

FREE

FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 164

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5
08, 21, 22, 35, 38

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 7, 8, 9
Evening picks: 0, 4, 6

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 06, Whirl Win.
2nd Place: 05, California Classic.
3rd Place: 02, Lucky Star.
Race time: 1:43.23.



NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Criminals Thinking Small:

■ An alleged February multi-crime spree by Victor M. Cardoze, 23, all started when he prepaid \$3 for gas at Joe's Pond Country Store, then pumped \$3.50 worth and pointed a gun at the manager before driving off (West Danville, Vt., February).
■ Robert Boyer, 45, was charged with robbery after asking if he could buy lettuce by the leaf rather than the head, being told no, and walking out with lettuce leaves anyway, in front of a police officer (Little Rock, Ark., December).
■ William W. Bresler, Jr., 56, was taken for psychiatric evaluation after he tried to rob a National City Bank of exactly one cent (Westerville, Ohio, March).



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Never eat more than you can lift."

— Miss Piggy



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Take your time, Aries 2

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John Wood/Daily Press

School officials from all over the state sit down for a healthy lunch on Thursday at the Professional Redevelopment Center in Ocean Park. Officials came to learn about the school district's salad bar program.

Kids eat their own greens

School salads raise the bar

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Teachers and principals throughout the state came to Santa Monica this week to find out what we put in our salads.

The recipe is simple. It's fresh produce picked from the gardens at local schools and bought from area farmer's markets.

Hungry students have taken to the salad bars with such an appetite that the district was asked to host a conference for other schools hoping to do the same.

"Santa Monica has always been a

leader when it comes to school nutrition," said Delaine Eastin, former school superintendent for California. "They've demonstrated that eating healthy can be delicious. They're real pioneers for better nutrition."

Students tend to the vegetable gardens, which are in every school in the district, as are salad bars. The salad bars also are completely self-supporting and aren't threatened by pending budget cuts, officials said.

Tracie Thomas, director of food and nutrition services for the Santa Monica-

See SALAD BARS, page 8

Delta clear for layover in SM

Hotel contract was threatened by homeless issue downtown

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

A \$30,000 monthly contract between Delta Airlines and a local hotel nearly fell apart last month after airline workers said they didn't feel safe in Santa Monica.

The large homeless population downtown was at the root of the complaint, said city officials and police, who met with airline and hotel representatives in a successful effort to save the deal.

Delta pilots and flight attendants have kept about 30 rooms a night at the Four Points Sheraton on Pico Boulevard for more than two years, with a monthly contract that exceeds \$30,000, hotel officials said.

Hotel bed taxes on the tab generate about \$3,600 a month for the city, which also would have lost untold dollars in sales tax revenue if Delta had pulled out.

Kathy Dodson, executive director of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, said the chamber receives scores of letters each year from tourists and residents upset at the number of homeless people downtown.

Dodson added that homelessness and vagrancy were the overwhelming top concerns in a recent chamber survey of local businesses.

"We know it is effecting them in an extreme manner," she said. "But it's very difficult to quantify."

Mayor Richard Bloom and Michael D'Amodio, the general manager at the Sheraton, said concern over the Delta contract stemmed from two or three flight

See DELTA, page 8

People still want to live in LA

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Los Angeles-Long Beach, Calif. metropolitan area, already the country's most populated, had about 782 people move into the area per day in 2001, the largest growth spurt in a Census Bureau survey released Tuesday.

The survey covered 152 metropolitan areas nationwide, but did not include such fast-growing regions like Washington, D.C., Las Vegas or Phoenix.

Overall, over 285,000 people moved to the Los Angeles-Long Beach area in 2001, or roughly the same number of people who live in big cities like Raleigh, N.C. or St. Paul, Minn. Nearly one-third of those new Southern California residents arrived from abroad.

The Chicago region was second in the growth

See CENSUS, page 8



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HOROSCOPE

Pisces, hop into the weekend



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, May 23, 2003:

You land on your feet this year no matter what goes down, where or when. You have the unusual gift of choosing the right words. That trait could take you down a new path or help you out of messes. You take the lead because of your strong speaking skills. After August, you might choose to buy a home or change your domestic situation in a most positive manner. If single, you are likely to opt to change your status because of someone you have met or will meet shortly. If attached, the two of you will spend many joyous hours together. PISCES stars in your life.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Though you could be quite comfortable with an upbeat and forthright manner, right now you might be wise to assume a lower profile. Share more of your ideas about finances. Help others through discreet suggestions rather than a bold push. Tonight: Take your time.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Keep your goals in mind, and you'll happily head in a new direction. Your feelings and what you want varies. Debate and talk about what you want. Someone close comes forward to share some of his or her ideas. Take a leap of faith. Tonight: Start the weekend with your friends.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Your perspective changes with your willingness to share. Someone lets you know just how strongly he or she feels. You might need time to digest all you hear. Be very careful not to hurt another's feelings. This person could be quite fragile. Tonight: A must appearance.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Somehow, you have a lot to take in, whether you want to or not. Laughter and a positive point of view will take you far. Extremes mark conversations, actions and even thoughts. Let go and relax. You might get better results if you simply allow yourself to relax. Tonight: Try something very different.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Don't push your luck. Someone close shares strong feelings. You might need to rethink your decisions right now. A lot goes on quite quickly. You learn that you don't have as much control as you might wish for. You could be overwhelmed by how much happens so quickly. Tonight: Go along with a loved one's fantasy.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ You might not be sure what works with others. Let others express their needs. Ask questions that encourage this type of dialogue. Let your imagination go; others might be intrigued by what they observe. Think positively. Tonight: Say "yes" to a request.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Ask more often for what you feel is necessary. Your friends mean a lot to you, especially right now. You'll head in a new direction if you feel less of a need to push. A partner has a lot to share; do more listening. A suggestion proves to be valid. Tonight: Togetherness.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You could be a bit surprised by an associate's naughtiness. Help this person direct his or her energy in a better way. Together you might be unstoppable. Your follow-through makes a considerable difference. Lighten up. Tonight: Express your playfulness.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 19)

★★★★★ Go within to find the right answers. A family member has many suggestions; so does a co-worker. Specialize in listening rather than pushing to have something your way. Lose the word "no." Opt for solutions and success. Tonight: How about cozy?

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Think through an answer rather than blurting out the first thing that comes to your mind. Everyone will be happier as a result. A partner knows how to push the right buttons to trigger you. Think through a decision with this person. Let him or her know that he or she counts! Tonight: Out.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ You might get tired of hearing about the almighty dollar, but it seems as if someone close insists on harping on finances. Do your best as others shoot ideas across your bow. Be careful with how you say "no" to others' suggestions. Tonight: Invite some pals out with you.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ You're full of play and liveliness; others cannot help but respond. If you can split from work early, do so. Otherwise your attitude could be contagious and add a lot of get-up-and-go to your office and associates. Let it all hang out, because you will anyway. Tonight: Hop into the weekend.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday
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LOCAL



Harbor patrol officers pull woman from surf

By Daily Press staff

Harbor patrol officers saved a woman's life early Thursday after she ran into the Pacific Ocean and fell incoherent, police said.

At about 3:15 a.m., Santa Monica Police officers on routine patrol, witnessed a disturbance in the 1550 parking lot, just north of the pier.

After talking with a man at the scene, officers learned that his girlfriend was running toward the water in an attempt to hurt herself, police said. Apparently, the couple

had been drinking.

Officers watched the woman run about 40 feet across the beach and disappear over the berm.

SMPD officers flagged down Harbor Patrol Officers Tom Brierley and Donald Davis, who jumped into the water. They found the woman lying face down and being washed over by the surf. She was pulled to safety and suffered from possible hypothermia. The water temperature was 59 degrees.

She was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

May 25 parade honors people who serve the nation

By Daily Press staff

A parade is planned in Brentwood this weekend to celebrate America's heroes.

The May 25 "Celebrating Our Heroes" was created to honor and acknowledge those whose lives are dedicated to serving the nation such as military personnel, firefighters, police, teachers and community leaders.

The parade starts at 10 a.m. at Bringham and San Vicente Boulevard and continues west on San Vicente Boulevard to Bundy Drive, ending by 11 a.m.

The parade includes marching bands, Japanese drums, fire department brigades and mounted patrols.

The parade immediately follows the Brentwood 5K/10K Run and ends in time for the Brentwood Greens Festival.

Streetball championships come to Venice

By Daily Press Staff

Famous names in streetball basketball are bringing local all-star teams to compete in the 11th Annual Hoops by the Beach Streetball Invitational at Venice Beach over Memorial Day Weekend.

The players, called the Godfathers of Streetball, also are being honored for their contribution to basketball.

The three-day round robin tournament will happen on May 24-25 from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and on May 26 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Venice Beach basketball courts at Windward Avenue and Oceanfront Walk.

Audience giveaways, special guests and dunk contests will take place throughout the weekend.

SMC graduates a new kind of student

By Daily Press staff

Responding to an enormous need for pre-school teachers and paraprofessionals with specialized skills in working with children with disabilities, Santa Monica College will graduate in June its first class of students from a new program that provides such specialization.

Graduation ceremonies will be held June 17 at SMC, which is just one of six community colleges statewide to offer the training.

Twenty students will receive special certificates, along with their Associate of



Get some waves in before the wind returns.

There's a little bump in the water that is sending us waves from the NW at about the waist-high level, at best. There are also some minor SW pulses, but it's too weak to notice at most breaks.

Bad news: The winds will start howling again by this weekend.

Good news: NW swell is building.

Outlook: Expect a steady SW swell this weekend and a better SW early next week.

Today the water is:

58°

Sunrise: 6:00 a.m.
Sunset: 7:58 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	5:10	-1.6	4:21	1.9	11:42	3.9	10:39	6.6
SUNDAY	6:04	-1.5	5:07	2.3	(12:48)	3.6	11:26	6.2
MONDAY	7:02	-1.2	6:02	2.7	N/A	N/A	2:05	3.5
TUESDAY	8:07	-0.8	7:22	3.0	12:19	5.6	3:30	3.6
WEDNESDAY	9:15	-0.4	9:13	3.0	1:23	5.0	4:46	3.8
THURSDAY	10:20	-0.1	10:57	2.6	2:43	4.5	5:40	4.1
FRIDAY	11:16	0.2	N/A	N/A	4:12	4.1	6:20	4.5

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Arts degrees, that will give them entry into one of the fastest growing occupations in California.

The students have been trained to work with children with disabilities at public and private schools, at child care centers, with families and at a wide range of early childhood education facilities. The children's disabilities include a variety of developmental challenges, including physical, emotional, behavioral and learning disabilities.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, jobs for these teachers and assistants with the specialized training are expected to grow 50 percent by 2008 in California. Studies indicate the need is especially acute in the Los Angeles area.

The SMC program, which is officially called "early intervention" teacher or "early intervention" assistant, was started in 2002. Students have to take the regular early childhood education curriculum as well as three special education classes, one of which includes 90 hours of internship in an early intervention setting.



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OPINION

LETTERS

Reader questions statement in article

Editor:

In your May 22 article on the recent Pico shootings, your reporter Carolyn Sackariason writes "Tuesday's incident marks the fourth shooting incident in 12 days all within a few blocks of 17th Street, where a fair amount of publicly-funded, low-income housing units are located."

Does Ms. Sackariason have any evidence that the shootings have anything to do with the residents of publicly-funded low-income housing in the area? If not, her inference represents to me irresponsible journalism, and perhaps reveals a personal bias against the low-income people who live in the publicly-funded housing in the Pico neighborhood. Who is editing her work to make sure she gets it right? Exactly what was her point anyway?

Bob Moncrief
Housing and redevelopment manager
City of Santa Monica

(Editor's note: The information was included in the story because of recent comments by neighborhood residents questioning whether criminal background checks should be conducted for public housing tenants. That information should have been included in the May 22 article. The Daily Press regrets the inference.)

Bush needs to help the small guy

Editor:

If President Bush wants to help businesses hire more people, give employed people more money to spend, and improve the public health and welfare of this country, he should subsidize the cost of employee health insurance for small businesses.

The skyrocketing cost of providing health insurance is the principal reason why many small business cannot hire the employees they need and are laying off employees.

Small businesses try to survive by passing on more and more of their health insurance costs to their employees, which in turn reduces the money the employees have to spend.

Greenspan has handed his banking friends yet another windfall by reducing what they have to pay depositors to almost nothing, while allowing the interest on credit

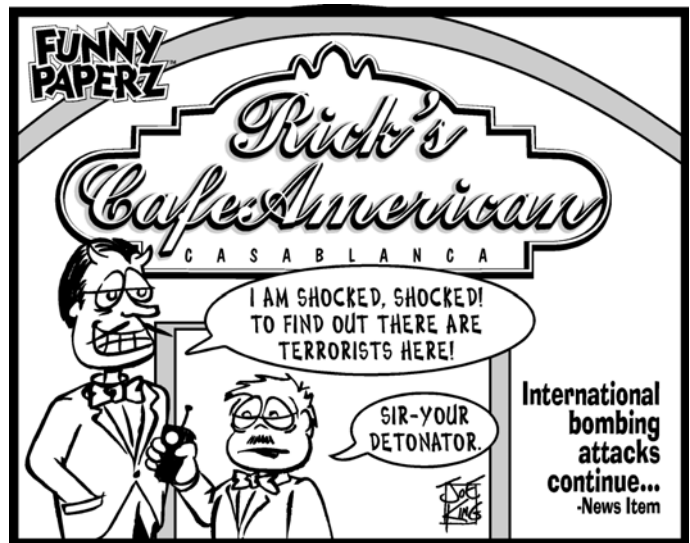
card debt to reach usurious rates that are now up to 29.9 percent a year.

If those with savings got a fair return and those with credit card debt were not being impoverished by usurious interest rates, they would both have more money to spend and that would create jobs.

Steve Forbes, the influential publisher of "Forbes Magazine," for investors, said May 20 on CNBC's Power Lunch that a tax cut on dividends will allow the man with a shovel to buy a bulldozer and increase his productivity.

Unfortunately, the man (or corporation) with that bulldozer will get rich while the

See LETTERS, page 5



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Bayside recommends more alcohol and less public input



**MY
WRITE**
By Bill Bauer

Those promoting the new school parcel tax aren't the only ones dealing lousy poker hands these days. Our friends on the Bayside District Corp. are throwing some punk cards, too.

The Bayside Board considered and approved recommendations for changing and improving the Bayside (downtown) area at its April 24 meeting.

One set of recommendations came from the Bayside Task Force, whose August members included Council members Mike Feinstein (liaison to Bayside), Pam O'Connor and Herb Katz. Planning Commissioner Jay Johnson is on the task force, along with a couple of downtown property owners and a past and a present Bayside director.

Now, I don't want to get off on a tangent here, but has anyone noticed that the Bayside Task Force, like most others including the Downtown Parking Task Force and Civic Center Task Force, is terribly incestuous? We have Council persons falling down to appoint themselves along with Planning Commissioners and

others who are already on related city boards and commissions.

We surely don't want fresh blood. Heaven forbid we appoint someone who isn't already in a decision-making capacity or a close political ally. No wonder we keep getting the same narrow, inbred ideas while the rest of us sit on the sidelines and carp. But I digress.

A second set of recommendations came from Bayside's Land and Assets committee composed of, you guessed it, Bayside directors. The full board reconciled the various inputs and voted to support 15 recommendations for City Council review and action at its June 10 meeting.

Most recommendations have to do with zoning issues and the business mix in the downtown area. One multi-part recommendation is overdue for action.

Improving pedestrian ambiance and lighting, improving cleaning and concierge services on the Promenade and creating adequate public restrooms make sense.

But a recommendation to expand vending carts to the Transit Mall — including food service carts — has the potential to inhibit pedestrian flow and spread Third Street's carnival atmosphere.

There are factions in the city that don't want you and me interfering with development issues. That philosophy is obvious

with some of the other Bayside recommendations.

For example, last year the Bayside board recommended, based on input from the city's Planning Department, that alcohol Conditional Use Permits for new downtown restaurants under 100 seats be administratively approved. ("Administrative Approval" is Planning Department terminology for in-house approvals, bypassing that troublesome and pesky Planning Commission and elimination of public comment). Although that recommendation was scuttled, the Bayside board remains undeterred.

A current recommendation would "allow alcohol serving restaurants to open within the district by administrative approval subject to pre-defined standard conditions; allow modifications and expansion of existing alcohol-service CUPs by administrative approval; CUPs for alcohol-service would be required only when applicant requests modification of standard conditions." No mention of seating limitations, here.

In another recommendation, the Bayside board voted to request an amendment of the city alcohol ordinance to allow more than just Type 41 and Type 47 alcohol permits — on-site service of alcoholic beverages with food.

For example, they want gourmet markets to offer take-out alcohol sales. (All

the downtown drunks should show up at council chambers, en masse, to support that one.) And, they also support on-site alcohol sales in live theater venues, downtown.

The Bayside board supports raising the development review threshold in the Bayside District back to 30,000 square feet. This too is a step in the wrong direction. Just last year, the City Council wisely changed zoning codes to require public review for commercial developments of 7,500 square feet or larger.

The Bayside board also favors removing caps on the number of restaurant uses on the Promenade and replacing them with a district wide cap. Bayside board members support setting a standard of operations similar to a CUP. If a restaurant agrees to that standard of operation, they only need a business license to operate.

Santa Monica has one of the highest number of alcohol licenses per capita in the state. So any curtailment of public input on alcohol CUPs is unacceptable. And, while some of Bayside's recommendations have some merit, others require a lot more thought and study.

But the question is will the public really be heard, or is this all a done deal?

(Bill Bauer is a longtime Santa Monica resident and a freelance writer.)

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

OPINION



LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 4

19 other men with shovels that his bulldozer replaced will have to go on welfare.
At a time of unemployment and falling consumer demand, the money Bush wants to give to the rich should be used to create jobs improving the infrastructure, which is essential to prepare our country for economic growth.

D. Lynn Waldron
Santa Monica

Parcel tax unfair

Editor:

I am writing in opposition to Measure S. I am strongly in favor of good public schools offering the best possible education to the children of California. However, I believe Measure S is grossly unfair and, therefore, should be rejected by the voters of the Santa Monica-Malibu school district.

Here are some of the reasons for my opposition:

1) More than 20 percent of the students of Santa Monica-Malibu schools live outside of the district. Thus, their parents will not be impacted by Measure S and will pay nothing regardless of their incomes. This is unfair.

2) Measure S calls for a flat \$225 per parcel tax. This means that a homeowner of a small bungalow in Santa Monica will pay the exact same amount as the owner of a large shopping center, hotel, or mansion in Malibu. This is unfair.

3) Measure S is unfair to renters in smaller units. If you live in a duplex, the \$225 is split between the two occupants. However, if you live in a 100-unit apartment building, each unit only pays \$2.25 because the \$225 would be split between 100 occupants. This is unfair.

4) If you are a wealthy senior citizen who is a homeowner, you pay nothing because there is an exemption for property owners over age 65. However, if you are a senior citizen renter (regardless of income), you must pay your share of the tax. This is unfair.

5) All children in California deserve the best possible education and this should be a state government responsibility. The children of the inner city or rural districts in our state are just as deserving of a quality education as those living in wealthy areas like the Santa Monica-Malibu School District. Since Measure S only applies to the residents of Santa Monica and Malibu, it only adds more resources to the schools in this district. This will widen the gap between rich school districts and poor ones. This is unfair.

Again, I strongly support quality public schools for all of California's children. However, Measure S is unfair and I encourage all voters in the district to oppose it.

John Cummins
Santa Monica

Schools cry wolf

Editor:

Nice quotes Mrs. Jago, but get real (SMDP, May 22). Prop. S isn't about "saving the schools" or "our kids future." These are the same cries we hear every election for every new school bond issue. Instead of extorting another \$225 from the property owners, let's hold the SMMUSD accountable for its own budget failings and vote NO.

Society didn't turn barbarous and the schools didn't implode after Prop. 13 passed and they won't when Prop. S fails. Maybe they might even have to dismantle the precious music program to make their budget work.

Boo Hoo.

Jeff Bender
Santa Monica

The Q-Line

Resident differ on Fourth of July celebration

This past week, Q-line asked:

"Is it important for Santa Monica to have a Fourth of July celebration? Would you help pay for it?"

Here are your responses:

■ "Personally I am indifferent to a Fourth of July celebration in this city. This city is already horribly overcrowded and it always draws a large majority of the undesired element of which we are already teaming. As far as giving them money, that is the biggest laugh of the year. They have already squandered and mismanaged millions. Witness all the unnecessary street and sidewalk 'repair.' Absolutely unbelievable. Do

they think we are all blind and nuts?"

■ "No, I would not pay a cent for the \$50,000 event that they want for the fireworks. If people want to watch fireworks that bad they can drive to Marina del Rey or Culver City. They should use that \$50,000 for something better than the fireworks. Thirty seconds after they

See Q-LINE, page 6

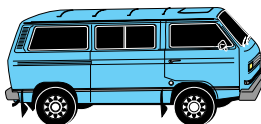
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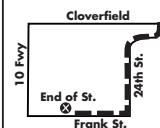
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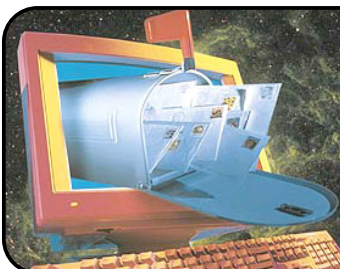
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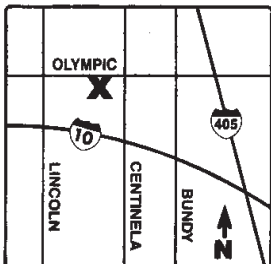
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OPINION

The Q-Line

Q-LINE, from page 5

are up in the air you don't see them anymore. It's a waste of money! I think that the City Council has marbles for brains and they sit on them."

■ "I have been a Santa Monica citizen for 50 years. Once people take over the past duties of the city there is no stopping. Get rid of the three F's — fat, fraud and favors. Then there will be plenty of money for schools and so forth. Next the City Council will be asking the children to bring their piggy banks to school. I'm sure that's next."

■ "Over the years Santa Monica has had the most wonderful fireworks shows and I have never had a problem finding those generous people willing to give money to fund the display. Unfortunately the display was so popular that it created a horrific traffic jam and some anti-social behavior. Viewers filtered into the city slowly. After the display, everyone wanted to leave at once creating a medley of car horns into the late evening. The Santa Monica Police Department did an excellent job of directing traffic but it was not an easy job."

■ "Why is SMC providing fireworks, the performing arts theater, and more programs and opportunities for the community than the city? Answer: Because the city is too incompetent to do these things themselves. We could have prevented this problem if we didn't have SMRR sycophants running the city."

■ "I strongly agree and want to know about fund-raising efforts and how they are underway. I hope you keep printing things in the paper. It is very important to Santa Monica to have a Fourth of July celebration. It's important as a psychological tool to help weave the fabric of our community. Especially after this war, which scarred the psyche of children and all people. It has divided many people and questioned the leadership of this country. We all need to come together and feel connected again because there is a lot of bad feelings."

■ "Absolutely not. I would not contribute a cent to a Fourth of July celebration. In a city where so much money is wasted on needless projects, it's a sad commentary that our citizens are asked to pay for fireworks. A letter to the editor earlier this week by a lady named Jan, hit the nail right on the head when she spoke of all the crap going on in our town. Where the "H" are the council members' heads? Or should I say their hands? A major corporation's pockets? I'd like to believe not but they are no different than our big brothers in government."

■ "For the Santa Monica City Council to first release huge funding to grandly celebrate Cinco De Mayo at the pier and about town, essentially stuffing its and other foreign countries' celebration down our throats. Santa Monica College on regular basis when it puts on any other odd celebration like Cuba Fest and other un-American and essentially single ethnic celebrations in favor of not celebrating OUR most treasured American Independence Day otherwise known as the Fourth of July is a direct insult, a slap in the face to Americans, especially our distinguished war veterans. Would I pay to have the fireworks

celebration at Santa Monica College? I certainly would if the Mexican-American administrators who were there would have the Mexicans and other Latinos who enjoy their exclusive Cinco De Mayo celebrations at the pier and college and odd celebrations like the month-long Cuba Fest. Cinco de May next year? Hell no."

■ "Cast against the Fourth of July fireworks extravaganza. With teachers being laid off and people becoming unemployed, it's sheer folly to spend money on fireworks. That money could be better allocated."

■ "I think it's vitally important that Santa Monica College has the fireworks. I'm telling my daughter one more time that there is going to be another cancellation. It's important for the kids to feel a sense of community. This is one of the few times they can. We are talking about the budget cuts in education, my daughter is about to start SMC. I don't know if I can send her there because of all the restrictions. This is one time that kids should have a good time. Let them have some fun and let them see it's not always about the money."

■ "I think the Santa Monica fireworks are very important to the spirit of the community. I think it would be a shame to cancel them because the president spent too much money going to war. Now nobody has any money at the local level. I would suggest that people maybe contribute 50 cents or \$1 to get in. If you don't have 50 cents for a nice fireworks show, that's pretty pitiful, maybe there is something we can do for them. That would probably raise half the money right there, heck maybe all of it!"

■ "Personally I am indifferent to a Fourth of July celebration in this city. This city is already horribly overcrowded and it always draws a large majority of the undesired element of which we are already teaming. As far as giving them money, that is the biggest laugh of the year. They have already squandered and mismanaged millions. Witness all the unnecessary street and sidewalk 'repair.' Absolutely unbelievable. Do they think we are all blind and nuts?"

■ "I don't think it's necessary for the City of Santa Monica to acquire more expenses. Everyone can celebrate together in their homes or go to the beach. It is not important for SMC to have fireworks."

■ "The fireworks are pretty but now is a good time to grow up and express patriotism in some way that is not shooting things off into the sky. Especially when the money is so badly needed for other things."

■ "I think it's a nice family affair. I believe it's free as I recall. Charge admission. It's as simple as that."

■ "I believe Santa Monica should pay for the Fourth of July celebration with the fireworks on the beach like they've done every year for the past 40 years. Instead of continuing to beautify the city with islands that you can't drive past and tall flowers that you can't see traffic beyond. I think they should start putting their resources where they could best be used. Like paving the street and making our little Fourth of July celebration."

REAL ESTATE



The low down on rent control in Santa Monica



DAYS ON THE MARKET

By Jodi Summers

What is the real story on rent control in Santa Monica?

We know it began on April 10, 1979, when the citizens of Santa Monica voted to amend the City Charter to establish an elected board that is responsible for rent control issues. The law became null and void on Jan. 1, 1999, when owners were legally able to rent to new tenants for market rates. Anyone who occupied a unit prior to 1999 is still protected by the existing rules of rent control.

Currently, there are between 28,000 or 29,000 rent controlled units in Santa Monica. What exactly are the rules governing these units? Tracy Condon, a spokeswoman for the Santa Monica Rent Control Board can enlighten us with a few questions and answers. This week we talk about physical property. Next week, tenants, rents and the law.

Q: How does the city define a rent-controlled unit?

A: A rent-controlled unit is a unit that was in existence in April of 1979 when rent control was voted in by the voters of Santa Monica. Back then, owners had to register the rent levels that were in effect one year prior to that date. We have retained information about those registered units since that time. We use that information as a template for the rules and regulations regarding that particular unit.

Q: Can you define a rent-controlled building?

A: A building that contains controlled rental units. Probably a building that existed prior to 1979 and those units came under rent control when the voters passed the law. All of those buildings are under rent control. Certain types of buildings can qualify for an exemption.

Q: What other types buildings qualify for rent control exemptions?

A: New construction — anything built after 1979 qualifies for an automatic exemption from rent control. There are removal permits if someone wants to demolish a building and redevelop the property. Those removal permits are granted in different categories. One category provides that an owner will replace

the controlled units they're going to demolish. Then if the zoning had been increased and they can build additional units, those units would be exempt from rent control.

There's also a state law called the Ellis Act which allows the owners to evict the tenants and get out of the rental business entirely. They can either own occupy the building or have non-paying people living there, but they can't rent the units.

Q: What kind of buildings can qualify for an exemption?

A: If they apply through the rent control board, two- and three-unit owner-occupied properties can receive an "Occupied Use" exemption. If the owner moves, this exemption lapses and the property returns under rent control.

Q: Can they sell those units as condos?

A: There used to be the TORCA law — the Tenant Ownership Rights Charter Amendment — that expired in 1996. That amendment allowed owners, with the agreement of the tenants, to convert the buildings to condominiums. There are approximately 3,000 units that went through the process. Currently there are no condo conversion programs in this city.

Q: For many people buying income properties locally, it means high taxes and low rents. Does the city feel this is an adequate incentive to buy and sell property in Santa Monica?

A: The city doesn't have any policy about sales incentives, it's determined by what the market will bare. With vacancy decontrol, owners are able to set rents at market rate when a unit's vacant, and rents are going up significantly. We see ownership changes all the time, so there doesn't seem to be any problems there.

The rent control board has most of the applications and handouts you need.

Santa Monica Rent Control Board
Room 202

City Hall
1685 Main St.
(310) 458-8751

Web site: www.santa-monica.org/rent-control

(Jodi Summers is a real estate agent at Boardwalk Realty. If you have local real estate questions or opinions you'd like to share, e-mail them to Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com or call (310) 309-4219.)

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Delta Airlines lands in Santa Monica hotel

DELTA, from page 1

attendants who were upset about the hundreds of homeless people who gather in front of City Hall on Saturdays for free food given out by church groups.

"The reaction from Delta was a little over the top," said Bloom, who met personally with Delta officials to help save the contract. "They needed to hear the truth about Santa Monica, which is that we're a very safe community."

D'Amodio agrees.

"I think it's kind of a correlation that people inaccurately draw," he said, pointing out that police were never called by Delta workers and crime rates in Santa Monica continue to decline. "There's no crime in being homeless."

After the special meeting with Bloom

and a representative from the Santa Monica Police Department, Delta officials, who had reportedly begun looking at alternative hotel arrangements in the South Bay, agreed to renew their contract with the Sheraton.

"We feel comfortable," said Anthony Black, a Delta spokesman. "We're going to stay there after all."

D'Amodio chalked the change of heart up to the response by the SMPD and Bloom, whose presence opened the eyes of Delta officials.

"Delta is very, very responsive to what their employees are saying," he said. "But the bottom line is the vast majority of their crews love to stay in Santa Monica. It's a great place to have a layover for two or three days."

District serves a healthy lesson to other schools

SALAD BARS, from page 1

Malibu Unified School District, said the salad bars are much-needed lunchtime alternatives to fast food and soda, which is offered at the high schools.

"The young people today are suffering from cancer, heart disease, diabetes, obesity," she said. "We have an obligation to give kids healthy choices and teach them to eat well."

"We're considered the pioneers," Thomas added. "And we want every kid in every school to reap the same benefits as the kids in Santa Monica and Malibu."

Ten school districts from throughout California sent about 80 representatives to the two-day event, which featured a "how-to" salad bar lunch Thursday.

Each of the 10 districts received a \$700,000 "Linking Education, Agriculture and Food" grant from the state and will now work on installing farm-to-school programs of their own.

The salad bars in local schools aren't just about fresh greens. They also offer proteins such as tuna, hard-boiled eggs, diced turkey and grated cheese. And at \$2.50 a tray in local elementary schools and \$3 in middle and high schools, the make-your-own lunches are a hard deal to

"We're considered the pioneers. And we want every kid in every school to reap the same benefits as the kids in Santa Monica and Malibu."

- TRACIE THOMAS
director of food and nutrition services

beat, school officials say.

Most of the grant recipients said on Thursday they are still figuring out how best to use the money. But they said their objective is clear.

"Appreciation of what you eat," said Robert Falero, a science teacher at Orcutt Junior High in Santa Barbara County, adding that an on-site garden could be used to teach lessons in math, science and botany as well as health. "The goal is to get them to own the garden, so they'll appreciate it."

Almost 9.5 million people call this area their home

CENSUS, from page 1

spurt, adding 640 residents per day, followed by New York, Riverside-San Bernardino, Calif. and Atlanta.

Just under 9.5 million people called Los Angeles-Long Beach home, tops in the nation. The New York metro area was next at 9.1 million, while Chicagoland had almost 8.2 million people.

Data come from the American Community Survey, which the Census Bureau is currently testing as an annual replacement for the census "long form" sent out once a decade.

The survey did not cover 30 other metropolitan areas with populations of 250,000 or more which were not part of the test sites.

SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

NEED SOMETHING FUN TO DO? CHECK PAGE 15!

NATIONAL



\$1 trillion in borrowing is chance to score Bush

BY ALAN FRAM
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The timing could not be much better for Democrats: The Republican-led Senate will vote this week on whether to let federal borrowing grow by an unprecedented \$984 billion, even as it considers a costly tax cut that President Bush wants.

The Senate is certain to approve an increase in the debt limit to avert a first-ever government default, probably after beating back every Democratic amendment. Even so, with debate beginning as early as Thursday, Democrats see a chance to argue that Bush has mismanaged the economy and the budget.

Their goal is to draw attention to the huge annual federal deficits that have re-emerged after four straight surpluses under President Clinton. Democrats say the chief culprit is the big tax reductions Bush won in 2001, and the latest tax package will only make matters worse.

"The Bush economic plan has failed," said Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill. "It has failed to revive the economy, and it's driven us deeper into debt."

Republicans say they expect Congress to approve the debt limit increase and the tax cut before leaving at week's end for a weeklong Memorial Day recess. Though this year's deficit is on track to surpass \$300 billion for the first time, Republicans say the public will realize that the GOP has a plan for reviving the languid economy with a dose of fresh tax cuts.

"They'll want to play that political game," Sen. George Allen, R-Va., who

"People think there are extraordinary circumstances that have produced the deficit. In that sense, it has taken away the edge."

— CELINDA LAKE
Democratic consultant

heads his party's effort to elect Republican senators, said of Democrats. "But most Americans see we care about creating job opportunities."

The bill raising the debt limit is needed because the government has reached its current \$6.4 trillion borrowing cap. The Treasury Department says it has run out of room for freeing up cash by shifting funds from various federal accounts, and must have the legal authority to borrow more money by May 28.

On Thursday, Treasury postponed a routine announcement about a securities auction it had planned for next week, citing the debt limit situation.

The proposed \$984 billion increase in the borrowing cap, to \$7.38 trillion, would be the largest ever.

Underlining how rapidly the government's books are deteriorating, Congress boosted the old debt limit by \$450 billion only last year, following several years in which surpluses stabilized and actually shrank the debt slightly.

Despite the mammoth numbers,

Democrats will have a tough time scoring many political points, judging from polls and political professionals. The public is focused on the ailing economy and the threat of terrorism, and is paying scant attention to budget problems.

"People think there are extraordinary circumstances that have produced the deficit. In that sense, it has taken away the edge" of federal red ink as an issue, said Democratic consultant Celinda Lake.

The public is about evenly split on Bush's handling of the economy, a measure that consistently has been far lower than his handling of the campaign against terrorism. Even so, Bush's job approval rating has dropped from 71 percent in April to 62 percent in May, according to an NBC-Wall Street Journal poll released Thursday. His job approval had dipped into the 50s before the war with Iraq, when it spiked back into the low 70s.

Republicans want as little as possible to do with the borrowing spree because it angers many conservatives who form the base of their party.

Accentuating that, the GOP-run House reinstated a rule this year — initiated years ago by Democrats — that makes House approval of an increased debt limit automatic when Congress completes the final version of its annual budget. Thus, the House never had a direct vote this year on boosting borrowing, but has signed off on doing so.

The proposed \$984 billion boost likely would provide enough money to carry the government until late next year. That could let Congress avoid the issue again until after the November 2004 elections, when Bush will seek re-election and the GOP will defend its House and Senate majorities.

Democrats plan an amendment limiting the borrowing increase to about \$350 billion, the same as the 11-year price tag of the tax bill Republicans are pushing through Congress. Democrats hope this would help voters relate the tax bill to federal borrowing, and if successful force lawmakers to address the issue anew this fall, giving Democrats yet another chance to highlight it.

Senate Democrats will toss as many as 12 amendments at the measure, with passage of any forcing a reluctant House to finally vote on the legislation.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said Wednesday that he believes he has the votes to fend off Democratic amendments and keep the bill from returning to the House. He spoke just six weeks after angering House GOP leaders by not telling them about a deal he cut with moderate senators to limit the size of the tax cut bill.

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INTERNATIONAL

Security Council lifts economic sanctions in Iraq

BY EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press Writer

UNITED NATIONS — In a victory for the United States, the U.N. Security Council overwhelmingly approved a resolution Thursday empowering the United States and Britain to govern Iraq and use its oil wealth to rebuild the country.

The resolution passed by a 14-0 vote, with Syria absent. John Negroponte, the U.S. ambassador, said that after more than a decade of being frozen out of the world economy by sanctions against Saddam Hussein's regime, "it is time for the Iraqi people to benefit from their natural resources," a reference to the country's vast oil wealth.

The near unanimous vote was a turnaround from the bitter acrimony that split the council before the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. The resolution represented a compromise that was backed even by France, which still felt it gave the United States too much power in Iraq.

With passage of the resolution, the following steps are expected:

- The flow of oil exports will resume. There are 8 million barrels of Iraqi oil in storage points at the Turkish port of Ceyhan, one of Iraq's two export terminals, that can be sold immediately, diplomats said.

- U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan will appoint a special representative to work with U.S. and British administrators in running Iraq. Speculation for Annan's choice centered on U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Sergio Vieira de Mello of Brazil, who has Washington's support.

- The United States and Britain will take charge of a new Iraqi Development Fund controlling Iraqi oil revenues for use in rebuilding the country. The United Nations and other international bodies will monitor and audit the fund. It will get a \$1 billion deposit, transferred from the U.N. oil-for-food account, as well as frozen Iraqi assets around the world, which are required to be turned over by governments.

- The oil-for-food program will be phased out over the next six months. Annan will review \$10 billion worth of contracts existing under the program to decide whether they are still needed. These contracts, many of them with Russian companies, range from food and medicine to plumbing and sanitation equipment, oil spare parts, and trucks.

- The resolution grants immunity from lawsuits

"I think the resolution gives the international community a legal basis for its activities in Iraq. We will go ahead and do our work."

— KOFI ANNAN
U.N. Secretary-General

involving future oil and natural gas sales until Dec. 31, 2007, to allow Iraq temporary relief from paying its estimated \$400 billion debt and time to restructure the debt.

After two weeks of negotiations over the resolution, the final result left the underlying goal of the United States and its allies intact: Washington and London, as occupying powers, remain firmly in control of Iraq "until an internationally recognized, representative government is established."

In Washington, White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said, "The president is very grateful that the world has come together to lift the sanctions on the long-suffering Iraqi people."

French Ambassador Jean-Marc de la Sabliere noted Thursday that the resolution "is not perfect."

France, Russia and Germany decided to back the resolution even though they wanted the United Nations to have a stronger role.

The resolution "does not go as far as we had hoped," French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin said Wednesday. But, he said, it "opens the road" for a central U.N. role.

"I think the resolution gives the international community a legal basis for its activities in Iraq," Annan told reporters after the vote. "We will go ahead and do our work."

Secretary of State Colin Powell had expressed hope for a unanimous 15-0 vote. Going into Thursday's session, only Syria's vote had been in doubt.

Earlier Thursday, Syrian diplomats asked the council for a few more hours so the leadership in Damascus could take a decision, but "there was insistence to go on with the

vote," said Syria's deputy ambassador, Fayssal Mekdad.

Ahead of the vote, Syria's official media criticized the resolution. The state-run Al-Thawra newspaper said in an editorial that it was intended to "control Iraq's wealth and manage it contrary to the people's will."

In the two weeks since the United States introduced it, the text of the resolution saw more than 90 changes. The changes strengthen the U.N. role in establishing a democratic government and increase the stature of the U.N. special representative, who was given independent authority.

Many council members had complained the resolution set no end to the U.S. and British occupation of Iraq and gave the victorious allies far more power than do international conventions dealing with occupying forces.

Though Washington rejected any time limits, it made a key concession, agreeing to let the Security Council review implementation of the resolution after a year and "consider further steps."

Negroponte and Britain's U.N. Ambassador Jeremy Greenstock said Thursday they would report to the council quarterly. Greenstock said the occupation would last "as short a time as possible."

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Sergey Lavrov said his government was "pleased at the results" of the negotiations.

Hinting at another concession, Greenstock said in a BBC interview late Wednesday that the coalition sees "a role for the U.N. inspectors ... in confirming that Iraq is free of any threat in the area of weapons of mass destruction."

Under previous resolutions, sanctions imposed on Saddam's regime after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990 could not be lifted until U.N. weapons inspectors declare it free of weapons of mass destruction.

Thursday's resolution lifts economic sanctions without certification from inspectors but reaffirms "that Iraq must meet its disarmament obligations" and says the council will discuss the inspectors' mandate later. It gives no time frame.

Washington has so far ruled out the return of U.N. inspectors who before the war searched for Iraqi biological and chemical weapons. U.S. officials criticized those inspectors for not more strongly backing claims that such weapons exist. American teams have been conducting the search since Saddam's fall.

The Bush administration said this week that nuclear inspectors would be allowed to jointly inspect the looted nuclear research center at Tuwaitha.

Palestinian prime minister meets with Hamas leaders

BY IBRAHIM BARZAK
Associated Press Writer

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Hamas leaders told the Palestinian prime minister in a first meeting Thursday that they would consider halting attacks on Israeli civilians if the Israeli military stops hunting suspected Palestinian militants.

Israel has turned down such a proposal in the past.

The military announced it had foiled plans to set up a "bomb school" in the Gaza Strip. Israel's navy intercepted a boat carrying a Hezbollah bomb expert, CD-ROMs with instructions for suicide bombers and rocket detonators. Israel alleged Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had ties to the ship, a claim his advisers denied.

Also Thursday, there were signs that Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon would be meeting separately soon with President Bush, to discuss the "road map," a U.S.-backed peace plan.

Bush is planning to travel to Europe next week, followed by possible stops in the Gulf states of Kuwait and Qatar.

A Palestinian official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Abbas was con-

sidering a U.S. proposal that he meet with Bush in Qatar.

Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom said Sharon might meet with Bush at the end of next week in Europe. Earlier this week, Sharon canceled a meeting with Bush after a wave of Palestinian suicide attacks in Israel. The original meeting was to have taken place Tuesday at the White House.

The United States is trying to gain support for the "road map," a plan that calls for ending violence immediately and setting up a Palestinian state by 2005.

Six Palestinian children, ranging in age from 9 to 14, were wounded by army fire after throwing stones at Israeli tanks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinian doctors said. A 14-year-old boy was in critical condition.

Abbas met with Hamas leaders for 90 minutes Thursday at his office in Gaza City, to persuade them to halt attacks on Israelis.

A spokesman for Hamas, Ismail Hanieh, suggested Hamas is for ready for a limited truce — halting attacks on civilians in Israel, but not Israeli settlers and soldiers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip — if Israel stops military strikes against suspected militants.

"We told him (Abbas) that ... if the

Zionist enemy stopped his aggression ... the Hamas movement might stop its attacks against civilians, which does not include settlers and the occupation army presence in the Palestinian land," Hanieh said.

Israel has rejected such proposals in the past, saying it would not agree to a partial truce and would not halt its hunt for militants unless the Palestinian authority disarmed and arrested them.

In the meeting, Abbas was accompanied by a Cabinet minister from Gaza, Ziad Abu Amr. His security chief, Mohammed Dahlan, who is anathema to many Hamas officials, was at Abbas' office, but did not join the meeting.

The prime minister and the Hamas officials decided to meet again in coming days.

In the first of the road map's three phases, Palestinian security forces would rein in militias that have carried out scores of shootings and bombings in the past 32 months of fighting, while Israel would withdraw from Palestinian towns and freeze construction in Jewish settlements.

The Palestinians have accepted the plan, while Sharon has expressed major reservations, insisting among other things that the Palestinians crack down on militants before Israel makes a move. Sharon

has said he would not give a formal response on the road map until he has discussed his reservations with Bush.

With Egypt's help, Abbas has been trying to persuade Hamas and Islamic Jihad to accept a so-called "hudna," a one-year suspension of attacks. Previous truce talks in Cairo have failed, and Egypt told Palestinian officials this week it would not renew mediation efforts until Israel has accepted the road map.

Sharon told Abbas in their weekend summit that a suspension of attacks was insufficient. Sharon said a mere suspension of violence would allow the militants to regroup and plan more attacks.

Abbas told Sharon, according to minutes of the four-hour meeting viewed by The Associated Press, that "the cease-fire will just be the beginning, it will not be the end."

The Israeli military, meanwhile, said it intercepted a vessel in the Mediterranean, west of its port city of Haifa. Officials said the boat carried 36 CD-ROM disks with instructions on how to assemble bomb belts for suicide bombers. Israel also discovered 25 detonators for rockets and a radio-activation system for remote-control bombs.

DID YOU KNOW?: The first human sex change took place in 1950 when Danish doctor Christian Hamburger operated on New Yorker George Jorgensen, who became Christine Jorgensen.

SPORTS



Cavaliers score LeBron James in NBA draft lottery

BY TOM CANAVAN

AP Sports Writer

SECAUCUS, N.J. — LeBron James won't have to go far to play in the NBA.

The Cleveland Cavaliers scored perhaps the biggest victory in franchise history Thursday night, winning the NBA draft lottery and the right to select James, the 18-year-old high school phenom from nearby Akron.

"We don't know who we are going to pick," Cavaliers owner Gordon Gund quipped. He later held up a Cleveland jersey with James' name embroidered on the back and his No. 23.

"I'm very excited for the fans of Cleveland," said Gund, who smiled broadly after NBA deputy commissioner Russ Granik announced that the Cavs had won the James sweepstakes. "This is a great day for them and for all of that market, for Akron, for Cleveland, all of northeastern Ohio. I'm tremendously excited about it. It's a big day in Cleveland sports."

The Memphis Grizzlies got the second selection for the June 26 draft, but that pick goes to the Detroit Pistons. The Denver Nuggets will pick third.

James is considered by most experts

the kind of rare player who can turn around the fortunes of a franchise.

"I'm staying in Cleveland, and I'm real excited," James said at a news conference, wearing a Nike headband and warmup suit and surrounded by his St. Vincent-St. Mary High School teammates.

The 6-foot-8 swingman, who just signed lucrative multiyear endorsement deals with Nike and Upper Deck trading cards, averaged 30.4 points, 9.7 rebounds, 4.9 assists and 2.9 steals as a senior.

James will try to lead the Cavaliers back to the playoffs for the first time since 1997-98, and he's bound to be a big box-office attraction for a team that tied Denver for the worst record in the league this past season at 17-65.

James didn't want to make any predictions about what he'll be able to do for the Cavs.

"I'm not going to guarantee a championship," James said. "But I will guarantee we'll get better every day. We're going to be a lot better than we were last year."

It was the first time since 1990 that the team with the worst record — in this case a tie for the worst record — won the lottery. New Jersey was the last team, selecting Derrick Coleman with the first pick.

While the Cavaliers won the lottery, the Pistons had to be smiling after winding up with the second overall pick. Detroit, which posted the best record in the Eastern Conference, had the rights to Memphis' first-round pick because of a trade for Otis Thorpe in 1997. The Grizzlies would have kept the pick if it had been No. 1.

When the pick was announced, Jerry West, the Grizzlies' president of basketball operations, seemed to sink a little.

"It would have been like Christmas," West said. "But it's like Christmas and Thanksgiving for them."

Denver, which like Cleveland had 225 chances out of 1,000, slipped to No. 3 in the draft order, despite having the same record as the Cavs.

"Regardless, we're going to get a great player no matter what," Nuggets owner Stan Kroenke said.

Toronto got the fourth pick, and it was followed by Miami, the Los Angeles Clippers, Chicago, Milwaukee, the Knicks, Washington, Golden State, Seattle and Memphis.

Milwaukee, which made the playoffs, got Atlanta's pick at No. 8 because of the trade that sent Glenn Robinson to Atlanta

last August. The Hawks would have kept the pick had they received one of the top three. Memphis got the 13th pick as part of a trade that sent Steve Francis to Houston in 1999.

For all the teams that didn't get the top pick, the good news is that this is one deepest drafts in years.

Carmelo Anthony, who led Syracuse to the national championship this season as a freshman, and Darko Milicic, a left-handed 7-footer from Serbia who turns 18 on June 20, are considered the next-best players available.

However, James is the player everyone has been coveting.

Toronto Raptors superstar Vince Carter said James will face immense pressure.

"Everybody is just speculating on what he could do when he steps on the court, not what he is doing when he is out there," Carter said. "He's stepping into another level. I think he is going to be a great player. I think everybody thinks it, but I think that's what this is all about, his potential."

This is the first time the Cleveland has had the first pick in the draft since 1986, when it took Brad Daugherty.

Annika Sorenstam shoots 1 over in first round of Colonial

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

FORT WORTH, Texas — Annika Sorenstam showed she can play with the men, but she had a disappointing finish to her first-round 71 at the Colonial.

Sorenstam, the first woman in 58 years to play on the PGA Tour, shot 1 over par after she bogeyed her last hole. Her historic tour debut before a cheering gallery included one birdie and two three-putt bogeys.

"I've been nervous all day. Obviously, I'm very happy with the way I played," Sorenstam said. "I'm just glad the day is over. It's a relief now."

Of the 55 others who played morning rounds, 35 shot par or better, ahead of Sorenstam. There were 57 more golfers on the course in the afternoon.

"I'd love to make the cut, but if I play like I did today, it hardly matters," Sorenstam said.

At the 402-yard 9th hole, her last, Sorenstam hit her approach through the green. The ball was resting on the fringe 27 feet from the pin, and she couldn't clean mud off the ball. She then left herself an 8-foot par putt, which slipped past the cup.

Sorenstam was bogey-free until three-putting from more than 60 feet at her 14th hole, the 470-yard No. 5. After her drive hit the right rough and rolled down a hill, she managed to get to the green, but on the opposite side from the cup.

She bounced back with a drive at No. 6 down the middle of the fairway, and another par.

Sorenstam hit 13 of 14 fairways, 14 of 18 greens and averaged 248 yards on her drives. She needed 33 putts.

After years of dreaming and three months of hype, Sorenstam finally got to see how her game holds up against the best in the world. She has likened her task to climbing Mount Everest.

"I haven't reached the top yet, but I feel like I'm on the way," she said.

Sorenstam's round started with a drive 243 yards into the fairway at the 404-yard 10th hole. She then slumped in mock relief and laughed before walking down the fairway. After that, she seemed at ease throughout her round.

Sorenstam's 9-iron approach from 143 yards settled just more than 15 feet from the cup and she two-putted for par. She had pars on 12 of her first 13 holes before missing her first fairway.

Sorenstam's lone birdie came on a 15-foot putt off the back fringe at the 178-yard 13th, her fourth hole.

"She's a machine. She's awesome," said playing partner Aaron Barber. "I've never played with someone over 18 holes who didn't miss a shot."

She played 10 more holes after the birdie before giv-



David J. Phillip/Associated Press

Golfer Annika Sorenstam watches her drive on the 13th hole of the Colonial Country Club in Fort Worth, Texas on Thursday. Sorenstam, of Sweden, became the first woman to compete in a PGA Tour event in 58 years.

ing up that stroke with her bogey at No. 5, the end of a trio of holes known as the "Horrible Horseshoe" because of its length and shape. The two longest par 4s on the course sandwich a par 3 that plays as long as 246 yards.

Her approach at the 400-yard No. 2 was more than 40

feet from the cup. She ran her first putt 5 feet past the hole, but saved par with a tricky comeback.

"She's a heck of a player. Let's face it," said Dan Forsman, whose 4-under 66 was one stroke off the early lead. "With all the media that she's standing up to, that's tremendous. You tip your cap to her and hope she continues it."

When her round started, a crowd of media and fans was stacked 10-12 deep around the No. 10 tee, and the fairway on the 404-yard hole was lined with spectators — many of them women wearing "Go Annika" buttons. Large crowds awaited her at every hole.

"Every hole was like the U.S. Open on Sunday," she said. "I was hoping I would relax and calm down a bit."

The crowd applauded when Sorenstam started the short walk from the clubhouse to the No. 10 tee. After being introduced, she acknowledged the cheering crowd with waves to both sides of the tee before hitting a 3-wood for her drive.

Sorenstam, the No. 1 female player in the world, outdrove playing partners Dean Wilson and Barber, though the two PGA Tour rookies hit their first shots with irons.

After her birdie at No. 13, Sorenstam again hit 6-iron at the other backside par 3, the 188-yard 16th. She hit to five feet, but her birdie chance slid just right of the hole.

When Sorenstam walked up the 18th fairway after her approach shot bounced off a hump by a bunker onto the green, she got the kind of cheering reception usually reserved for players about to win a tournament. But she wasn't even halfway done with her first round.

Rain the previous two days made the course play its full 7,080-yard length, but also made the normally crusty and firm greens more forgiving. There was almost no wind at the course known for breezy conditions.

Las Vegas oddsmakers gave Sorenstam a 500-1 chance of winning, and they were being generous.

The Colonial layout is a longer, tougher course than any she has played in competition. The LPGA's Corning Classic in New York this week is at 6,062-yard course being played as a par 72.

Sorenstam is under more scrutiny than any player since Tiger Woods made his pro debut in the 1996 Greater Milwaukee Open.

And for the first time in years, Sorenstam started a tournament she is not expecting to win. The 32-year-old Swede said she would be "so pleased" to shoot par.

She came close.

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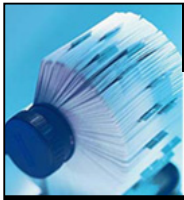
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SANTA MONICA SCENE your guide to dining, entertainment and events

FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2003

EVENTS

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MOVIE GUIDE

LOEWS CINIPLEX BROADWAY
 1441 Third St. at Broadway
The In-Laws (PG-13) 11:30am | 2:00pm | 4:30pm | 7:00pm | 9:30pm | 11:55pm. **A Mighty Wind (PG-13)** 12:45pm | 3:00pm | 5:15pm | 7:30pm | 9:45pm | 12:05am. **X2 X-Men United (PG-13)** 11:45am | 1:15pm | 2:45pm | 4:15pm | 5:45pm | 7:15pm | 8:45pm | 10:15pm | 11:45pm.

MANN CRITERION
 1313 Third St.
The Matrix Reloaded (R) 9:45am | 10:00am | 10:15am | 10:45am | 12:00pm | 12:30pm | 1:00pm | 1:30pm | 2:00pm | 3:30pm | 4:00pm | 4:30pm | 5:00pm | 5:30pm | 7:00pm | 7:30pm | 8:00pm | 8:30pm | 9:00pm | 10:30pm | 11:00pm | 11:30pm | 12:00am. **Anger Management (PG-13)** 11:00am | 4:15pm | 9:40pm. **Confidence (R)** 1:35pm | 7:05pm. **Moulin Rouge (PG-13)** 12:00am. **Pokémon Heroes (G)** 10:05am.

AMC THEATRE SM 7
 1310 Third Street
Bruce Almighty (PG-13) 11:15am | 12:10pm | 1:45pm | 2:40pm | 4:20pm | 5:10pm | 7:00pm | 7:45pm | 9:35pm | 10:20pm. **Daddy Day Care (PG-13)** 11:20am | 1:40pm | 4:10pm | 7:05pm | 9:25pm. **Down With Love (PG-13)** 11:25am | 12:20pm | 2:00pm | 2:50pm | 4:40pm | 5:25pm | 7:20pm | 8:05pm | 9:50pm | 10:35pm. **Identity (R)** 12:00pm | 2:15pm | 5:00pm | 7:30pm | 9:45pm. **The Lizzie McGuire Movie (PG)** 11:50am | 2:05pm | 4:30pm | 7:10pm | 9:30pm.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE
 1514 Wilshire Blvd.
The Dancer Upstairs (R) 1:00pm | 4:00pm | 7:00pm | 10:00pm. **Respiro (PG-13)** 12:15pm | 2:30pm | 4:45pm | 7:30pm | 9:45pm.

LAEMMLE MONICA
 1332 2nd St.
Bend It Like Beckham (PG-13) 12:00pm | 2:35pm | 5:10pm | 7:45pm | 10:20pm. **L'Auberge Espagnole (R)** 1:15pm | 4:05pm | 7:00pm | 9:55pm. **The Shape of Things (R)** 12:50pm | 3:10pm | 5:30pm | 7:50pm | 10:10pm.



BACK PAGE

Almighty Superstar: God's film career turns comic

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — Oh, how the Almighty has fallen — if you consider it a demotion to be brought down to Earth by the movies.

The character of God has become increasingly human and secular in comedies such as "Oh, God!" "Dogma" and the new "Bruce Almighty," suggesting mainstream audiences are more open than ever to wacky, nonreligious versions of The Man Upstairs.

Pious films like 1956's "The Ten Commandments" depicted God in the traditional Biblical style: pillar of fire, booming disembodied voice, glowing sunset. Recent incarnations have been less reverent, and God gets the guy-next-door treatment in "Bruce Almighty."

"We always tried to humanize him in some way. He's probably, you know, just a shaft of light in a doorway," said Jim Carrey, who stars in "Bruce Almighty" as a TV reporter blessed (or cursed) with God's powers after complaining too much about the world.

"I wanted God in this thing to be the guy who's absolutely dignified and has this austere quality and this kind of no-nonsense to him, but at the same time he has a sense of humor, because God made our senses of humor," Carrey added.

Morgan Freeman co-stars as the deity who transfers his omnipotence to Bruce, who uses the power first to lift a woman's skirt and help people win the lottery before eventually realizing he should be more careful.

"We tend to blame God for everything, and what this movie deals with is basically the get-off-your-butt philosophy. Don't ask for all the answers to be given to you," said director Tom Shadyac.

Seeing a wisecracking God on film is a way for modern audiences to identify with the concept of a higher power, said Albert J. Bergesen, co-author of the book "God in the Movies: A Sociological Investigation."

"This is our metaphoric language," said Bergesen, a sociology professor at the University of Arizona. "In a world in which it's considered normal and sincere to be frank and open, people cast God in that image, too."

Bergesen said movie Gods are comparable to trying to understand God centuries ago by describing him as "the King of Kings" or representing him as natural phenomenon — bolts of lightning, or a white dove.

The white-bearded strongman painted by Michelangelo in the "Creation of Adam" mural on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel anthropomorphized God in 1512, shaping the way people from the Judeo-Christian culture have imagined him ever since.

Putting God on film, however, was risky for many years.

In addition to the Second Commandment, which admonishes the creation of graven images, the 1930s Hays Code, a decades-long precursor to the current movie ratings system, set standards forbidding the ridicule of religion and faith.

That limited God's Hollywood career mainly to religious dramas, but some filmmakers found creative ways to indirectly feature the character.

In 1950's "The Next Voice You Hear," starring James Whitmore and former first lady Nancy Reagan (then Nancy Davis), God speaks to the world through radio broadcasts to warn about the dangers of war. The characters hear the voice, but the audience never does.

Years later, movie standards relaxed to the point where it was safe to cast God in human form.

"Oh, God!" in 1977 featured the elderly George Burns as the bespectacled, kindly deity who asks a grocery clerk (John Denver) to be his next prophet.

"Humor suggests to me a form of tolerance, and we want to think that if he/she exists maybe our actions will be seen with the same sort of tolerance," said screenwriter Larry Gelbart, who adapted the "Oh, God!" script from a novel by Avery Corman.

Burns, who died in 1996 at age 100, was the key to selling the character.

"He was modest and restrained, but he gave you the sense that he'd seen it all — in addition to creating it all. He was perfect," he said. "I'm sure if God had cast approval, and in a way I guess he did, George would have sat well with him."

In that movie and "Bruce Almighty," traditional religious iconography is mainly set aside. Movie Gods are usually self-help humanists who don't favor those who worship under the Crucifix, Star of David, the Quran or at the feet of Buddha.

"That doesn't give any one religion any leg up on the truth, and in a pluralistic society pretty much brings religion down to Earth," said Bryan P. Stone, author of "Faith and Film: Theological Themes at

the Cinema."

"There's a downside to that because when religion gets divorced from traditions and communities it begins to lose any real power, socially or publicly," added Stone, a professor at Boston University's School of Theology. "It may make a difference in an individual's life, but it doesn't make any difference in shaping our collective ideas of what's good for human beings or what the common good is."

Still, if a movie gets people talking about God, he said, that's a good thing.

One film that did address a particular religion — writer-director Kevin Smith's "Dogma" — explored Roman Catholicism from the point of view of two disaffected potheads. That film featured disheveled actor Bud Cort as a Skeeball-playing God who later takes the form of singer Alanis Morissette.

The comedy led to an outcry from conservative Catholics angry over the film's profanity, dirty jokes and casting of a female rock star known for raunchy, angry lyrics as God.

"Bruce Almighty" director Shadyac acknowledged that the very idea of featuring God in a comedy is blasphemous to some people, although offending the religious was not his intent.

"To me, it's almost blasphemous to think one could NOT utilize a sense of humor to discuss spiritual or godly issues," he said. "The movie is really not making fun of God. If you look at the dramatic through-line of the movie, it's God making fun of man."

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-Vanity Fair, April 2002



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