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WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2004

Volume 3, Issue 168

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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FANTASY 5

15 33 37 38 39

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 3 5 8

Evening picks: 0 5 3

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 07 Eureka
2nd Place: 02 Lucky Star
3rd Place: 08 Gorgeous George
Race Time: 1:40.67

**NEWS OF
THE WEIRD**
by Chuck Shepard

As usual in the hundred-year-old Easter festival on the Greek isle of Chios, townspeople from two churches in Vrodanos stockpiled small rockets (an estimated 25,000 in all) and fired them at each other's bell on Easter morning while parishioners were inside for services (although the windows had been boarded up in anticipation). As in previous years, misguided rockets started fires in nearby houses, but unlike in some years, there were no deaths.

Several parents walked out of a holiday program by the Glassport (Pa.) Assembly of God when the actors on stage began whipping the Easter bunny and breaking its eggs, which church officials said was an attempt to move past the benign symbols of the holiday and focus on the suffering of Christ. As children in the audience cried at the beatings, actors chanted, "There is no Easter bunny."

**QUOTE OF
THE DAY**

"Pray indeed, but get to work!"
Mexican Proverb

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**CITY HALL:
DOLLARS & SENSE**

A month-long series examining
Santa Monica City Hall finances

Ambulance plan has city fired up

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Officials here estimate that nearly \$1 million can be added to the city's coffers through fees from ambulance services.

The Santa Monica Fire Department has proposed a new deal with an ambulance service that would generate \$875,517 annually to the city general fund. That figure is based on the average of 6,876 patients being transported each year.

Ambulance companies charge patients for services, most of which is paid through medical insurance. However, contractual agreements with City Hall determine how much is paid back to fire departments that respond to medical emergencies.

Because City Hall's contract with American Medical Response expires at the end of June, officials hope to capitalize on a more favorable deal with a new ambulance service. The average cost for an ambulance response is about \$850 under City Hall's contract with American Medical Response. But Gerber Ambulance Service proposes to charge substantially less, said Santa Monica Fire Chief Jim Hone.

"We are projecting that by holding the ambulance company to a certain amount, the average amount to the community should be \$748.16," he said. "So that is an average of \$102 less than what AMR was charging. Gerber is willing to take less

See SMFD, page 6

SMC needs mass class

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC — A year after slashing classes and abandoning a handful of major academic programs, Santa Monica College is now hop-

ing for an influx of thousands of new students.

It needs to add some 7,000 to school rosters this fall in order to qualify for millions of dollars in new money from Sacramento. If recruiters fail to attract the stu-

dents, the amount of money SMC receives from the state may actually decline, officials said Tuesday.

The school has already begun an ambitious campaign to bring back students, most of whom were alienated by deep cuts over the last two years. Counselors are venturing to 53 area high schools to meet with students while the college

establishes a welcome center for the new students.

SMC currently has about 26,000 students. It needs to exceed the enrollment high of 32,000 in 2001 by 3 percent in order to qualify for \$2.2 million in "regrowth" money from the state.

See SMC, page 7

Hula thought? Teacher putting new spin on fitness



BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY — They range from 13 to 84, some fit and nimble, others not so much.

They are students in a local woman's hula hooping class, rolling their hips for 90 minutes at a time in an effort to keep trim, build endurance and show some style.

"A lot of people are nostalgic for hula hooping. It taps into all these childhood memories for them," said Christabel Zamor, who

started the classes a year ago. "These hoops are so amazing that anybody can do them. It's kind of a breakthrough for a lot of people."

Weightier and larger than a traditional hula hoop, Zamor's hoops are coated with friction tape, which helps them stay on students' hips during workout. A final class will be held tonight in a studio at 19th Street and Broadway before Zamor temporarily takes her class to Marina del Rey.

Kathi Fuentevilla, of Van Nuys, a sales administrator for a

medical company, said she was hooked by Zamor's classes and plans to attend again. Two sessions cost \$35.

"First of all, she got us really nice and warmed up — and then she kicked our butts," Fuentevilla said. "We kept those things going pretty much the whole time she was teaching."

"I think everyone should try it at least once."

In addition to being a certified

See HULA, page 6

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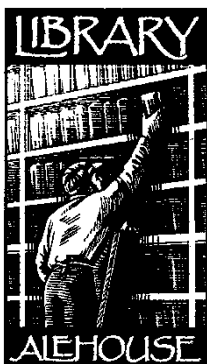
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Aries, jog or walk tonight



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Use the earlier hours to make headway with a creative project. Your ideas delight many. Focus on work or a project midafternoon. You might need to go over certain points in a conversation later on. Don't get uptight. Tonight: Jog or walk, or get some exercise.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You finally gain clarity with a family member or a domestic purchase. You might not act immediately or have the issue totally handled, but you finally relax. Let your ingenuity speak. Others respond, be it at work or in your personal life. Tonight: Add spice to your life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Clear the air this morning or give that certain someone an extra push or compliment. You might think this person already knows, but he or she still needs to hear those special words. This afternoon, close your door or head home to get extra work done. Tonight: Order in.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Stop and buy a card if you are too shy to share your feelings verbally. Everyone needs an extra compliment or affirmation. Communication will flourish later in the afternoon. Make an effort to reveal more. Tonight: Have fun out.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You put 100 percent into whatever you do right now, and you get the net results. Others respect you. In fact, a friend or co-worker might be feeling more than just platonic feelings for you. Be careful. Study your wage-earning potential. What are your talents? Tonight: Think about taking a course.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Once more, you know when to lie back and when to take action. Your ability to step forward at the correct moment hits this afternoon. You have a way of reading between the lines with others. Tonight: As you like it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Keep your goals in mind, even though a problem could distract you considerably. Know what you want and where you are heading. Use the early part of the day for personal activity. Late this afternoon, close your door and get work done! Tonight: A vanishing might be in order.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You take the lead gracefully, but you also have a special person cheering you on. You will see results that please you later in the day. Schedule meetings for late this afternoon if you want success. You'll gain through networking. Tonight: Where are your friends? Join them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You have what it takes to make a difference. Be as understanding as possible with others. Not everyone has the perspective or insight that you do. Try to open doors, not close them. Take a greater role at work. Tonight: Working late? Or playing late?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You might want to discuss an issue on a one-on-one level with a friend or associate this morning. Insight becomes possible as you understand his or her perspective. Do needed research in the afternoon. Find an expert if need be. Tonight: Give your mind a treat.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Others seek you out. Though you might not be ready to make a general announcement, you could be working through a new creative project or relationship. Keeping your own counsel proves to be the right way to go. Tonight: Dinner for two.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Work demands your complete attention. Quit worrying about a domestic or financial matter. Make it your job to make money — OK? Late this afternoon, a meeting provides many options. Network away. Tonight: Out among the crowds.

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1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • www.smdp.com

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com

EDITOR

Carolyn Sackarison sack@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER

John Wood wood@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

Rob Piubeni rob@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Rob Schwenker schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Georgia Chudoba georgia@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II alex@smdp.com

PRODUCTION ARTIST

Rick Reynolds rick@smdp.com

EXECUTIVE TRAFFIC MANAGER

Heather Rich heather@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Mitch Troy mitch@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Kitty Seeger kitty@smdp.com

CIRCULATION MANAGER

Mike Aviles mike@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Keith Wyatt keith@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Glenn Botan glenn@smdp.com

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com

MASCOT

Maya Furukawa maya@smdp.com

LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Rally 'round the olive branch

By Daily Press staff

Peace activists will rally into action in Venice next weekend.

On Sunday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., activists and concerned citizens will band together to share information, music and take action in exploring alternative solutions to conflict resolution.

The group will meet at the corner of Rose Avenue and Ocean Front Walk, then head south to the rally at the pavilion at the end of Windward Avenue.

Elks give nod to students

By Daily Press staff

The local Elks recently honored area students by giving them scholarships.

Elks Lodge #906 honored three local high school students at their annual scholarship awards dinner — Sergio Lopez and Alejandro Aldana of Santa Monica High School and Kate Youngman of Marlboro High School. All three students received checks from the Elks Lodge, with Lopez and Youngman also winning the "Most Valuable Student" scholarship award, which is sponsored by the Elks Foundation. The Elks claim to distribute more scholarships than any other entity in the U.S. other than the government. High School seniors are encouraged to contact their local Elks Lodge for information about the program.

Watching their garden grow

By Daily Press staff

City officials planted new seeds in the community this past weekend.

Santa Monica dignitaries, including Mayor Richard Bloom and officials from both Santa Monica College and the Metropolitan Water District, were on hand Saturday for the grand opening of what's called the "Demonstration Gardens."

The gardens, located at 1718 and 1724 Pearl St., sit side-by-side in two houses owned and occupied by Santa Monica College.

Expanding its environmental relationship with the City of Santa Monica, SMC has become the site of a recently planted water-conservation demonstration garden that will be used as an educational tool for students and city residents alike. The city project features front-yard gardens — a water-efficient or "heritage" garden next to a traditional one located at SMC-owned adjacent houses.

All about the Benjamins

By Daily Press staff

The proposed 2004-05 city budget, totaling \$377 million, is now available online and can also be reviewed at all city library branches and the City Clerk's office at City Hall. The City Council will hold budget study sessions in the Council Chamber today and Thursday, beginning at 6 p.m. The sessions will air live on City TV (Channel 16), and via the Netcast at santa-monica.org. Budget adoption will occur during the regular City Council meeting on June 15, beginning at 5:45 p.m.

City officials want the public to submit comments online as an alternative to addressing the City Council in person. The public also can fax comments to (310) 917-6640; or mail them to Santa Monica City Council, P.O. Box 2200, Santa Monica, CA 90407-2200. Public comments will be published online only with author consent.

Officials say the budget reflects community priorities, revenue enhancements and budget cuts necessitated primarily by uncertainties generated at the state level.

Do you have community news?

Submit news releases

Email to: sack@smdp.com or fax 310.576.9913



Look for a mix of NW wind swell and small SW swell today. For Northern LA that means surf in the knee- to waist-high range at many breaks and some occasional bigger sets at best breaks. South Bay spots see mostly below waist-high surf off the swell mix, while best SW/combo breaks in the north half of the bay see some waist-high sets.

Winds are mostly light early in the morning, but build rather quickly out of the W, reaching the 8-15 knot range by the afternoon.

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

Today the water is:

66°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	6:23	-0.2	4:35	2.8	1:31	3.0	11:12	5.2
SUNDAY	7:12	0.0	5:02	3.0	2:57	3.1	11:51	4.9
MONDAY	8:06	0.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TUESDAY	9:03	0.3	8:26	3.3	12:4	14.5	5:13	3.5
WEDNESDAY	9:57	0.4	10:28	3.0	1:53	4.1	5:36	3.8
THURSDAY	10:45	0.5	11:42	2.3	3:24	3.9	5:56	4.2
FRIDAY	11:28	0.6	N/A	N/A	4:52	3.7	6:19	4.6

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City Hall has been putting a new emphasis on code enforcement in recent months. New pushes for compliance include the regulation of signs in front of businesses and hedge heights around homes. Although both these issues have safety concerns associated with them, they also deal with the beautification of Santa Monica, which is an important issue in a city with a large focus on tourism. But many people are arguing that City Hall is going too far with its code enforcement

and needs to refocus its efforts.

So this week's Q-line question is: **Do you agree with the emphasis City Hall is putting on code enforcement? Why or why not?**

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

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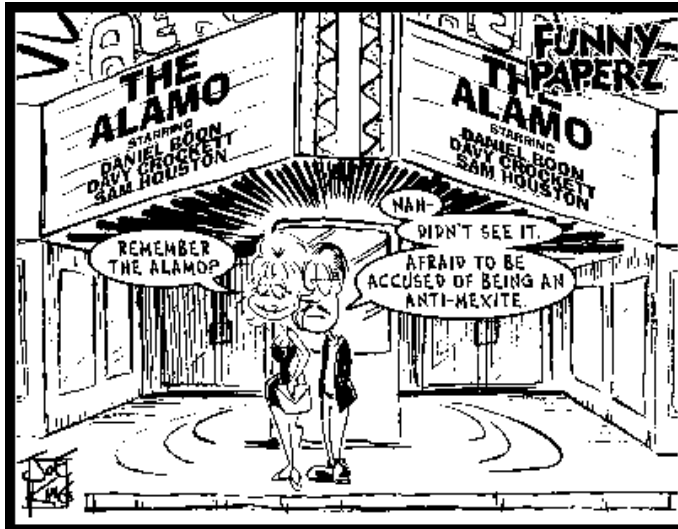
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OPINION



MAY IS NATIONAL CARTOONISTS MONTH!

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From east of Eden, Genser looks good

Editor:

I am in an Internet cafe in Kyoto, Japan. Just read Michael Klein's letter (SMDP, May 24, page 4). I completely agree on Ken Genser's intelligence, hard work, honesty, straight-talk and dedication to the well-being of the city of Santa Monica, all of which are all the more appreciated because they are so rare among most politicians that are driven by ambition rather than public service values. From Michael's message, I gather that Mr. Pisara and Mr. Abernethy (I have not read the SMDP references) have not bothered to note these qualities in their overall evaluation of Ken's contributions to the city.

From Kyoto, many thanks to Ken Genser.

Rodolfo Alvarez
Kyoto, Japan

Preferential treatment

Editor:

A recent letter (SMDP, May 21, page 4) charged that Councilman Ken Genser has not "ever truly listened to anyone's complaints, actually heard anyone's concerns, or ever solved anyone's problem." Poppycock. Mr. Genser was instrumental in getting sensible and demonstrably needed preferential parking restrictions enacted in my neighborhood, and corresponded with me and my neighbors in an effort to learn more about our parking problems and how they might be solved. Indeed, while city staff attempted to make a case for unevenly applying the city's published preferential parking guidelines (and thus to continue to unfairly treat one part of our neighborhood as a parking lot), Mr. Genser championed our cause and convinced the Council to approve reasonable parking restrictions that have improved this neighborhood's quality of life.

The residents of the Ninth Street and Michigan Avenue area are grateful to Mr. Genser for his responsiveness and continued interest in our neighborhood.

Christian Boyce
Santa Monica

Theater of the absurd is unnecessary

Editor:

It's amazing to read about the huge construction project projected to cost \$17 million (SMDP, May 22-23, page 1), so the "actors" can recite Shakespeare to themselves and whomever will listen.

While on the other hand, the constant drumbeat of "get rid of the homeless" beats on in Santa Monica.

I propose this to you: Jim Carrey, Dustin Hoffman, Renzo Zecchetto, Dr. Piedad Robertson, John Carroll Lynch, Valeri Mahaffey, Ava Shamban, Marc Flanagan and whomever else would like to help: Pledge \$1 million a year to house and feed the homeless in Santa Monica. Jim gets 2005. Dustin gets 2006. Renzo gets 2007. Dr. Robertson (if you have the cash) gets 2008. John Carroll, you get 2009. Ava, you get 2010. Marc, you get 2011... and by that time ... the cash will be making money from its own investments. Then, our homeless people in Santa Monica will be taken care of for the many years to come.

Now tell me what's a better legacy? A 540-seat theater or a hot plate of food and a warm bed for a war veteran or a mentally ill person, AKA the homeless?

Ingrid K. Behrens O'Brien
Santa Monica

McCain sticks out like a sore thumb in capital



INCITES

BY ED SILVERSTEIN

There is a bad apple in the Republican Party and his name is Sen. John McCain. That's right, McCain, a man, who you will shortly see, has no business in politics.

Let's start with the fact that McCain has put his own selfish conscience ahead of party politics. You heard right. McCain has taken positions in marked contrast to those dictated by his party's big contributors. He has even engaged in what can only be described as the despicable practice of crafting bipartisan legislation.

What would cause such foolhardy behavior? Apparently, some years ago, he had an epiphany of sorts concerning social responsibility. I know, I know, you thought epiphanies were reserved for ex-alcoholic, ex-drug abusing, ex-playboy politicians like our president, but apparently not. John McCain saw the light.

For example, McCain spit in the face of one of the Republican's biggest contributors, the HMO and health insurance industry, by supporting the Patient's Bill of Rights. His support for strengthening emission controls on cars and trucks was the equivalent of driving a stake into the heart of the auto industry. And his backing of alternative energy research has those crafty oil, gas and coal execs — the same ones that secretly crafted the Bush energy policy — writhing more intensely than a gang of blood sucking vampires exposed to the sun.

McCain also is guilty of conservative sacrilege by promoting increased eligibility of legal immigrants for social programs, wanting extra federal aid to states with higher numbers of immigrants and prohibiting states from passing laws that deny human services to illegal immigrants. He even wants programs to educate criminals in prison. I mean talk about your flip-flopper.

And despite the president's enthusiastic support for a constitutional ban on same sex marriages, the Senator from Arizona didn't cotton to using the 200-year-old Constitution for demagoguery and political gain.

Even more daring, the Senator defied the all-powerful NRA by voting to require criminal background checks at the 4,500 gun shows each year. (Doesn't he realize those NRA guys are armed?) And here's the silly part — he voted for background checks because, get this, he doesn't want criminals and terrorists to be able to buy guns during a time of heightened homeland security. I mean, if doing background checks was really such a good idea would President Bush and Attorney General Ashcroft be opposing it?

Even more bizarre, Sen. McCain doesn't like pork. I mean, who in Washington doesn't like pork? What is he, Kosher? Hey, maybe he's a Muslim. They believe pork is unclean — as if a tax break for Enron, Phillip Morris or the bin Laden family could be unclean.

And what's this deficit reduction crap? Didn't he pay attention to Dick Cheney when he said that deficits don't matter (when you're trying to bankrupt the coun-

try and shift the tax burden to the states?) I mean, even the most dimwitted lobbyist in Washington can see that it's just a subterfuge to save those commie, sorry, social entitlement programs like Medicare and Social Security.

Worse, McCain supports those programs. He has to know that programs like these unfairly benefit the poor who, if they weren't so lazy, would be willing to work part-time at Wal-Mart until they're 90. And how are the Republicans supposed to make up for the millions in lost donations if their efforts to privatize Social Security fail? And let's be fair, aren't those nice juicy tax cuts for the rich far more preferable?

McCain even had the audacity to suggest that it is inappropriate to cut taxes during war. "Where's the sacrifice," he said. I mean, what does John McCain really know about sacrifice? And don't give me any of that, he's a war hero bull. We've heard all about his five years of torture while imprisoned at the Hanai Hilton, yada, yada, yada. I think he's just trying to make "Dubya" feel bad. And let's be brutally honest. You never heard any president say "mission accomplished" during Viet Nam.

But even if you're some bleeding heart liberal that can get behind McCain's pinko agenda, there's one thing that shows that John McCain is totally unsuited for politics. It's his obsession with campaign finance reform. What were he and Feingold thinking? You can't get rid of soft money. It's soft. So it can squeeze into every little nasty crack, slime pocket and scummy loophole. Imagine if you had true campaign finance reform, then what? Anybody could go into politics. And think of the unemployment issue. What other jobs are these corrupted, unprincipled individuals that currently occupy public office qualified for?

And before all you draft McCain Democrats get wet panties, let's keep in mind that the senator is far from a knee jerk. McCain is anti-choice, against federal funding for the arts, against drug treatment programs, wants to increase prison terms for illegal drugs, wants to reduce regulations on business, is pro school vouchers and is a major hawk, including lending support for unilaterally attacking Iraq.

The problem with Sen. John McCain is that he has integrity and principles. And as we all know, there is just no place in Washington for someone like that.

ASIDE: Brandon Mayfield, an Oregon lawyer and Muslim convert, was released from prison and cleared of the charge that he was a material witness to the Spanish terrorist train attacks. Apparently the FBI (oops) screwed up by misidentifying fingerprints found on a bag of detonators. Of course, the FBI could have totally avoided this embarrassment had they fully utilized the Patriot Act to arrest Mayfield as an enemy combatant, held him in a secret location without legal representation or the ability to clear himself. Had they done so, the FBI would, at this very moment, be claiming a blow against terrorism rather than wiping egg off their face. As for Mayfield, well, he would have given his freedom for a good cause.

(Ed Silverstein is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica whose principles and integrity are available on e-bay. You can e-mail your comments to edsincites@aol.com).

OPINION



Arianna huffs: America 'screwed up' democracy



POLITIGIRL

BY BETH SOLOMON

Activist, pundit and former gubernatorial candidate Arianna Huffington flew into this city recently to discuss her new book, "Fanatics & Fools: The Game Plan for Winning Back America." Wondering which category best described Politigirl, I asked her a few questions.

Q. How is Arnold doing as Governor?
A. As (former New York Mayor) Ed Koch said, the people have spoken, now the people must be punished. And trust me, we're being punished. Over \$4 billion in cuts from social services, over 100,000 high school kids who cannot go to college. And why? Because they will not close corporate tax loopholes, they will not do the obvious things that need to be done to level the playing field and bring in the tax revenues that we need.

Q. Do you ever get tired of talking about special interests?

A. No, because I really know how difficult it is to change the status quo. If it were easy, it would be done by now. So all of us working to bring about fundamental reform, if you think of it as a combination lock, it's like moving numbers until we have the whole combination lock open. And we don't know where we are at the present. We don't know how close we are, if there are 10 numbers, maybe we're at number 3, maybe we're at number 9. We really don't know how close we are to changing the system. But everything we do is bringing us closer.

Q. Some people still remember you as a Gingrich Republican.

A. That was 1996. There has to be a statute of limitations. You have to forgive me.

Q. OK, but how can the democratic party defeat George Bush?

A. Even though Howard Dean did not win, his campaign changed the democratic party during the primary, because they basically said it's time to stand up for what we believe and not to do what Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) did on Tim Russert's show when Russert asked him, "if you don't like the Bush tax cut, why don't you offer a bold

alternative?" And Daschle replied, "well you have to take it one step at the same time." I said, "Why? Is this an AA meeting or a political party?"

Q. What's your plan?

A. What the country is hungering for is a bold, moral vision for America that goes beyond what we have seen our politics become really since 1968 when Bobby Kennedy died. What we're asking John Kerry to do is "Go big, ask more."

Q. What does that mean?

A. This is the time, this is historically the moment to run a bold visionary campaign that will reach out to the 50 percent of voters who've given up on voting. As opposed to the swing voter strategy that tries to peel 3 to 4 percent away from George Bush. I mean, does that make sense? Here we have 100 million voters who did not vote in 2000 and we're ignoring them, and instead we're trying to get a few swing voters, the least loyal voters, the ones who are most likely to swing back to Bush if something changes, like finding Osama maybe the week before the election, or getting Iraq off the front pages, even if it continues to be a nightmare. So it's not enough to just play it safe, slice and dice the message, and try not to offend anybody. Because 100 million people not voting in a democracy is frankly a crisis in a democracy. In fact, we Greeks gave you democracy, and you have screwed it up.

Q. So we need a new political language. Can you give us a sample from your new book "Fanatics and Fools?"

A. Sure, how about some trivia? What is the relationship between George Bush's grandmother and Howard Dean's grandmother? **A.** They were briefly married to one another during a drunken weekend in Las Vegas. **B.** Bush's grandmother was a bridesmaid at Dean's grandmother's wedding. **C.** They were both condemned to die at the Salem witch trials.

Q. All of the above?

A. The answer is B. But there is no truth to the rumor that either of them ever made an embarrassing videotape with Paris Hilton's grandmother.

Q. That's a relief. So you're saying, progressives should think bigger, and bold?

A. When your house is on fire, it's not the time to talk about remodeling.

(Beth Solomon is a Washington-based Left Coast writer reachable at bethsolomon@earthlink.net.)

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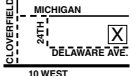
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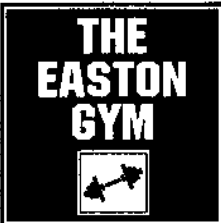
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LOCAL

New emergency funds should net city \$875K

SMFD, from page 1

with a higher level of service."

The Santa Monica City Council was scheduled to discuss the plan Tuesday night and it has to be approved in the 2004-05 budget, which is expected to be adopted in mid-June.

Changes in regulations have allowed cities to recoup more money from EMS services, which many municipalities have taken advantage of in the past few years, Hone said.

And as City Hall attempts to close its \$4 million budget shortfall, officials are looking at as many revenue generators as possible while also slashing expenses.

The contract with Gerber Ambulance Service and the fees it can charge is based on a complex rate system. The plan to recover costs for services currently being provided by SMFD paramedics for response, assessment, treatment or the

transport of a patient, is based on invoicing that's called an "Advanced Life Support Assessment Fee," or ALSAF, as well as a Code-3 response fee. The Code 3 fee covers costs when city paramedics use lights and sirens in responding to a call or transporting a patient, according to city documents.

The ALSAF is based on the current Los Angeles County rates and the difference between what it costs for advanced life support and basic life support, according to city documents. Advanced life support includes oxygen saturation, cardiac support and medications. Basic life support includes functions like bandaging, splinting and CPR.

Currently, the difference between the county-approved advanced life support rate of \$593 and the basic life support fee of \$386.75 is \$206.25. The county's Code 3 response rate is \$90.50.

Fellowship of the rings: Class is taking part in revolutionary workout

HULA, from page 1

hooping instructor, Zamor sells her home-made hula hoops for between \$25 and \$40, depending on what material they're wrapped with. Some are wrapped in vinyl, others in cloth. The more expensive hoops have holographic designs.

Zamor is one of a group of 10 hula hoopers — "The Good Vibe Hoop Troupe" — who met at the Burning Man festival in the Black Rock desert of Nevada. They've performed at numerous shows and events in Los Angeles, including backstage for Cirque du Soleil performers.

"In society today, we don't have a lot of situations where we're encouraged to shake our hips, and dance and celebrate life. I wanted to create a place like that," said Zamor, adding she integrates yoga, freestyle dance, conscious breathing and acrobatic tricks in her "Liquid Hoop Dance" classes.

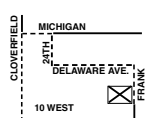
The classes will have an added bonus next month in the Marina, Zamor said. She'll be holding free, 90-minute "Hoop Jams" after each class, where students can

"First of all, she got us really nice and warmed up — and then she kicked our butts. We kept those things going pretty much the whole time she was teaching."

— KATHI FUENTEVELLA
Hula hoop student

practice their newly learned moves to a live DJ. Says Zamor's Web site: "One and a half additional hours of freeform, unstructured hooping to play, socialize, practice and create your own amazing dance style!"

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LOCAL



SMC critics claim class project is 'big gamble'

SMC, from page 1

Failing to meet that plateau will likely mean losing out on some of the \$5.4 million in additional money the college stands to make under Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's budget proposal, which still needs to be approved by legislators. It would also mean a reduction in the base funding for SMC.

In response, officials have launched an intense effort to attract more students. Counselors visiting high schools plan to hold workshops and explain financial aid to prospective students. Free transportation is being offered to students who want to explore the campus and take assessment tests. Enrollment dates have been pushed forward. And the financial aid office will be beefed up so students can get better help, sooner.

"We want to catch them up front, assist them through the process and make sure that they can realize their goals," said Teresita Rodriguez, dean of enrollment services at SMC.

Rodriguez said the effort to attract students has already shown promising results. Applications were up last month by 18 percent over the previous year. For May, SMC had received some 2,000 more applications than last year, with a week remaining.

"The numbers are greater than ever — the greatest we've ever had," Rodriguez said. "In my position, numbers talk. So I'm monitoring the numbers very closely. The early indicators lead us to believe that we are ahead of target. Once enrollment begins ... that's going to be the true indicator."

Because of the difficult economy, Rodriguez said many students may be applying to multiple schools, and there's no way to know now how many will actually

attend SMC. Enrollment for current students begins June 1. New students can enroll beginning June 29.

More important than attracting new dollars to SMC is returning the college to the same level of respectability within the community it once enjoyed, Rodriguez said.

"We realize that students were displaced because of budget cuts this year," Rodriguez said. "While it was a very difficult decision for the college to make, in the long run it was the strategic decision."

"It is far less about the funding than it is about what service we want to be able to provide to the students."

That message was met with skepticism by teachers, most of whom have been at odds with administrators since several academic programs were eliminated last year.

Lantz Simpson, president of the Faculty Association, a teacher union, said recruiters are facing a difficult task, especially considering the thousands of students who leave SMC after each year. Simpson questioned whether administrators ultimately will be able to meet the target.

"They're just playing dice with the future of the college — they're gambling," he said. "Cause if they don't make it back next year, to where they did last year, they go in a downward spiral."

If officials do meet their target, an additional \$6 million or more may be available to spend on part-time teachers, said Tom Donner, executive vice president of

business and administration.

"The big question is will we be able to hire full-time (teachers)," Donner added. "That's what the budget scrutiny will really be about."

Simpson said the teacher union had been told only three full-time teachers would be hired for next year, though 300 to 400 part-timers would be brought on board. He added that those "freeway fliers" are detrimental to students because they're often forced to work three to four part-time positions at various campuses in order to support themselves, meaning they're not as accessible.

Exactly what will become of the budget situation at SMC won't be clear until after legislators approve a final budget. Donner said his most recent estimates calculate a \$112 million general fund for the coming year, up over \$106.5 million in 2001-2002, \$104.6 million in 2002-2003 and \$99 million this year.

But in the realm of community college financing, where reserves are crucial, health care costs unpredictable, and complicated tradeoffs and formulas abound, Donner said there is plenty of room for change. A formal budget will go before the SMC board on June 7.

"What makes it so difficult is to understand that community college funding has so many variables in it," Donner said. "We've got a whole lot of talking to do in a fairly short period of time about where do we adjust these dollars."

Shamey won't seek reelection

By Daily Press staff

SMC — After 12 years on the Santa Monica College board of trustees, Annette Shamey announced Tuesday she won't seek reelection this November.

Candidates will vie for three open seats on the SMC board Nov. 2. Incumbents Graham Pope and Margaret Quiñones are expected to run alongside a host of challengers.

Among the expected challengers is former judge and City Councilman David Finkel, entertainment attorney and political activist Rob Rader, Susan Aminoff, a benefit coordinator for Los Angeles Community College, and Charlie Donaldson, a retired SMC faculty member.

SMC President Dr. Piedad F. Robertson praised Shamey for her dedication and hard work.

"Trustee Shamey has brought intelligence and her unique contributions as a long-time educator to a board of trustees that has provided the leadership to make Santa Monica College the outstanding institution of higher education that it is," Robertson said in a prepared statement.

Shamey was elected to the board in 1992 and reelected in 1996 and 2000. She served twice as chair to the board and twice as vice chair to the board.

An educator, Shamey has held administrative posts and taught at Santa Monica High School, where she was vice principal from 1968 to 1974, SMC and SMC's Emeritus College, for older adults. She has extensive experience in curriculum, supervision and evaluation of instruction on the secondary level. Shamey has received awards as woman and teacher of the year.

Shamey remains active with the Los Angeles Westside chapter of the National Women's Political Caucus, NAACP, the Board of Directors of the Santa Monica Police Activities League, Santa Monica Democratic Club, Malibu Democratic Club, Southern Poverty Law Center and the League of United Latin American Citizens. She is a member of the Association of Community College Trustees and the Community College League of California, and served on the statewide CCLC Advisory Committee for Educational Services from 1995 to 2000, chairing it for one year.

"It has been exciting and gratifying to be a part of the marvelous progression of increased services and educational opportunities for students," Shamey said in a prepared statement. "I am grateful for that, and I thank the voters of Santa Monica and Malibu for giving me the opportunity to serve the community in this way."

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Real Estate

Governor attempts to smooth out housing crunch



DAYS ON THE MARKET

BY JODI SUMMERS

(Editor's note: This is the second installment of a two-part series)

Do you remember back to the real estate boom in the 1980s? Demand allowed thousands of entry-level condominiums and townhomes to be built every year in California, allowing families to build equity through home ownership. Then it stopped.

It stopped "because trial lawyers spawned an avalanche of unwarranted lawsuits against the builders of practically every condo complex built in the 1980s and early 1990s. Virtually no affordable condos have been built for almost a decade," observed San Jose Mercury

News editor Dennis Ryerson.

The popular belief in the California housing industry is that our Governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger can get more growth in existing cities by limiting builders' legal liability for building on former industrial sites and relaxing environmental laws.

"I need the people to help me accomplish my goals on their behalf. So I urge all the people to let their voices be heard," Schwarzenegger has said. "Write and call your legislators and let them know you want action, and you want action now."

"Clearly, there's a need for affordable homes, particularly in high-cost areas where the bulk of the state's jobs are located," affirmed Robert Rivinius, chief executive officer of the California Building Industry Association, a lobbying group. "Housing production continues to climb in affordable areas such as the Inland Empire, Sacramento and Stockton, proving once again that people are willing to continue moving a great distance away from their jobs to achieve the American dream of home ownership."

The California Building Industry Association supports the Governor and his vision of reforming state environmental laws to reduce excessive litigation. And while we're making wish lists, the housing industry has said that they

would like the Governor to encourage higher-density development in existing communities, reduce development fees, and resist urban limits, growth control, and other policies that drive up the cost of housing.

The Governor, who owns a variety of properties in Santa Monica, the Pacific Palisades and Brentwood, received significant campaign contributions from several property-powerful development companies during last year's campaign to recall Gov. Gray Davis. According to Inman news, five of Schwarzenegger's eight biggest contributions came from national builders, including \$344,000 from A.G. Spanos Companies and \$192,000 from William Lyon Homes.

In defiance to the building industry, before leaving office, Davis announced a \$150 million funding package to purchase a 2,960-acre site to preserve it as open space.

"That's an example of taking away over 3,000 housing units," Rivinius observed. "If we had built those 3,000-plus homes, it would have created a move-up environment: Somebody leaves a less expensive home to move there."

"The philosophy of Arnold Schwarzenegger is likely to be compatible with homebuilders in terms of getting hostile policies out of the way," noted Tim Coyle, vice president of governmental affairs for the California Building Industry.

Thus far, the Governor has shown that he may be open to allowing for legal protection to builders who are afraid they

will get sued over cancer cases if they build homes on a former industrial site.

"More regulation is not the answer to poor land-use planning," declared Schwarzenegger's spokeswoman, Karen Hanretty. "We need to invest in existing urban areas and remove current barriers to smart growth."

The Governor also has denounced urban growth boundaries, an imaginary fence around a community beyond which there can be no more development.

Urban growth boundaries have been established throughout Oregon and in 32 California cities.

"Some of the things the governor has signaled — looking at infill development and attached housing — all create an affordable product without being in conflict with environmental rules of preserving open space," said Jon Ross, legislative counsel for the California Mortgage Bankers Association.

Southern California in April, home sales surged to a new high — \$386,000 — according to DataQuick Information Systems. A total of 32,916 homes were sold in Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, Ventura, San Bernardino and Orange counties in April, up 0.8 percent from March's 32,650 and up 7.3 percent from 30,675 for April last year.

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DATE SOLD	SQFT: N/A	LIST PRICE: \$789,000	BED: 3	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 1,472	LIST PRICE: \$525,000	BED: 3	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 0	LIST PRICE: \$1,150,000	BED: 2	
05/20/2004	LOT SIZE: 5,998	SOLD PRICE: \$800,000	BATH: 2	05/17/2004	HOD: \$335	SOLD PRICE: \$550,000	BATH: 3	05/17/2004	HOD: \$293	SOLD PRICE: \$1,150,000	BATH: 2.5	
SOLD	2327 28TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90405	SOLD	201 OCEAN AVE #1208B	SANTA MONICA	90402	SOLD	2721 2ND ST #107	SANTA MONICA	90405	
DATE SOLD	SQFT: N/A	LIST PRICE: \$799,000	BED: 3	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 0	LIST PRICE: \$1,075,000	BED: 2	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 643	LIST PRICE: \$360,000	BED: 1	
05/20/2004	LOT SIZE: 5,998	SOLD PRICE: \$800,000	BATH: 2	05/17/2004	HOD: \$670	SOLD PRICE: \$1,035,000	BATH: 2	05/18/2004	HOD: \$280	SOLD PRICE: \$370,000	BATH: 1	
SOLD	402 10TH ST	SANTA MONICA		SOLD	2950 NEILSON #310	SANTA MONICA	90405	SOLD	1522 16TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90404	
DATE SOLD	SQFT: N/A	LIST PRICE: \$1,950,000	BED: 3	DATE SOLD	SQFT: N/A	LIST PRICE: \$699,000	BED: 2	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 1,642	LIST PRICE: \$945,000	GI: \$0	
05/19/2004	LOT SIZE: 7,500	SOLD PRICE: \$1,887,000	BATH: 1.5	05/18/2004	HOD: \$675	SOLD PRICE: \$690,000	BATH: 2	05/19/2004	LOT SIZE: 7,497	SOLD PRICE: \$940,000	GRM: 0	
SOLD	402 10TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90402	SOLD	2510 4TH ST #C	SANTA MONICA	90405	SOLD	1012 2ND ST	SANTA MONICA	90403	
DATE SOLD	SQFT: 1,759	LIST PRICE: \$1,950,000	BED: 3	DATE SOLD	SQFT: N/A	LIST PRICE: \$699,000	BED: 2	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 0	LIST PRICE: \$1,595,000	GI: \$0	
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SOLD	2514 31ST ST	SANTA MONICA	90405	SOLD	1544 STANFORD ST #7	SANTA MONICA	90404	04-048304	SOLD	1434 24TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90404
DATE SOLD	SQFT: 1,595	LIST PRICE: \$969,000	BED: 2	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 920	LIST PRICE: \$449,000	BED: 2	DATE SOLD	SQFT: N/A	LIST PRICE: \$799,000	GI: \$0	
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SOLD	1625 ASHLAND AVE	SANTA MONICA	90405	SOLD	302 ASHLAND AVE #201	SANTA MONICA	90405	SOLD	3120 COLORADO AVE	SANTA MONICA	90404	
DATE SOLD	SQFT: 1,127	LIST PRICE: \$999,000	BED: 3	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 899	LIST PRICE: \$595,000	BED: 2	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 2,467	LIST PRICE: \$847,500	GI: \$35,628	
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SOLD	621 10TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90402	SOLD	1128 11TH ST #105	SANTA MONICA	90403	SOLD 3116 COLORADO AVE	SANTA MONICA	90404		
DATE SOLD	SQFT: N/A	LIST PRICE: \$2,195,000	BED: 4	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 1,007	LIST PRICE: \$499,000	BED: 2	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 2,467	LIST PRICE: \$847,500	GI: \$32,188	
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SOLD	12 SEAVIEW	SANTA MONICA	90401	SOLD	654 PIER AVE #C	SANTA MONICA	90405	SOLD	2255 30TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90405	
DATE SOLD	SQFT: 0	LIST PRICE: \$1,250,000	BED: 4	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 1,639	LIST PRICE: \$699,000	BED: 2	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 7,288	LIST PRICE: \$2,200,000	GI: \$141,996	
05/17/2004	LOT SIZE: 0	SOLD PRICE: \$1,525,000	BATH: 4	05/20/2004	HOD: \$250	SOLD PRICE: \$785,000	BATH: 2.5	05/20/2004	LOT SIZE: 17,999	SOLD PRICE: \$2,000,000	GRM: 15.49	
SOLD	2254 23RD ST	SANTA MONICA	90405	SOLD	1440 23RD ST #302	SANTA MONICA	90404	SOLD	3401 PEARL ST	SANTA MONICA	90405	
DATE SOLD	SQFT: 1,800	LIST PRICE: \$895,000	BED: 3	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 659	LIST PRICE: \$339,000	BED: 1	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 2,034	LIST PRICE: \$945,000	GI: \$0	
05/17/2004	LOT SIZE: 6,750	SOLD PRICE: \$922,500	BATH: 2	05/19/2004	HOD: \$225	SOLD PRICE: \$368,100	BATH: 1	05/17/2004	LOT SIZE: 6,299	SOLD PRICE: \$949,000	GRM: 0	
SOLD	1102 CEDAR ST	SANTA MONICA	90405	SOLD	1128 11TH ST #208	SANTA MONICA	90403	SOLD	2318 OCEAN PARK BL	SANTA MONICA	90405	
DATE SOLD	SQFT: 1,494	LIST PRICE: \$829,000	BED: 3	DATE SOLD	SQFT: 656	LIST PRICE: \$375,000	BED: 1	DATE SOLD	ACREAGE: 1	LIST PRICE: \$675,000	DOM: 95	
05/17/2004	LOT SIZE: 6,302	SOLD PRICE: \$870,000	BATH: 2	05/18/2004	HOD: \$135	SOLD PRICE: \$432,000	BATH: 1	05/19/2004	LOT SIZE: N/A	SOLD PRICE: \$645,000	FLAT	

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REAL ESTATE



Some stay put despite having new lease on life



IN YOUR SPACE

BY CHRISTINA S. PORTER

In most leases there is a "delay in possession" clause. Landlord and tenants beware: A delay in possession clause provides for the possibility that the landlord cannot deliver the premises on the date specified in the lease to the lessee. A delay in possession could happen for many reasons, a few of which are:

- Delay in the construction of the tenant improvements.

- Strike, earthquake, fire.

- The existing tenant's new space is not ready as planned so they cannot move out.

A tenant forced into a delay in possession could be facing potentially catastrophic consequences. A few of them are:

- A tenant might be forced to "holdover" in their existing space, which could cost them anywhere from 150 percent to 200 percent of the rent they are paying now.

- Some leases don't allow for holding over and if a tenant is forced to stay they will actually be in default.

- Lost business income.

- The cost of storing inventory.

- The payment of additional brokers fees and moving costs to find temporary space.

- Loss of opportunity to Lease other spaces available at the time.

A school I was working with was negotiating for a space. The space was close to what they wanted (after a long and exhausting search). However, there was an existing school that occupied the space and their lease was not up until the day before the school that I was working with had to move in. They were very close to signing the lease but, fortunately, I warned them about the delay in possession clause. The owner would not remove it. Subsequently, they chose to lease another space. If they would have agreed to that lease, the school never would have opened in September and lost their charter. It would have been a complete disaster because the existing tenant did not move out on time.

A delay in possession can be a problem for a landlord as well. Most building owners invest their money in commercial real estate as an investment and know the difficulty involved in securing a quality tenant — not to mention the amount of money and time spent in marketing and brokerage fees to do so. A landlord's inability to hand

over the property on the date promised creates a serious risk of losing that tenant. Unfortunately, there are events that cannot be controlled by either side. Hence, the delay in possession clause.

Although most landlords know the lease they are going to use pretty well, I suggest that both tenants and landlords review the delay in possession clause carefully (as you should with all the terms and conditions of a lease) to see how it will affect the particular transaction, prior to committing to the lease to make sure that if a delay does occur they will be prepared for and be able to mitigate any consequences that arise.

A few things to consider:

If the building is vacant and there are not going to be any tenant improvements performed, or paid for by the landlord, then your chances of a delay in possession from the landlord's side are minimal.

If there is a tenant in the space, it is important to find out when their lease terminates and if they have secured new space. Even if they are supposed to be out a month or two before your lease is supposed to commence, look at the provisions of the delay in possession clause as if they won't be out on time and discuss with your attorney how you might adjust it to fit your needs specifically. The lease I generally work with allows for 60 days of delayed possession at the end of which the tenant is given a 10-day window to provide the landlord written notice of its intention to cancel the lease. Although the lease stipulates that you will not be monetarily obligated during the 70-day period, most people cannot wait that long to start looking for another space.

A landlord should consider the proposed lessee's time constraints and adjust his time frame accordingly, allowing as much "contingency" time as possible to complete any tenant improvements. A good relationship with a dependable contractor to do the work makes a delay in possession less likely. There are many reasons that a landlord prefers to and should do its own tenant improvements but the best way to avoid responsibility for any delay in possession is to give as much responsibility for the tenant improvements to the tenant.

(Christina S. Porter is a vice president at NAI Capital Commercial in West Los Angeles and specializes in the leasing and selling of office and industrial buildings on the westside of Los Angeles and beyond. You can contact her by calling (310) 806-610,4 or e-mail at cporter@naicapital.com.)

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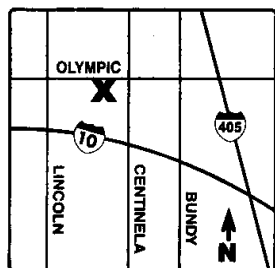
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STATE

Mexican teens picking their spots out in fields

BY MELINDA BURNS

Associated Press Writer

SANTA MARIA — In some ways, Apolinar Ramirez Garcia, who died in a car crash near Sisquoc this month, was a typical 17-year-old boy: He had a way with girls, and he loved to dance.

But most of Apolinar's life as a teenager was not so carefree. At the time of his death on May 4, driving home after a 10-hour day picking lettuce, he had been working full time in the fields of the Santa Maria Valley for three years. He did not attend school.

Apolinar's death brings into sharp relief one of the open secrets of the valley's lucrative strawberry and vegetable operations — child labor. In some ways, farmworkers say, it is nothing new: Underage workers have always labored full time in the fields here. But what's different now, they say, is that more teens than ever seem to be emigrating from Mexico and heading straight for the fields — so many that some of the older workers fear for their own jobs.

"The bosses want young and strong persons, recently arrived here," said Pedro Lopez, who heads the United Mixtec Farmworkers Organization in Santa Maria. "Young people will work faster. And if you're older and you live here, they know you know your rights."

Superior Court Judge Barbara Beck of Santa Maria, who presides over the county's juvenile court, notes an apparent influx of teen immigrants.

"I'm seeing very young kids, 15 and 16 years old, coming into the country," Judge Beck said. "It's getting more prevalent than it was. I don't know what kind of papers they have. They're working in the fields, at car washes and fast food places that don't have the ability to check for IDs."

Many immigrant parents, such as Onofre Ramirez, Apolinar's father, say they depend on their children's wages.

"I would never blame the growers," Ramirez said. "... We poor people have to find a way to get ahead. You never know what the future holds. So you lie to the bosses and you tell them you're 18. It's a necessity of life."

On paper, at least, the rules governing child labor in California are strict. They were enacted to protect children from physical harm and put an end to the cycle of poverty by requiring that children attend school. Yet in practice, state officials say, there is an underground economy in California agriculture that makes it easy to exploit undocumented workers, including children.

Last year, the California Department of Industrial Relations uncovered only 26 violations of child labor law in agriculture, compared with 185 in all other industries.

"It's hard to find minors who are working," said Dean Fryer, a department spokesman. "When we see child labor, we go after it. But it may not be reported. Parents want the kids to work, and they need the money. The work crews move frequently, too. If we get a report on any given day, by the time we get out there they may have moved on."

Compounding the problem, Fryer said, is the shrinking number of investigators who can conduct surprise sweeps in the fields. The department has 57 investigators to cover the whole state, down from 97 in 2001.

Child labor laws apply to all minors under 18 here, including undocumented immigrants. Children under 16 are required to attend school full time. Minors under 18 are allowed to work while school is in session if they have completed seventh grade.

Minors under 18 must have a permit from a school district to work, and employers are required to keep these permits on file. Sixteen- and 17-year-olds who have not finished high school and are working must attend continuation school.

The first violation carries a fine of \$500 for the employer, not the minor, and the fine for each successive violation is \$1,000.

In a sweep of eight Santa Maria Valley fields earlier this month, state investigators discovered one child labor violation — the young worker did not have a permit — and they fined the grower, Ruby Farming Inc., \$500. On the same day, by contrast, two other Santa Maria farms were fined a total \$36,000 for failure to provide workers' compensation insurance for their employees. Growers in the valley's strawberry industry, which grossed \$143 million last year, say they are careful not to violate child labor laws. They say they always ask to see Social Security cards and other IDs.

"There are so many rules involved in hiring people under 18 years of age that we do not hire them, period," said Daren Gee of DB Specialty Farms, a strawberry operation that employs more than 1,000 workers in the valley. State records show that the farm was targeted in this month's sweep, but received no fines.

"Anybody that looks like they're under 18, we don't hire them," Gee said. "We just don't do it. We just made it a flat rule. Everything has to go by the books."

Similarly, a spokesman for Durant Harvesting, a local farm labor contractor, said it was the firm's policy never to hire anyone under 18. And another grower who asked not to be identified said his contractors check two forms of identification for every applicant.

For some immigrant teens in the valley, school is simply not a choice. They started working in Mexico before they were 12, without finishing sixth grade. In Santa Maria, they are supporting themselves and sending money to parents and siblings across the border. Many working teens come from the impoverished Mixtec region of the state of Oaxaca, Mexico.

"I had to stop studying because we had no money," said one 17-year-old Mixtec girl who arrived here a month ago to pick strawberries full time. She said she had been out of school for three years.

During the peak of the strawberry season this month, she is working 10 hours per day and picking about 50 trays. At \$1.50 per tray, that's a daily wage of \$75.

Gloria, another 17-year-old Mixtec farmworker in Santa Maria, said she has never been to school. But she is a fast strawberry picker. She can fill up to 100 trays per day, although last week, she said, with fewer berries on the plant, she was averaging 80 trays.

Gloria, who declined to give her last name, helps support her mother and two younger sisters who attend school in Santa Maria. She has been working in the valley for three years, picking grapes, squash and chilies. Beginning at age 10, she worked in the fields of Sonora, Mexico.

"Strawberries are the hardest because you have to bend over," she said.



WORLD BRIEFLY

Relatives pick up the pieces

By The Associated Press

JIMANI, Dominican Republic — Bodies, tattered clothes and the remnants of houses lay in the streets of a small Dominican farming town after rain-triggered floods swept through it, killing about 100 people and leaving 150 others missing, officials said.

Relatives sloshed through mud in search of loved ones while workers dug for bodies amid the remnants of a neighborhood that was washed away Monday in Jimani, a western town surrounded by sugar cane fields.

Rains drenched the small agricultural town near the Haitian border early Monday, causing the Solie River to burst its banks and sweep away a neighborhood.

The raging water carried victims away, and bodies were found up to 6 miles downstream, said Maximo Noves Espinal, a rescue worker.

Flooding also drenched spots throughout the country and in neighboring Puerto Rico, claiming four lives in other spots.

The weather struck most fiercely in Jimani, located about 110 miles west of the Dominican capital, Santo Domingo.

Israelis fight an uphill battle

By The Associated Press

RAFAH, Gaza Strip — Israeli troops abruptly left this refugee camp without completing a sweep for arms smuggling tunnels, prompting growing criticism in Israel on Tuesday that the military has little to show for a week-long offensive that drew worldwide condemnation.

Palestinian officials estimated Tuesday that about 300 homes were razed in the raid and another 200 rendered uninhabitable by serious damage. Forty-five Palestinians were killed, including at least 17 gunmen and 12 children under 16.

The Israeli military said 56 houses were demolished or damaged.

Israeli Vice Premier Ehud Olmert, meanwhile, said a one-vote majority is emerging in the divided Cabinet in favor of a Gaza withdrawal. The Cabinet is to vote on the plan next week, and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has been struggling to secure a majority. Earlier this month, his Likud Party rejected a Gaza pullout.

Petro-active: Kerry pumps up voters

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry is tapping voter angst over rising gas prices to promote his energy plan during a two-day

swing through the Pacific Northwest.

Kerry was flying Tuesday aboard his new campaign plane to Portland, Ore., where he was visiting a school bus depot to highlight the impact gas prices are having on schools and other segments of society.

"Let's make sure our schools are focused on teaching our children, not heating the classrooms and paying for school bus diesel fuel," Kerry said in remarks prepared for delivery.

Kerry is pointing blame at President Bush in two states that have some of the nation's highest gas prices and that are political battlegrounds in the presidential race. On Wednesday in Seattle, Kerry planned to focus on the national security threat posed by dependence on Middle East oil.

SBC connects with disgruntled workers

By The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Local-phone giant SBC Communications Inc. reached a tentative contract agreement with more than 100,000 union employees early Tuesday, hours after the workers' planned four-day strike came to an end, union and company officials said.

Communications Workers of America leaders say the five-year deal, which is subject to member ratification, improves wages and strengthens job security for the employees it represents in 13 states.

CWA workers walked off the job Friday and picketed at facilities across the nation to put pressure on SBC, but never intended for the strike to go beyond four days. Many returned to work after midnight Tuesday as planned, and the agreement came soon after.

The tentative agreement provided across-the-board base wage increases. On average, employees will receive base wage increases of 2.3 percent per year for five years and lump sums averaging \$300 per year, said SBC officials.

FBI points finger at itself

By The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Offering a rare public apology, the FBI admitted mistakenly linking an American lawyer's fingerprint to one found near the scene of a terrorist bombing in Spain, a blunder that led to his imprisonment for two weeks.

The apology Monday came hours after a judge dismissed the case against Brandon Mayfield, who had been held as a material witness in the Madrid bombings case, which killed 191 people and injured about 2,000 others.

Mayfield, a 37-year-old convert to Islam, sharply criticized the government, calling his time behind bars "humiliating" and "embarrassing" and saying he was targeted because of his faith.

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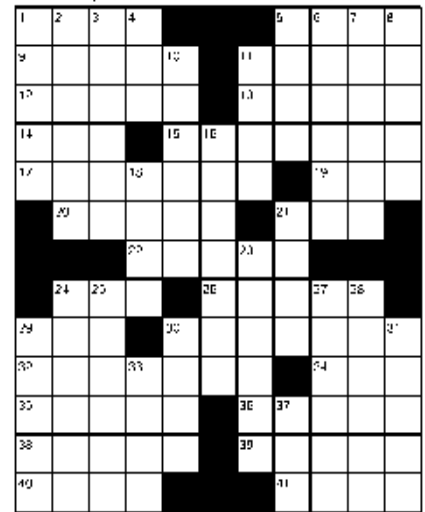
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- 17 Bean container
- 19 Was inactive
- 20 Precipitous
- 21 Jazz composer Evans
- 22 Stage comment
- 24 Chess piece
- 26 Forbidden acts
- 29 Scenery chewer
- 30 Helpless
- 32 Island strings
- 34 Actor Fernando
- 35 Head, in slang
- 36 Humble
- 38 "Golden Boy" playwright
- 39** Speeder's bane
- 40** Decays
- 41** Word
- DOWN**
- 1 Messy places
- 2 Soup servers
- 3 Diner order
- 4 Oolong, for one
- 5 Hammer part
- 6 1999 French Open champ
- 7 Not dressy



Yesterday's answer

- 8 Caught some z's
- 10 Skiing spots
- 11 Toboggan
- 16 Teen star
- 18 College head
- 21 Nice fellow
- 23 Temporary bookmark
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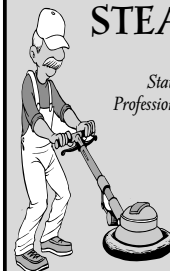
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Wanted

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experience & excellent
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or out. 310-270-6183

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in Santa Monica. Call Steve
310-666-2191

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Transport. 310-713-2478

WANTED: 2BD in Venice-
Santa Monica Area for 2
conscious women &
toddler. No fresh paint!
818-259-1111

For Rent

3RD STREET PROMENADE
Apts. Oceanviews, 1+1, \$1850,
2+2 \$1900-\$2300. W/D in Unit,
fireplaces. 1453 3rd Street.
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1037 5th Street 2+2, Upper
Great condition-\$1875/MO
2 Car tandem prkg, laundry.

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Redone w/everything new.
Maple kitchen, crown moulding,
stove, dishwasher, microwave,
parking 310-450-5476

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12746 Pacific #8 Stove, dish-
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place, balcony, intercom entry,
parking, no pets. 310-578-7512

MAR VISTA 2bd 1.5ba
\$1100/mo Townhouse style,
washer/dryer hook-ups, stove,
patio, intercom entry, gated
parking, No pets 310-967-4471

MAR VISTA VERY BRIGHT
and large 2 bd 2 ba with wrap-
around balcony, two fireplaces,
lots of closets and loft like ceil-
ings. Must see! Modern. 1yr
lease. No pets. \$1595
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MDR ADJACENT 2+2, gated
building with gated,
subterranean parking, AC,
newer building with courtyard
area, quiet neighborhood.
310-466-9256 laundry
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1 year lease, no pets \$1550
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UCLA CENTER FOR HUMAN NUTRITION

*is looking for volunteers for a medically-supervised research study
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*"The effectiveness of a High Protein Meal Prelacement Plan vs. a
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YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE IF YOU ARE:
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Participation will last approximately 1 year (including screening) which includes blood
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and diaries and dietary counseling. Participants will be randomly assigned to follow either
a standard protein meal replacement plan (consisting of 1/2 gram of protein per pound
of lean body mass.) or higher protein meal replacement plan (consisting of 1 gram of pro-
tein per pound of lean body mass) using Herbalife products. All participants will receive
meal replacements at no cost. Participants will be paid up to \$250.

For more information call: (310) 206-8292 Study conducted by Zhaoqing LI, MD

For Rent

MDR PENINSULA, 2bd 2bath.
Completely renovated, new
everything. Hardwood/tile
floors, kitchen, granite counters.
Rooftop deck, ocean view. Two
car parking, large balcony. 1
year, no pets. 310-466-9256
\$2995

MDR PENINSULA. Very large
2bd, 2ba with balcony,
incredible canal view, fireplace,
dishwasher, stove. Block from
beach. 2 car parking, 1 year
lease, no pets. \$1950
310-466-9256

PALMS 2+1 \$1200/mo, stove,
fridge, blinds, laundry, parking,
3633 Keystone Ave. No pets,
310-578-7512

RENT IN Palisades, Spacious
1bd1ba, walk to town or beach!
Perfect for single or couple,
available June 15th, 6/mo
lease \$1450/mo. Call
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SANTA MONICA \$1475/mo.
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1.5BA blinds, carpet, laundry,
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front unit, condo w/garden, 2bd
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SANTA MONICA 1+1, r/s, hard-
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www.westsiderentals.com

SANTA MONICA 2+2-loft Need
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closed garage, fresh paint, water
paid No Pets (818)222-5683.

SANTA MONICA Cottage, 6-
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desirable, \$950
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SANTA MONICA Duplex, 2+1,
pet ok, r/s, patio, hrdwd flrs, yard
parking avail. \$1750
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SANTA MONICA \$2300/mo
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Stove, d/w, blinds, carpet, laundry,
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dem parking. No pets.
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laundry, furnished, quiet area,
gated parking, \$955
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SANTA MONICA, 2+1 r/s, car-
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included, \$1350
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parking incl. \$1200
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SANTA MONICA, r/s, new car-
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parking included \$825
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VENICE BEACH, STUDIO, 1/2
block from beach, new paint,
new carpet and vinyl, very
clean, large closet. 1 year
lease, no pets. \$825
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VENICE DUPLEX 2bd 1.5ba
upper, 2 car parking, W/D
hookups, hardwood floors and
lots of charm. 1year lease, no
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Brand new totally renovated,
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oak floors, rooftop patio with
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and kitchen, gated building and
parking, new landscaping and
common areas.
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single, Ocean view. Large patio,
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ROOM FOR Rent in the heart
of Santa Monica on 17th Street
\$700 310-428-1608

ROOM FOR Rent to female
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small dogs.
MAHZAT@earthlink.net

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Includes utilities, private patio &
parking D.Keasbey
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walk to everything!

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hookups, garage

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Lower 1 bed, new carpet &
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laundry room

**1975 BEVERLY GLEN,
WLA, \$1200**
Near Century City,
upper 1 bed, remodeled
kitchen, parking

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WW, \$1200 & \$1250**
1 bed, hardwood floors,
laundry room, good location

**523 GRAND, VENICE,
\$1750**
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STK#432413
F150 4x2 Supercrew

Net Cost
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All vehicles subject to prior sale plus government fees and taxes, any finances charges, any dealer document preparation charge and any emission testing charge. On approved credit. Ends 05/03/04



2004 VIN#3F4R127064
STK#432635
Ford Focus Zx3 3DR

Net Cost
\$9,995
1 at this cost

* PLUS tax, license, documentation fee. This price includes a \$3,000 rebate from Ford Motor Company. 0% financing in lieu of rebate. Subject to credit approval. Better than average credit needed for 0% financing.

HAVE WE GOT SERVICE DEALS FOR YOU!

**Tire Rotation &
Brake Inspection**
\$19.95

Inspect brake friction material, caliper operation, rotors, drums, hoses and connections. Inspect parking brake for damage and proper operation. Rotate and inspect four tires. Dual-rear-wheel vehicle extra. See Service Advisor for details.

Must mention this ad at time of write up. Taxes extra.
Expires 6/30/04

**4-wheel alignment
& Tire Inspection**
\$69.95

Check and adjust camber and toe. Check tread depth and condition all four tires. Additional parts and labor may be required on some vehicles. See Service Advisor for details.

Must mention this ad at time of write up. Taxes extra.
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**10%
OFF
SERVICE BILL**

Bring this coupon to your Service Advisor and receive the above savings applied to your entire service bill, when it does not include services listed on this ad.

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**Santa Monica Ford
will meet or beat any
OEM tire price**

10% OFF any body repair over \$2500
**10% OFF of parts purchased
from the parts dept.**

**2-wheel alignment
& Tire Inspection**
\$39.95

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**Minor Service
for only \$39.95**

Oil Change & Oil Filter Replacement, Lube Hinges, Latches & Applicable Chassis Parts, Silicone Protection of Window Weather Strips, Check Fluid Levels & Top Off to Factory Specifications, Inspect Cooling System, Hoses & Belts, Check Running Lights for Proper Operation, Check Suspension System, Inspect Exhaust System for Corrosion, Inspect & Rotate Tires, Adjust Pressures, Multi-Point Inspection Report Card

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Excludes diesels & HD "E" & "F" series vehicles/OP code PMinor.
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SANTA MONICA



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