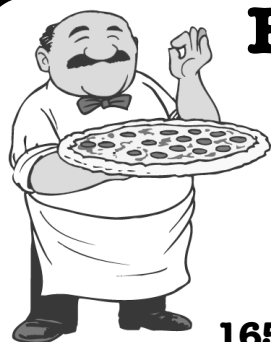
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OPINION

LETTERS

Union issue should be voted on in private election

Editor:

After reading your article regarding the unionization of the Doubletree and having followed the struggles at the other hotels with the union, I believe that you have wrong information regarding the unionization process. From what I have read, the union wants the hotels to agree to a neutrality agreement. This type of agreement, which was used at the Pacific Shores and possibly the Fairmont, requires the management to stay completely quiet while the union "sells" their product to the employees. The management may not make comment about what the union says even if the union gives the employees wrong or misleading information. The union then will ask the employee to sign a representation card and when the union gets the majority of the cards, they can then represent the employees, without any type of an election. This process allows the union to place public pressure on the employees to sign their cards and to tell everyone in the work group who has signed and who has not — basically using peer pressure to join.

The union does have the option to use the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to call for an election if they believe that the majority of the employees want to have the union. It costs nothing to call for this election. This would then allow the employees to vote in a secret ballot democratic election without anyone (union or management) knowing how they voted.

Using the term "neutrality agreement" is misleading because it leaves the reader believing the employee is free to make up their mind without interference. A neutrality agreement does not provide an opportunity for employees who do not want the union to remain anonymous or avoid the unbelievable pressures from organizers and peers to sign a representation card. And remember, there is no requirement for the union to keep these cards private, like the election does.

So before everyone is so critical about these hotels not wanting to sign a neutrality agreement, they should think about their own right to vote and how that vote might be influenced if either party had the right to gain that vote in a public forum versus the private voting booth.

No one will argue that the employees have the right to organize, but few seem to want to acknowledge they have just as much of a right to not organize as well. If the secret voting booth is good enough to elect everyone from our city officials to the President, it should be good enough and the proper way to handle this issue as well.

Instead of the school board calling for the hotel to end the "dispute," they should look to the union and demand they call for an election and put this to rest once and for all.

Brian Williams

Santa Monica

The disreputable Dr. King?

Editor:

Re: your front page story mentioning the "infamous civil rights leader Martin Luther King ..." Thank God almighty, a newspaper that finally gets it right.

For years down south we've read the FBI files about the ignoble Mr. King and his notorious behavior, the jails he was in and out of, the women he was ... etc. So I join you in protesting the west side "coalition" interested in naming our library in Santa Monica after such a disreputable character. A library? Did this ill-famed individual, the opprobrious Dr. King, ever even write a book? We should rename the library after Don King, who at least dictated an autobiography. "The Don King Library." (Or failing that, please consider "The Stephen King Library," but only if he were to donate a suitable donation).

(Editor's note: The word "infamous" used to describe Dr. Martin Luther King was an editing error.)

Hank Rosenfeld

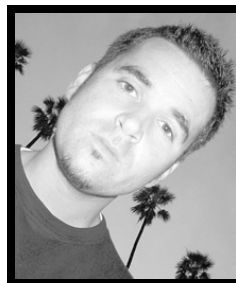
Santa Monica

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LOCAL



The FunHog

By Dan Dunn

FunHog shows his sensitive side through the personal ads

As of recently, I have been picking up tips on how to meet women from Dr. Paul Hartunian, the esteemed author of "How to Find the Love of Your Life in 90 Days or Less" and a self-proclaimed Love Doctor.

According to Hartunian, the key to scoring is to steer clear of bars and nightclubs and look for that Special Someone in the newspaper personal ads.

Now normally, I'd balk at such ludicrousness, figuring that finding love in pages usually reserved for used furniture or second-hand cars makes as much sense as visiting yard sales looking for lunch. But desperation trumps reason when it comes to matters of the heart.

My roommate, Bottomfeeder, has proven to be of little help. His philosophy is that "any woman who would date you because of what you do for a living NEEDS to be lied to." Unemployed for these many months, he carries a Mercedes keychain that he leaves on the bar after excusing himself to answer a fake-emergency page that referred to him as "Doctor."

So, I grow forlorn and sick to death of trying to score chicks outside the UCLA student union and finally pick up the phone, having circled a few likely ads, and start dialing for dates. All told, I contacted eight potential partners — the cream of the personal ad crop, trust me — leaving each and every one the same message:

"Hi, they call me The FunHog but in a playful way. I'm in my late 20s, 6-foot-3, about 200 lbs., with longish flaxen hair, blue eyes and a really hip Van Dyke. Many people say I'm a cross between Fabio and Tom Hanks but they discount my playful Woody Allen eyes. I'm a strong, rugged, outdoorsy-type, yet extremely in touch with my sensitive side. In fact, lately I've been touching my sensitive side with alarming regularity. I'm a financially secure professional with several dozen post-graduate degrees under my stylish blackbelt.

"What do I like? Hey, I enjoy moonlit walks along sandy beaches, crying at movies, watching Ally McBeal, playing with kids, traveling, reading, cooking, cleaning, music, dancing and, most of all, snuggling by the fire at my place in Aspen. I'm spontaneous, yet pragmatic. Playful, yet stoic. Carefree, yet responsible. I'm a non-smoking, non-drinking, drug-free individual, but I'm willing to 'experiment,' if that's your fancy. To be honest, I tend to listen too much in conversations and have this aversion to wasting time on televised sports now that I've collected the full set of 'Mad About You' episodes. I have lots of long-range goals and embrace commitment the way other men love power tools. If you're cruising the freeway of love, give me a call and we'll see where the road leads us. Ciao!"

Hartunian gave me lots of advice on how to go about courting these women once they called, mostly pertaining to the ins and outs of the all-important first date.

"The worst place to go is where most people go — dinner and a movie. It shows

no creativity," he said, discounting the fact that my message had already shown enough creativity for any one mortal.

The anti-usual-date advice continues: "You're sitting across from each other for two hours over dinner, nervous, trying to think of things to talk about, losing your appetite, wondering if there's a piece of spinach caught in your teeth. Very stress producing. Then you go to a movie and sit there for two hours and say nothing. It makes no sense at all."

"So, I grow forlorn and sick to death of trying to score chicks outside the UCLA student union and finally pick up the phone, having circled a few likely ads, and start dialing for dates. All told, I contacted eight potential partners — the cream of the personal ad crop ..."

If you're like me (and God help you if you are) Hartunian just described how the overwhelming majority of your first dates played out, and now you're beginning to wonder if you'll ever be able to woo the object of your desire. Well fret not, my fellow unimaginative idiots, there's hope for us yet.

"The best place to go on a first date, bar none, is a comedy club. It's a guaranteed winner," he said. "You're both laughing and having a great time, and at the end of the night, your date is probably going to say 'I had a lot of fun being with you tonight.'"

And get this — nothing you said or did made the date a success ... the comedian took care of that for you. Get it? You're merely interesting by association. It's personality by delegation.

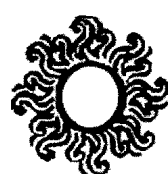
Damn, this Hartunian is a genius.

Then again, as of this writing, not a single one of the eight women I left messages for has returned my call. Sadly, I've got less than 70 days left to find the love of my life in accordance with the Hartunian Plan.

Still, I plan on getting my hands on a pair of tickets to an upcoming show at the Laugh Factory in the hope that someone — anyone — will come to her senses and drop me a line.

So if you're out there, Ms. "Snow White Lookalike" or "Intelligence Turns Me On" or any of the others, I'm waiting by the phone ... my sensitive side at the ready.

(Dan Dunn, a Santa Monica resident, writes for Warner Bros. Online. For more FunHog fun, check out www.thefunhog.com.)



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LOCAL

Proposed budget cuts will be felt by community

BUDGET, from page 1

reasoning behind the cuts.

"These are just suggestions at this point," he said. "We'll cut where it's less painful at first but I think that in 1992, we saw the community really pull together."

Every department head in City Hall was asked to cut his or her budget between 2.5 and 5 percent. The reductions were strategically selected to minimize impacts and services to the public.

However, it's impossible to cut this deeply without feeling some pain. Fewer people will work in City Hall and fewer resources will be available to the public.

"... There is no question that, over time, the public will feel the cumulative effects of the reduced maintenance and equipment budgets in the appearance of public facilities and the productivity of city staff," McCarthy wrote.

Residents most likely won't see the energy-related utility tax rebate that they enjoyed last year, either.

Unexpected realities

The bleak financial forecast for the city means some organizations — which are facing their own harsh budget realities — could get little respite from the city.

Under the proposed budget, the city will be able to only allocate \$1.7 million in one-time funds. However, the requests are significantly more than that.

"In a normal year, we don't please everybody and this year, we certainly won't," McCarthy said.

The Santa Monica Malibu-Unifed School District is reeling from state budget cuts that eliminated a significant amount of its resources. The district has asked the city to kick over an additional \$2 million to its already \$3 million subsidy.

In an effort to recover from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Santa Monica's tourism campaigns could be extremely important for the local economy's future. Contributing \$250,000 toward the Convention and Tourism Bureau would be a strategic move, McCarthy wrote.

The Convention and Tourism Bureau's new visitor booth at Santa Monica Place scheduled to open in June will require \$150,000 annually, another unforeseen cost.

The costs related to the living wage

measure is expected to reduce spending for other programs if city revenues continue to decline. The controversial living wage ordinance would require businesses that generate more than \$5 million in revenue annually to pay their workers \$10.50 an hour, plus benefits.

Deep capital cuts

The city prepares a three-year capital improvement program, but the council only appropriates one year at a time. But because it was clear as early as last spring that the level of funding for capital projects enjoyed during the past decade would no longer be available, this year's projects have been cut substantially.

To balance the current year's budget, nearly \$5 million of previously budgeted projects could be delayed at least a year. That includes design work for City Hall, as well as finishing the fiber optics network, work on the California Incline, a new Euclid Park, neighborhood traffic measures and Santa Monica Boulevard improvements. The cuts also delay redevelopment of a historic building at 415 Pacific Coast Highway and rebuilding a new bridge to the pier, as well as other improvements.

In the 2003-2004 budget, which is the second year of the capital improvements program, the city anticipates having \$11.7 million available, a reduction of more than \$7 million than what was projected. That includes \$2.2 million cut from ongoing projects; \$3 million from facility maintenance work that will be delayed until 2004 and \$1.9 million in deferred maintenance work on downtown parking structures that will be rebuilt in the future.

Bad times to come

McCarthy expects the city's financial situation to get even worse once the state hands down its cuts to municipalities. City administrators estimate that up to \$5 million more in revenue could be lost to Santa Monica because of the state's politically-motivated techniques in balancing the budget.

"Given that this is an election year, we would not be surprised to see that substantial borrowing, coupled with unrealistic revenue and expenditure projects, will have been employed by the state to pres-

Body art?



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

'Contact improvisation' is what a group of artists call these communication moves demonstrated at the Santa Monica Festival on Sunday.

ent a budget in balance," McCarthy wrote. "Many observers believe that it will be necessary shortly after the November election to make severe budgetary adjustments that more accurately recognize the reality of the state's fiscal imbalance."

The 2003-2004 budget is likely to be even more difficult because operating costs are expected to increase beyond what would normally be expected, McCarthy

said. Unanticipated health care costs and insurance premiums are expected to rise as a result of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The city is going into the next year's budget already having to make significant savings to address the \$8.8 million shortfall in sales tax revenue from the previous year.

"We come into this budget with already significant expenditure cuts," McCarthy said. "But we should come in on target."

Here's a look at the proposed cuts within City Hall's departments:

■ The Santa Monica Police Department's budget, one of the largest in City Hall, could be cut .8 percent, or \$307,459. The mounted police, who patrol the city on horseback for crowd control, is proposed to be cut entirely.

■ City council's budget is proposed to be cut 5.2 percent, or by \$17,920, through reductions in legal expenses, office supplies and travel expenses.

■ The city manager's administrative budget is proposed to be slashed 3.5 percent, or \$37,036, by eliminating the vacant community relations specialist position and adjustments to conferences, travel and membership dues.

■ The cable TV budget will be cut 4.1 percent, or \$12,790, through reductions to advertising, legal expenses, office supplies and other cuts.

■ The information systems budget is proposed to be cut by 3.9 percent, or \$114,000, which will be in the form of travel, professional services and training. The cuts will reduce the staff's exposure to new developments in the technology field.

■ The elections and record services budget will be cut by 1.8 percent, or \$25,000.

■ The finance department's budget will be cut by 3.9 percent, or \$145,458, by eliminating a vacant analyst position and reducing the amount of overtime employees are given, plus training, office supplies and travel.

■ The city attorney's budget will be reduced by 2.5 percent, or \$129,824, by eliminating a full-time deputy city attorney and a full-time legal assistant, as well as reductions to overtime, a temporary employee and office supplies.

■ The planning and community development budget will be cut by 2.8 percent, or \$337,715, by reducing professional services, temporary employees and supplies.

■ Recreation supplies, community events, custodial services, tree maintenance and community outreach will be cut by 2 percent, or \$443,204.

■ The library budget will be cut 2.9 percent, or \$168,900, through building maintenance, furniture and equipment, supplies and other services. The cuts mean a 3 percent decrease in books purchased.

■ The environmental and public works budget will be slashed 3 percent, or \$305,417, through eliminating a public works inspector, supplies, street and road maintenance, as well as maintenance to street lights, buildings and custodial services. In other words, City Hall and public facilities won't get the same level of attention and there will be delays in street maintenance and street lights.

■ The resource management budget will be cut 3.5 percent, or \$147,500, by a reduction in professional services. The cuts could mean that the timing and quality of decision making on redevelopment and housing issues will be compromised.

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LOCAL

SMC asks for review on its Madison theater proposal

SMC, from page 1

westside for organizations like the Los Angeles Opera to use.

Not all of the meetings between SMC officials and residents have gone well since there are several people who are vehemently opposed to the idea because it will affect their quiet neighborhood with increased traffic and noise. They also believe that the theater will draw people from all over the Los Angeles area, making available parking in their neighborhood even worse than it is now.

The project most likely will go forward regardless of opposition since state law recognizes that educational organizations like SMC don't need approval from the city. But SMC officials say they are listening to the opposition and will do what they can to lessen the impact to residents in the area.

And while there is significant opposition to the proposal, there's a lot of support for it, as well.

The SMC announced in March that it had raised \$4.5 million toward the \$15 million project. Construction could begin next spring.

The tallest point of the theater would be between 65 to 70 feet, depending on where you stand. The current auditorium is a two-story building; the new facility would be the equivalent to a four-story building.

About 300 parking spaces are proposed with the revised site plan, nine less than what is provided currently.

Residents told planners and project analysts Saturday that the height of the



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

A rendering of what Santa Monica College's Madison Campus will look like, which includes a new theater.

building doesn't fit in with the neighborhood and they wondered whether 300 parking spaces was enough, among other concerns that will be included in the environmental analysis.

In order to receive consideration for the draft EIR, comments are due by June 14. Comments should be addressed to: Mr. Thomas Donner, executive vice president, business and administration at Santa Monica College District, 1900 Pico Boulevard, Santa Monica, CA. 90405. SMC asks that contact information be included in the comments.

Copies of the initial study are available at SMC administrative offices, located at 2714 Pico Boulevard, room 320, during normal business hours.

Deputies concerned about plan's impact on security

CIVIC CENTER, from page 1

zone around the courthouse, according to the agreement.

But the city needs to encroach on that space to build the proposed civic center parking deck and portions of Civic Center Drive.

The civic center, located on Main Street between Colorado Boulevard and Pico Boulevard, is the city's symbolic geographical point. It serves as an integral part of town because of its proximity to downtown, Santa Monica Place, Palisades Park, the Santa Monica Pier, the Ocean Park neighborhood and Main Street.

The city purchased the 11-acre site from the RAND Corporation in 2000 for \$53 million with the intention of completely overhauling the civic center area so it would better connect to downtown Santa Monica.

Current plans for the area include a town square, a garden walk with botanical and sculpture gardens, plenty of open space and bicycle paths, as well as a child development facility and a revamped City Hall.

Originally the plan did not call for athletic fields, which outraged many coaches, parents, students and sports enthusiasts, who believe such amenities are necessary in the city's civic area.

The Santa Monica-Malibu School District lobbied for fields to be included so their students, particularly from the adjacent Santa Monica High School cam-

pus, could use them.

City and school district officials have said they may form a joint partnership to split the cost of the new field.

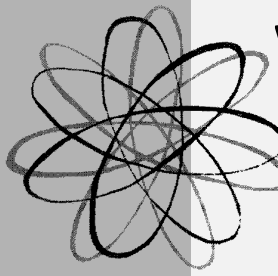
High-ranking courthouse officials and city officials have been meeting every two weeks to update each other on how construction of the city's new public safety building behind City Hall is progressing. Officials also have used the sessions to discuss the civic center plans, and address concerns courthouse officials have.

County officials did not have a comment on whether they had taken a stance on the civic center plan, except to say that they had contacted Santa Monica officials. The two parties will meet this week.

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Office, which handles courthouse security and provides bailiffs in the courtrooms, will release a report detailing security concerns they have with the city's proposed plan, Haber said.

Sources familiar with the report said sheriff officers are concerned Civic Center Drive and the athletic field would be too close to where prisoners are brought in and out of the courthouse.

City officials have offered to sound proof the courthouse walls, as well as install solar panels in the building to help the county keep its energy bills low. Officials also have said they will meet the security demands of the courthouse.



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SPORTS

LOCAL SPORTS

Thirteen a lucky number for Cubs

BY JESSE HALEY
Special to the Daily Press

With 13 wins and no losses, the Cubs are the dominant force in Santa Monica Little League.

The Cubs smoked the 0-12 Yankees this past Tuesday at Memorial Park.

Despite that the Yankees tied the game up 3-3 in the top of the third inning, their chances didn't last long.

The bottom of the third was eventful as the Cubs scored a run on a passed ball at home plate, pitcher Michael Natale knocked in two RBIs on a single, and Armando Marquez sent a shot off the left field wall to spark an explosive rally that would take the Cubs into the fourth with a 12-3 lead.

The Yankees left a runner stranded and the Cubs scored one more in the

fourth.

In the top of the fifth, Yankees faced the league's mercy rule. When one team leads by 10 or more in the fifth inning, officials are re-quired to call the game without a sixth.

But the Yankees wouldn't lie down. With one runner on, pitcher Jacob Hattenbach crushed a fast-ball from Cub reliever Garrick Hyde-White over the left field fence, making the game 13-5.

The Cubs put up one run in the bottom of the fifth. Hyde-White walked two and struck out two before an infield ground-out ended the game.

There were no looks of surprise in the stands.

The first-place team in SMLL's majors, the advanced 11-to-12-year old division, has two of the league's three leading

homerun hitters — Nathan Waters and Armando Marquez.

The Cubs offensive presence is matched by a defense that's all hustle. Three of the league's five top pitchers throw for the Cubs — Marquez and Natale, both 12, and Mikey Brunsten, 11.

"We have a core group of players," said Cubs coach Vaughn Barone. "We have some older kids and some good drafts last year. We picked up strong (young players)."

That core group includes

the premier 12-year-old catcher in Santa Monica, Nathan Waters, a well-rounded fielder, hitter, and team leader.

Like most little league coaches, Barone emphasizes the fundamentals of the game — throwing, catching, fielding.

But the Cubs' strong fundamentals allow the focus to expand, encompassing strategy, base running, bunting, and place-hitting.

Last year the Cubs won first in their league with a 15-1 record.

Santa Monica Little League

MAJORS STANDINGS

WEST	W	L	PCT.	GB	WEST
Cubs	13	0	1.00	-	7-0
Mets	10	4	.714	3.5	5-3
Giants	6	8	.428	7.5	4-4
Dodgers	6	8	.428	7.5	5-3
Cardinals	5	9	.357	8.5	2-6
Yankees	0	13	.000	13	0-7

EAST	W	L	PCT.	GB	EAST
Reds	12	2	.857	-	8-0
Indians	9	4	.692	2.5	4-3
A's	7	6	.538	4.5	3-4
Angels	6	8	.428	6	3-5
Mariners	4	9	.307	7.5	3-4
White Sox	3	10	.230	8.5	1-6

(To have your favorite team or sport covered in the Daily Press, contact Jesse Haley via e-mail at: sports@smdp.com).



National Basketball Association playoff schedule

By The Associated Press

CONFERENCE FINALS — EDT (Best-of-7)

Saturday, May 18

L.A. Lakers 106, Sacramento 99, Lakers lead series 1-0

Sunday, May 19

Boston 104, New Jersey 97, Boston leads series 1-0

Monday, May 20

L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, 9:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 21

Boston at New Jersey, 8:30 p.m.

Friday, May 24

Sacramento at L.A. Lakers, 9 p.m.

Saturday, May 25

New Jersey at Boston, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 26

Sacramento at L.A. Lakers, 5:30 p.m.

Monday, May 27

New Jersey at Boston, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 28

L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, 9 p.m., if necessary

Wednesday, May 29

Boston at New Jersey, 9 p.m., if necessary

Friday, May 31

New Jersey at Boston, TBA, if necessary

Sacramento at L.A. Lakers, TBA, if necessary

Sunday, June 2

Boston at New Jersey, TBA, if necessary

L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, TBA, if necessary

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- 14th and Santa Monica Boulevard
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- Broadway and Lincoln Boulevard
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- Montana Avenue and Euclid Street
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India considers military action against Pakistan

BY BETH DUFF-BROWN

Associated Press Writer

NEW DELHI, India — Fierce gunfire across the India-Pakistan border and attacks by militants killed at least 15 people in disputed Kashmir over the weekend, as India considered on Sunday whether to take further military action against its rival.

The most intense cross-border firing this year came after India on Saturday ordered the expulsion of Pakistan's ambassador to protest an earlier attack by suspected Islamic militants. India accuses Pakistan of sponsoring the militants, who are battling its forces in Kashmir.

Pakistan denies arming and training the militants, and has cracked down on them since President Gen. Pervez Musharraf threw his support behind the U.S.-led war on terrorism. Pakistan does say, however, that it supports the goal of independence for the only Muslim-majority state in predominantly Hindu India.

On Sunday, suspected Islamic guerrillas fired at an Indian army-paramilitary camp about 95 miles north of Jammu, the winter capital of India's northern Jammu-Kashmir state, killing four soldiers and wounding 12, state police spokesman Subhash Raina said. One of the attackers was killed, he said.

Indian Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh called it a "terrorist attack."

"We want to make it clear that the Indian army will retaliate immediately, every time there is any such assault committed by Pakistan," Singh said.

Indian army officials said small-arms fire across the border was relentless Sunday, and that both sides exchanged heavy mortar fire overnight, forcing thousands of villagers to flee their homes. Migrant camps southwest of Jammu have swollen, they said.

Three Indian civilians were killed Saturday, the officials said. In Islamabad, Pakistani Information Minister Nisar Memon said that "unprovoked" Indian shelling had killed seven Pakistanis and wounded 41 since Saturday.

Tension between the nuclear-armed neighbors have increased since an attack on another Indian base in Kashmir last Tuesday killed 34 people, most of them wives and children of soldiers. India blamed the attack on militants based in Pakistan.

The United States and other countries have voiced concerns that a fourth war could break out between the rivals. Two of the wars were fought over divided Kashmir, which they both claim.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christina Rocca visited both countries last week, urging restraint and the resumption of dialogue.

On Sunday, Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee met with opposition leader Sonia Gandhi amid growing political support for a military strike against Pakistan. He huddled into the night with his key ministers and three military chiefs to map out India's next move.

Vajpayee's Cabinet Committee on Security announced it would place paramilitary forces guarding the border under the command of the army, and the coast guard under command of the navy. Foreign Minister Singh said the

changes would better unify India's border security forces.

On Saturday, New Delhi expelled Pakistan's ambassador to India, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, and gave him one week to head home. Qazi said his ouster would only exacerbate tensions and denied Pakistan was behind Tuesday's militant attack, which provoked his expulsion.

Many ruling coalition and opposition lawmakers have demanded an attack on Pakistan, blaming it for violence in Kashmir, where tens of thousands of people have been killed since Islamic militants began fighting against Indian rule in 1989.

Memon, Pakistan's information minister, said India was deliberately targeting civilians in the weekend firing and accused it of trying to "defame" Pakistan because New Delhi is unhappy with the praise Islamabad has received for its role in the U.S.-led coalition against terrorism.

"In the past, India did its best to isolate us from the international community, but they failed," Memon said. "Pakistan is not involved in any acts of terrorism and India will never be able to declare us a terrorist state."

Meanwhile, suspected Islamic militants blew up an Indian paramilitary truck, injuring four Border Security Force soldiers, two of them critically. The explosive device was planted along a road near Udhampur, 60 miles north of Jammu.

Pakistan's Foreign Office spokesman Aziz Ahmad Khan on Sunday called on India to withdraw its troops from the border and repeated Islamabad's request for renewed dialogue.

Climbing team turns back just shy of Everest summit

By The Associated Press

TACOMA, Wash. — A group of five American women tackling Mount Everest was forced to turn back just short of the summit.

Health problems and weather forced the final four climbers to turn around early Saturday, just 285 feet from the 29,035-foot summit. Minutes before they turned back, expedition leader Eric Simonson of International Mountain Guides had reported things were fine, said his wife Erin Simonson, business manager for the trek.

"Everything was going beautifully," she told The News Tribune of Tacoma. "Twenty minutes later, I'm getting this distress call."

Midge Cross, a 58-year-old grandmother from Mazama, was part of the team. But the breast-cancer survivor had turned back Friday and was not among the four women — Alison Levine, Kim Clark, Lynn Prebble and Jody Thompson — who made the final summit push.

The climb was billed as the first by an all-woman team attempting to scale Everest. The women were accompanied by two male guides, a male photographer and eight Nepali sherpas, Erin Simonson said.

Her husband had remained behind in camp at the 21,000-foot level, as has been his routine this climbing season.

The group ran into problems about 6:40 a.m. Nepal time, when Levine collapsed from exhaustion and the effects of altitude, Erin Simonson said.

Clark, Prebble and Thompson started along a thin ridge of snow leading a steep pitch called the Hillary Step. Then Clark radioed that Thompson was having trouble.

At the same time, clouds began forming and the wind increasing so the last three women headed down.

Since Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay climbed Everest in 1953, about 1,100 people — including about a dozen American women — have reached the 29,035-foot summit. More than 170 have died trying.

Suicide mission at fruit market



Uriel Sinai/Associated Press

Police inspect the area of an explosion in Netanya, Israel on Sunday. Shortly after a warning of a suicide attack, a Palestinian bomber disguised in an army uniform slipped into a fruit and vegetable market and detonated his explosive, killing two Israelis. The overall number of injured was put at between 28 and 50, according to Israeli authorities.

British are back in Cannes, with three films in competition

BY ANGELA DOLAND

Associated Press Writer

CANNES, France — Last year, there wasn't a single British film playing in Cannes' main competition. This time, British directors are back in force, with a trio of films about life's ups and downs.

Directed by three Cannes regulars — Mike Leigh, Ken Loach and Michael Winterbottom — the British selections provide a deep contrast to Hollywood glamour.

They're set in Britain's high-rise housing projects, pubs, taxis, trailers and dance clubs, and their characters include hard-working single moms, pregnant teenagers and drugged-out musicians.

Leigh and Loach revisit their habitual subject matter: working-class people caught in tough situations. The other film, an entertaining look at sex, drugs and par-

tying in the 80s Manchester dance music scene, is by Winterbottom, a 41-year-old director who's done everything from a costume drama to "Welcome to Sarajevo," a movie about war in the Balkans.

Leigh's "All or Nothing" is about a cab driver and his wife, a supermarket clerk, who have fallen out of love. They don't talk much, except about money, and they seem to be going through the motions.

"If you woke up in the morning and knew what was going to happen to you, you'd never get out of bed," the main character, played by big-jowled Timothy Spall, tells a friend in a pub as the movie opens.

Then his son has a medical emergency, and the family has to pull together. A long, tearful confrontation ensues, and it's so unflinching and realistic that it's hard to watch.

"I like to make films about life," Leigh told reporters in Cannes. "For the large proportion of people on earth, life is a difficult thing."

Loach's "Sweet Sixteen" is about a teen-age boy whose mother is about to be released from prison. The boy, Liam, wants a better life for them, and his dream is to buy a trailer on the seaside.

But when Liam tries to make a little money to save up for the trailer, he finds himself in a tight spot.

Loach carried out a long search to find a boy to play Liam, who knows how to laugh even when life throws him punches.

Eventually, he found Martin Compston, 17, in a Scotland high school. Compston, who'd never acted before, plays Division II soccer in Scotland. "Sweet Sixteen" premieres Tuesday in Cannes.

Winterbottom's "24 Hour Party

People" is the lighter, hip selection among the British films. It charts the rise and fall of Tony Wilson, a TV reporter who produced many of Manchester's music greats — including Joy Division, New Order and Happy Mondays — and who opened the famous Hacienda nightclub.

Comedian Steve Coogan plays Wilson, the wisecracking, somewhat self-promoting manager who narrates his own life story, pointing out historical moments in rock history along the way.

Eventually, the cash-strapped producer is forced to turn his hands over to another label.

The movie's got a terrific danceable soundtrack that got many moviegoers humming along. It also looks great: Winterbottom used digital cameras to create an edgy, music-video feel.



COMICS

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



Why today's high school students make poor criminal cohorts.



by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



Reality Check® By Dave Whammond



Speed Bump® By Dave Coverly



CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Possum of the comics
 - 5 Michelangelo statue
 - 10 Computer symbol
 - 11 Magazine worker
 - 13 Close to
 - 14 Turned into
 - 15 Like boxers' hands
 - 17 Cap
 - 18 Words on a penny
 - 19 Neither Dem. nor Rep.
 - 20 Acorn source
 - 21 Carry on
 - 22 Neck wrap
 - 25 Talked at length
 - 26 Cry from the crow's-nest
 - 27 Use a sofa
 - 28 Hill insect
 - 29 20 Questions category
 - 33 Diner dessert
 - 34 "View of Toledo" painter
 - 35 Marked down

- DOWN**
- 37 Disparaging remark
 - 38 It abuts a synapse
 - 39 Flying toy
 - 40 Used up
 - 41 Tops a cake

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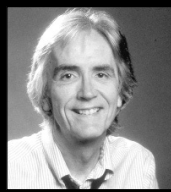
Saturday's answer

- 8 Rome native
- 9 Singer Placido
- 12 Blush
- 16 Unhearing
- 21 Zoom across the lake
- 22 Apply crudely
- 23 Eyeteeth
- 24 Pays for a hand
- 25 Toll
- 27 Unspeakable
- 29 Head, in slang
- 30 Keep-sake
- 31 Keen
- 32 Folk learnings
- 36 Exist

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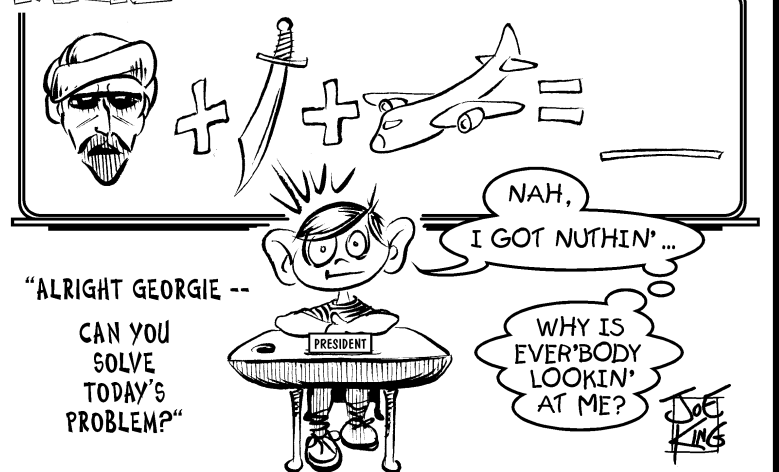
by Chuck Shepard

Kid files patent on his swing method

In April, the U.S. Patent Office awarded patent number 6,368,227 to Steven Olson, age 7, of St. Paul, Minn., whose father had filed to help him protect a method of swinging on a swing. The Olsons' discovery: While seated, if you pull alternately on one side's chain/rope and then on the other side's, while gradually introducing a forward-backward thrust, you can swing in an oval-shaped arc, as long as the side-to-side motion is greater than the forward-backward motion. According to the Patent Office, licenses to use the patented method are available from the inventor.



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BACK PAGE

Screw top wine getting more approval from winemakers

BY MICHELLE LOCKE

Associated Press Writer

OAKVILLE, Calif. — Screw-top wine is moving from Skid Row to Quality Street.

Three years ago, it was slightly shocking when the upscale PlumpJack Winery put screw tops on a \$135-a-bottle cabernet. This month, as PlumpJack makes its third such bottling, dozens of wineries are experimenting with the unorthodox tops.

"It's so exciting for all of us in the industry because we've talked about screw caps for years and years but because of the perceived marketing problems, people were just petrified to even consider it as a closure on their fine wines," says John Conover, general manager of PlumpJack.

Screw tops have a checkered past as the closure of choice for low-cost, high-alcohol brews like Thunderbird and Night Train Express — wines meant to be drunk still wrapped in a brown paper sack, not gently conveyed to table in a spotless white napkin.

But winemakers say traditional corks have a more serious drawback, the musty "off" taste blamed on "cork taint" that is estimated to strike 3 percent — some estimates put the number much higher — of all wines.

Winemakers blanch at the thought that many consumers, not being sensitive to the nuances of cork taint, simply assume the wine's no good and strike that label off their shopping lists.

Screw tops, Conover says, don't have cork taint, don't require drinkers to do battle with balky corkscrews, aren't as tough to get in and out of the bottle as synthetic corks and can be simply screwed back on for storing leftovers.

"Obviously," said Peter Weber of the Cork Quality Council, "people are fairly nervous in the cork industry."

Cork is harvested from the Cork oak, coming primarily from Portugal, Spain and North Africa. The bark is stripped off and can be harvested every 9 to 12 years, said Weber, whose industry group is based in the Sonoma

County wine country town of Sebastopol.

Natural cork supporters say switching to screw caps could put thousands of people out of work, since other uses of cork aren't as lucrative as the wine stopper business. "The concern is the whole industry could go away," Weber said.

Weber agrees that cork taint is a problem, but says manufacturers are working to reduce that. Some in the industry have turned to synthetic corks, which are rarely associated with taint but can be difficult to maneuver in and out of the bottle.

"... We've talked about screw caps for years and years but because of the perceived marketing problems, people were just petrified to even consider it as a closure on their fine wines."

— JOHN CONOVER
PlumpJack general manager

"Our feeling in the cork industry is you don't have a stopper that's really neutral. It's best to have one that's made with the same material that your wine is aged in. We really think that the cork has shown that it performs better in the long run," he said.

The big question: Will consumers, particularly those who've parted with \$50 or more for a prized vintage, accept the homely screw top and abandon the traditional tableside pop of a drawn cork?

Christian Butzke, an enologist (fancy word meaning wine scientist) at the University of California, Davis, said consumer research "has really shown that most people don't really care too much about how their bottled wine

is closed."

Butzke has been studying the PlumpJack screw-top wine. He doesn't have definitive results yet, but said "we did a tasting last year and didn't see much of a difference."

Conover says opening a bottle of screw-top PlumpJack in a restaurant is "almost an event. I sit down and I order a bottle of our screw-top cabernet. It's almost like there's silence in the room. The sommelier comes up and twists the screw cap and you hear not the popping of the cork but the click-click-click of the screw cap."

PlumpJack, co-owned by billionaire Gordon Getty and San Francisco City Supervisor Gavin Newsom, is bottling half of its best cabernet, or 300 cases, in screw caps. The wine is to be released in September.

The bottles topped by a screw cap — a sleek, silvery-gray model that blends with the label — will be priced at \$155 each. Those with traditional cork closures will cost \$145.

The screw tops are costing PlumpJack more right now because the winery had to buy them in quantities much bigger than needed.

More than two dozen wineries in Australia and New Zealand already give their seal of approval to screw tops, and a number of other California vintners are considering making the switch.

Next month, the Bonny Doon Winery in Santa Cruz plans to bottle 80,000 cases of screw-top wine, mostly its trademark \$10 Big House Red, so-named because it comes from grapes grown near a state prison in Central California.

"Whether it confers upon us a heroic reward or converts into a party in a bankruptcy proceeding remains to be seen," said winery spokesman John Locke.

Like other wineries, Bonny Doon was spurred to try screw tops because of fear of cork taint.

Still, Butzke doesn't expect a "huge changeover any time soon" in the tradition-bound wine industry. "Whenever anybody tries to do something new, there's a lot of pressure. A lot of them are not daring to make major changes. They're watching the others."

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