

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

SUPER LOTTO

3 8 17 18 22
Meganumber: 2
Jackpot: \$21 Million

FANTASY 5

3 18 24 32 33

DAILY 3

Daytime: 8 5 7
Evening: 0 6 5

DAILY DERBY

1st: 12 Lucky Charms
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1:43.21

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ The St. Petersburg Times, profiling retired pro basketball player Matt Geiger in February, described his \$13 million, 28,000-square-foot, custom-built suburban mansion (whose 40 satellite-equipped TV sets include 18 wired together so he can play video games with his high school friends) and mentioned his 27 exotic animals that roam the grounds, earning him an unspecified "tax break" (although he told the Times he loves animals and would have them anyway).

■ According to a February Cox News Service dispatch from Mexico City, the government nearly killed its export market for the fabled mezcal, a liquor (similar to tequila) traditionally sold with a worm floating in the bottle. Bureaucrats had recently proposed to ban the worm because of its high fat content, even though as much as 70 percent of mezcal sales are based on the worm (with alleged sexual or hallucinatory powers), but changed their minds.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 146th day of 2005.
There are 219 days left in the year.

On May 26, 1940, the evacuation of Allied troops from Dunkirk, France, began during World War II.

In 1521, Martin Luther was banned by the Edict of Worms because of his religious beliefs and writings.

In 1805, 200 years ago, Napoleon Bonaparte was crowned King of Italy in Milan.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Life is a tragedy full of joy."

BERNARD MALAMUD
AMERICAN AUTHOR (1914-1986)

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OPCC is breaking new ground

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY — A new homeless shelter that started on rocky terrain has broken ground with the hopes of stabilizing thousands of people's lives.

Ocean Park Community Center held a groundbreaking ceremony and reception on Wednesday to celebrate its newest facility, scheduled to open in 2006 at 1751 Cloverfield Blvd., a site which has in the past stirred controversy for area residents and business owners alike who feel their neighborhood has hosted its fair share of city social service projects.

About 100 people — including city officials, dignitaries and OPCC supporters — gathered in the parking lot north of the building's shell to hear about the social service provider's past successes and its hopes for the future at its new location.

Among the speakers were Santa Monica Mayor Pam O'Connor, Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and René Buchanon, a former homeless woman who relied upon OPCC to get off of the streets and forge a self-sufficient life.

One year after Buchanon

See OPCC, page 6



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Mayor Pam O'Connor speaks Wednesday about the future of Ocean Park Community Center at its new facility under construction on Cloverfield Boulevard.

A case of the bends



Andy Petranek, of Petranek Fitness, puts his students to the test as they perform his Cross Fit Workout recently at the Santa Monica Beach.

Fabian Lewkowicz/Special to the Daily Press

It's L.A.'s fault, and it could be deadly

BY ALICIA CHANG

AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES — A major earthquake on a little known fault buried under downtown Los Angeles would cause the most catastrophic disaster in U.S. history, killing thousands of people and

causing billions of dollars in damage, scientists said Wednesday.

Despite the doomsday forecast, the likelihood of the Puente Hills fault generating a large temblor in the next 50 years is slim.

First discovered in 1999, the fault has ruptured at least four times in the last 11,000 years, cre-

ating quakes with estimated magnitudes of 7.2 to 7.5.

If a temblor of similar magnitude were to occur today, it would cause between 3,000 and 18,000 deaths and up to \$250 billion in damage, according to estimates by

See QUAKE, page 7

Council looks for answers in budget sessions

(Editor's note: This is the third article in a series detailing City Hall's proposed budget.)

BY RYAN HYATT

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — As city staff lays out next year's proposed budget, elected officials this week voiced their desires on what the final document should include.

Santa Monica City Councilmembers took turns on Tuesday making inquiries of and suggestions to city staff regarding the proposed budget for fiscal year 2005-06. The City Council is taking part in budget study sessions which began on Tuesday in anticipation of a public hearing on the proposed budget on June 14. The council is expected to formally adopt the budget on June 21.

Twelve City Hall department heads presented their proposed

See COUNCIL QUERIES, page 8

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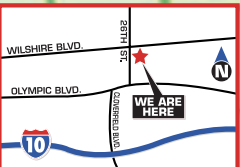
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Santa Monica Daily Press



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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You start quickly, which is good news, because you will need every bit of energy you have to accomplish what you want. You might feel like a veritable freight train, unstoppable by the end of the day. Take some deep breaths. Tonight: In the limelight.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Take a mental stretch and see life from a different perspective. You find that others are distinctly different in their thought processes. Rather than get locked into right and wrong, listen. Others have many suggestions. Work with ideas. Tonight: Try a different approach.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You work well with others. Once more, you have an opportunity to prove just that. Even if others don't agree with you, somehow a successful middle ground can be reached. You'll understand much more if you walk in others' shoes. Tonight: Be easygoing.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You might be well-advised to go along for the ride right now. You aren't going to make a difference until later in the day, when you chill out and others are receptive. An argument turns into a beneficial conversation. Tonight: Get out and get some fresh air.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Plug in to work or a project. You clear out much more than you thought possible. Your ability to zero in on bottom lines separates you from many. Enlist a partner in a project. You'll bond on a much deeper level. Tonight: If you must, bring work home.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Your playfulness comes forward with others. Check out what is happening with others. You might gain another perspective from a child or a loved one. Remember, everyone has a lot to share, though you might not always see matters the same way. Tonight: Take a mid-week romp.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ For now, accept the fact that not everyone is going to agree with you. Use your energy and enthusiasm where they will count. Others will make a difference if you allow yourself to be more open and less rigid. Schedule a walk or some exercise. Tonight: Happy at home.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Take a second look at a developing situation. If you allow your creative juices to flow, you will find many responses and solutions. Tame your words, as you come off a lot stronger than you realize. Tonight: Chat and catch up on another's news.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Handle your finances with decorum and care. You could make an error when you least expect it. You get distracted by a loved one or a domestic matter. Be wise and make no major decisions for now. Tonight: Use your innate talent at price-comparison with a new purchase.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ It might be hard to believe, but you can do no wrong right now. You are full of energy and ideas. You tend to be forceful, and others could feel pushed by your natural style. Encourage others to express themselves and not hold back. Tonight: Choose what makes you happy.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★ Know when to back out of a problem and not get involved. Also, refuse to spend money, as you could go way overboard. You laugh, and others respond. Sometimes you don't want to reveal all you know. Tonight: Do something just for yourself.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You are much stronger than you realize. Sometimes people react negatively. Compensate by giving others opportunity to express their ideas. Success comes through teamwork. Tonight: Be with someone who makes you smile.

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LOCAL



Bullish behavior



Fabian Lewkowicz/Special to the Daily Press
Tyson Chandler, the No. 1 draft pick of the Chicago Bulls, was the special guest at the Santa Monica Kiwanis luncheon at the Santa Monica YMCA on Wednesday. Michael Mayer, Kiwanis president (middle), and Eddie Guerboian, Santa Monica Chamber elect-president, watch Tyson autograph a basketball to be auctioned off for charity.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SMC students win Chinese poetry awards

By Daily Press staff

Students at Santa Monica College have recently shown poetic excellence. SMC students captured three awards in the 13th Annual Chinese Poetry Recitation Contest, held recently at California State University, Los Angeles.

Sarah Jacobus and Shunsuke Ito won first- and second-place awards, respectively, in the category of "Participants With No Chinese Background." Ran Nakayama won third-place honors in the intermediate level of Mandarin. The students are in the second-level Chinese class, taught by SMC Chinese professor Xiaozhou Wu.

Approximately 40 students from four-year universities and two-year colleges competed — including California State University, Los Angeles, University of Southern California, and California State University, Fullerton.

The contest was sponsored by California State University, Los Angeles' Chinese Studies Center and department of modern languages and literature.

Letter carriers make bank deposit

By Daily Press staff

Letter carriers this month have delivered more than mail to the office.

On Saturday, May 14, letter carriers from 14 westside postal stations, including those in Santa Monica, Pacific Palisades, Malibu, Culver City, Venice, Inglewood, Lawndale, and El Segundo, collected more than 100,000 pounds of food during their mail routes on behalf of the Westside Food Bank. Thousands of local residents took part in "Stamp out Hunger Saturday," a nationwide effort sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers and the United States Postal Service, by placing canned and packaged food by their mail boxes.

Westside Food Bank provides nearly 4 million pounds of food annually to 65

See BRIEFS, page 8



SURF REPORT

On Thursday, an ever so small burst of SW is due from an infinitesimal system in the southern hemisphere. Not much is expected out of this, perhaps knee- to waist-high infrequent set waves. NW wind swell is expected to decrease as well, possibly to ankle to knee-high.

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

**Today the
water is:**

62°

	LOW TIDES				HIGH TIDES			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	2:40	0.0	1:54	1.4	8:44	3.8	8:17	5.9
SUNDAY	3:18	-0.6	2:26	1.7	9:33	3.8	8:47	6.3
MONDAY	4:00	-1.0	3:00	1.9	10:23	3.7	9:22	6.5
TUESDAY	4:44	-1.3	3:37	2.1	11:16	3.6	10:02	6.6
WEDNESDAY	5:33	-1.4	4:18	2.3	12:14	3.5	10:46	6.5
THURSDAY	6:25	-1.3	5:08	2.6	1:17	3.4	11:36	6.2
FRIDAY	6:57	-1.0	5:29	2.4	1:42	3.1	12:02	6.0

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The **Q**Line

Santa Monica College is looking for a new president to replace Dr. Piedad Robertson. A search committee has been formed to find the best candidate. Meanwhile, Tom Donner is serving as interim president until the end of this year.

SMC in the past has had a tumultuous relationship with City Hall, with many elected leaders and community members accusing the college of disregarding the fact that the institution is growing at a rapid rate, therefore

negatively affecting residents' quality of life here.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "What qualities should the next president of SMC possess and what issues will he or she need to address?"

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

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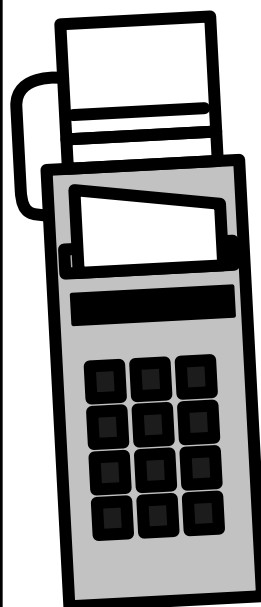
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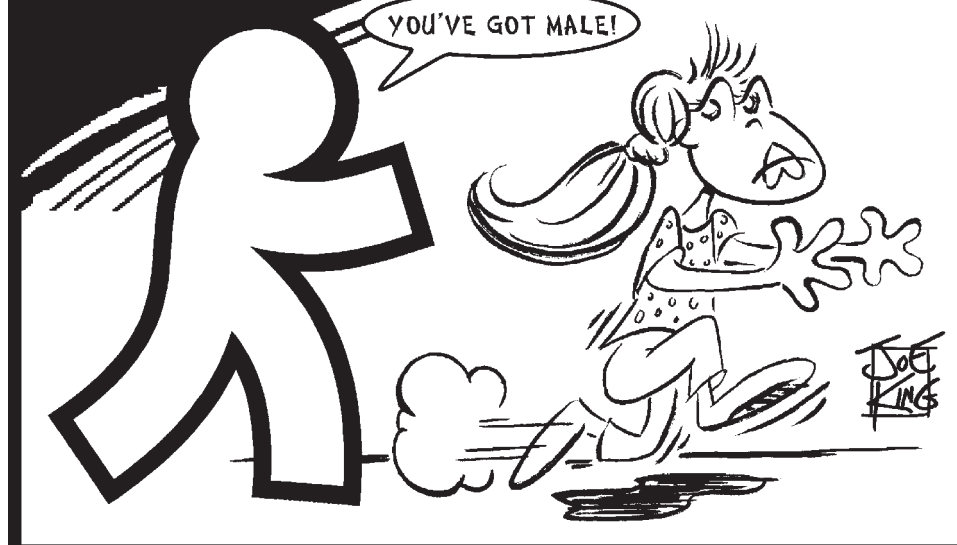
OPINION

**AOL chat room monitor seduces
16 year old girl.**

- News Item

YOU'VE GOT MALE!

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Governmental popularity decreases

Editor:

Finally, according to the latest Wall Street Journal (who probably hated to report it) survey, George W. Bush's overall popularity is plummeting, as well as the support for his Social Security fiasco and his unholy war in Iraq. People over 60 are even more upset than the general populace with his performance, and his Social Security reform. Hopefully, this slow awakening is not too little too late.

According to the same survey, it seems the folks are also not too happy with Congress. I love that whenever the Republicans want their way (and "my way or no way" seems to be their motto), they want to pass laws that change the rules so votes are tipped in their favor, such as wanting to eliminate the filibuster so that they can push GWB's agenda via his judge nominees. Then, of course, they'll want to put the filibuster back in when it suits their agenda. Get real. Get some guts and play fair — of course that may just be too much for these integrity impaired folks to grasp.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica

A right to believe

Editor:

Mr. Pisarra believes that "When we all think, act, and dress the same, breakdown is near" (SMDP, May 10, page 4). I believe he means when we all don't think, act, and dress like Mr. Pisarra, breakdown is near. For according to his thinking, those who believe different are nothing more than irrational thinking men with stupid wives and tow-headed children on a joy-ride down bigotry boulevard. And of course, if you happen to believe in God, and want to incorporate him into your life, you are no more than intolerant, amoral and soulless. I didn't know that a belief in God created a communal touchstone for arrogance, bigotry, intolerance and hatred.

I'm not sure if Mr. Pisarra is addressing his vitriol to people of all faiths or just those who don't follow the same political path as he does. I wonder if one were a "Godless heathen" one would be spared Mr. Pisarra's hatred no matter what one's beliefs were. It is evident to me that the only clearly definable bigot in Mr. Pisarra's letter is Mr. Pisarra. I wonder why the paper would print such an arrogant, hateful, bigoted and ignorant letter.

Jack Allen
Santa Monica

Got news? Lights on but nobody's at home

NEWS ON THE EDGE

BY RON SCOTT SMITH



I digress. Because when I walk inside to begin this latest dispatch the other night, it occurs to me that I can find my way around in here just fine, without a light switched on, and I'm taken by the mystery and the spectacle of it all. No moon is in the sky, the curtains are drawn, so how, and what do I see?

For starters, over there in the brain center that used to be a dining enclave, is the new computer, blinking a bright blue because it's been off for a while, and the new monitor is blinking the exact same blue. They match. Meanwhile, the old computer sports a non-blinking green light while an ominous-looking orange one just above it flashes intermittently, as if to say something's out of whack in there. The new printer displays a steady green pilot, the old printer, the same green only smaller. Both keyboards signal they are ready to be pounded with similar green mini-lights, and the speakers on both sides of the dual monitors emit the green light too, but not the lime-green of the printers, keyboards and speakers. It's a little more forest green.

Then there's the old-school cassette deck that we have plugged into the new computer in order to transfer old-school songs from analog into new-school digital, and to tell you the truth I'm about to flunk out. But the pilot light is blazing a brilliant sort of same-green as the printers, the speakers, the keyboards, and oh yeah — the DSL box. Is that what it's called? Whatever it is, it is truly the king of the mountain as it's got — ready for this? — not one, not two, but five little lights on — all green, all good, all the time.

For all this brainpower here in the brain center, it takes a couple of "gang-boxes," and don't take that the wrong way, that's just what they call the input strips that it takes to feed all this equipment with electricity. We need three of them, each with six inputs as far as I was able to configure it, and they all blast a nice little red light out to say it's flowing — the juice is flowing. The little TV next to the computers tuned to Fox News for inspiration has its own red light on to remind us that it's off until it's on.

The place is aglow.

Over there in the living room, what first catches the eye is the red light of the smoke detector up on the wall, and who

would want to live in 2005 without one? The telephone on the end table of course is fully lit and it might remind you of Christmas with the red light that means it's charging, flowing nicely into the green one on the display window that tells you who you're calling in case you forgot.

At what we call the "entertainment center," under the big TV with the little red pilot sits the VCR with the little red pilot and a built-in digital clock, announcing 10:40 p.m. in that same — what you'd almost have to say by now — standard, hi-tech green. Which reminds me of the digital clock in the bedroom, the alarm one, that shoots that same 10:40 out into the darkness in big, bold red digits — big, bold and red enough to almost keep a human being from getting any decent sleep before the grating audio jolts him awake on any given morning. The cell phone sits next to the alarm clock, and for kicks, you can watch it charging via the blinking red light.

I don't know about you, but that 1994 earthquake spooked me to the point where the day-glow flashlight next to the bed is now a given, and it glows a fairly luminous green so forevermore I will not be caught in a house that's crumbling to the ground, unable to find pants to throw on to die in.

Back out to the front room, and the entertainment center, where we were just getting warmed up. Next to the old-school VCR sits the new-school DVD player with the red pilot on the left that turns to a green one on the right when a disc is inserted. Under that unit sits a dual cassette deck with the green L.E.D. and the stereo receiver with the whole dial lit up, but the best of the brightest is the audio processor that has a luminous message scrolling across its front panel in brilliant red letters, reminding us of what it is.

As if you'd need one, there's a real lamp sitting next to this entertainment center, and it has a fader that controls the amount of light it puts out, and that thing, of all things, has an orange pilot on it so you can find it. Got remote? Turn on that lamp there and you'd see a full seven remote controls sitting here in this room, some of them even lit up. Does anybody actually get up and do anything any more? I guess I don't.

OK, it's time to turn on the real lights and get down to the real business at hand because we don't do science fiction around here, we do Bushamerica, though some might say the truth of that is stranger than fiction.

Now, where were we?

(Ron Scott Smith can be reached at edgeofthewest@aol.com.)

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

PLEASE SEND LETTERS TO:

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COMMENTARY



GUEST COMMENTARY BY ALEX EPSTEIN

Cloning is moral

In a major breakthrough for medical progress, scientists from South Korea have created a highly efficient method for cloning human embryos and extracting stem cells — a feat that makes life-saving embryonic stem-cell treatments that much closer to reality. Instead of taking this thrilling news as an opportunity to celebrate cloning, politicians and intellectuals are once again calling for bans. Some seek to ban all cloning, while others oppose “only” reproductive cloning. Although each group claims the moral high ground, both positions are profoundly immoral. Any attempt to ban human cloning technology should be rejected permanently, because cloning — therapeutic and reproductive—is morally good.

Consider first therapeutic cloning, which opponents perversely condemn as “antilife.” Senator Sam Brownback, who has sponsored a Congressional ban on all cloning, says therapeutic cloning is “creating human life to destroy (it).” President Bush calls it “growing human beings for spare body parts.”

In fact, therapeutic cloning is a highly pro-life technology, since cloned embryos can be used to extract medically potent embryonic stem cells. A cloned embryo is created by inserting the nucleus of a human body cell into a denucleated egg, which is then induced to divide until it reaches the embryo stage. These embryos are not human beings, but microscopic bits of protoplasm the width of a human hair. They have the potential to grow into human beings, but actual human beings are the ones dying for lack of this technology. The embryonic stem cells extracted from a cloned embryo can become any other type of human cell. In the future, they may be used to develop pancreatic cells for curing diabetes, cardiac muscle cells for curing heart disease, brain cells for curing Alzheimer’s — or even entire new organs for transplantation. “There’s not an area of medicine that this technology will not potentially impact,” says Nobel laureate Harold Varmus.

Opponents of therapeutic cloning know all this, but are unmoved. This is because their fundamental objection is not that therapeutic cloning is antilife, but that it entails “playing God”—i.e., remaking nature to serve human purposes. “(Human cloning) would be taking a major step into making man himself simply another one of the man-made things,” says Leon Kass, chairman of the President’s Council on Bioethics. “Human nature becomes merely the last part of nature to succumb to the technological project, which turns all of nature into raw material at human disposal.”

Columnist Armstrong Williams condemns all cloning as “human egotism, or the desire to exert our will over every aspect of our surroundings,” and cautions: “We’re not God.”

The one truth in the anticloning position is that cloning does represent “the desire to exert our will over every aspect of our surroundings.” But such a desire is not immoral — it is a mark of virtue. Using technology to alter nature is a requirement of human life. It is what brought man from the cave to civilization. Where would we be without the men who “exerted their will” over their surroundings and constructed the first hut, cottage, and skyscraper? Every advance in human history is part of “the technological project,” and has made man’s life longer, healthier, and happier. These advances are produced by those who hold the premise that suffering and disease are a curse, not to be humbly accepted as “God’s will,” but to be fought proudly with all the power of man’s rational mind.

The same virtue applies to reproductive cloning — which, despite the ridiculous, horror-movie scenarios conjured up by its opponents, would simply result in time-separated twins just as human as anyone else. Once it becomes safe, reproductive cloning will have legitimate uses for infertile couples and for preventing the transmission of genetic diseases. Even more important, it is significant as an early form of a tremendous value: genetic engineering, which most anticloners object to because as such it entails “playing God” with the genetic makeup of one’s child. At stake with reproductive cloning is not only whether you can conceive a child who shares your genetic makeup, but whether you have the right to improve the genetic makeup of your children: to prevent them from getting genetic diseases, to prolong their lifespan or to improve their physical appearance. You should have such rights just as you have the right to vaccinate your children or to fit them with braces.

The mentalities that denounce cloning and “playing God” have consistently opposed technological progress, especially in medicine. They objected to anesthesia, smallpox inoculations, contraception, heart transplants, in vitro fertilization — on the grounds that these innovations were “unnatural” and contrary to God’s will. To let them cripple biotechnological progress by banning cloning would be a moral abomination.

(Alex Epstein is a junior fellow at the Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine. (<http://www.aynrand.org/>))

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Cloverfield site to be safe haven for homeless

OPCC, from page 1

walked into OPCC's access center on Colorado Avenue and sought help in one of its programs geared specifically for mentally ill women, she was living in her own apartment. This past March, she was hired to work at OPCC, now helping other women get out of messes similar to the one she found herself in just four years prior.

According to Buchanon, OPCC helped empower her by giving her choices and making her feel valued as a person with talents. As a result, she gained enough self-esteem to break the cycle of depression and the resulting homelessness she'd endured off and on since she was 16 years old.

"I am not who I was when I walked into the access center ... I am the person I always wanted to be. I am happy. I am content. I am fulfilled," she told the group. "If anyone had asked me if I had any talents, I would have said 'no.' But I was given an empowering opportunity to help myself."

Yaroslavsky said OPCC should be commended for its work in assisting Santa Monica's unhoused citizens and he hopes that LA County will look to OPCC's programming as an example of how to address the growing epidemic of homelessness permeating the region.

"Clearly, you know what you are doing," he said of OPCC, adding that the organization is a leader in the social service sector. "You do things that nobody else does, and nobody does as well."

A nonprofit organization established in 1963, OPCC has a variety of social service projects operating in Santa Monica, funded in part by taxpayers and private donors.

John Maceri, OPCC's executive director, said the 33,700-square-foot Cloverfield site, which has been abandoned for five years, will permanently house two social service programs that cater to women — entitled Daybreak and Women in New Directions (WIND). A third program, called Safe Haven, will encompass co-ed housing for homeless individuals.

OPCC must move from its current location at 612 Colorado Ave. because the Big Blue Bus, which is housed in the same complex, is expanding. Currently, OPCC pays \$4,100 a month to lease the 8,500-square-foot site. The majority of its services are expected to be out by the summer of next year.

The two housing programs for women will be based on the second floor of the two-story Cloverfield building. The ground floor will house Safe Haven. Each of the programs are geared towards getting the homeless off the streets and into social service plans that will help them become self-sufficient.

Hundreds of residents and a handful of community groups have come out at City Council meetings against the proposed shelter, concerned that more than 200 transients might daily be wandering area neighborhoods, loitering and panhandling. Most of their concerns stemmed from their perception that the new site was going to include OPCC's daytime



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

René Buchanon, a woman who was formerly homeless, speaks on Wednesday about how she became self sufficient with the assistance of OPCC, a local social service agency.

drop-in facility, which provides meals, clothing and other services to the homeless on a daily basis.

However, Maceri said the drop-in daytime service will remain part of a larger cluster of social services managed by the city at the Big Blue Bus site.

Maceri said individuals using the beds available at the Cloverfield site will come on referral from a number of sources, including other service organizations, hospitals, and the police and fire departments.

The Cloverfield site was bought by the city of Santa Monica in 2003 for \$5 million. The city then also donated \$2.4 million for the renovations. The building will be leased to OPCC for 55 years.

The organization's capital campaign, "From Homelessness to Hope," aims to raise \$19.5 million for the construction and operation of the Cloverfield site, as well as OPCC's new access center, to be built at Olympic Boulevard and Fifth Street. That facility will serve as the entry point for homeless individuals seeking help.

DAYBREAK, WIND FOCUS ON WOMEN

The Daybreak shelter has been operating at the Big Blue Bus facility on Colorado Avenue for the last 17 years, Maceri said.

The project's goal is to address the needs of women with mental illness who face homelessness and poverty by providing them with a safe and accepting environment where they can find dignity, support and access to information and resources that can help them stabilize their lives.

The new site will bump the available beds from 15 to 30, providing 15 women on a waiting list with an opportunity to enter the program. The women will be housed in semi-private, cordoned-off cubicles which will include a desk.

Program users will have access to an

outdoor garden, and recreational and meeting rooms that can be used for activities and common living areas. A doctor and nurse will be on site to provide health care once a week.

"The whole goal of these programs are for women to create a community for themselves," Maceri said. "We're trying to help these women build their self-esteem."

Daybreak promotes an arts and crafts business for women, of which the artists keep 70 percent of the revenue, and the remaining 30 percent of the revenue goes toward a fund to help women in the program pay for materials to get started in the business.

Maceri said Women in New Directions is an after-care program for women who have been living in the shelter and making a transition to permanent housing. It has been in existence for six years and will continue to operate at the new location, providing support services.

SAFE HAVEN HEADING TO CLOVERFIELD

According to Maceri, the Safe Haven project opened last July in the access center space of the Big Blue Bus building on Colorado Avenue.

As OPCC's newest co-ed program, it's intended to help chronically homeless individuals who suffer from mental illness or drug and alcohol addiction get back on their feet.

Safe Haven will be moved to the ground floor of the new Cloverfield facility, growing from 10 beds to 25, an increase Maceri said is intended to fulfill the waiting list.

Safe Haven users also will have semi-private, cordoned-off cubicles which include a desk. They will have access to an outdoor garden that will be separated from the two other programs geared strictly for women.



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STATE



Downtown L.A. lies at heart of fault

QUAKE, from page 1

the U.S. Geological Survey and the Southern California Earthquake Center.

The projections are meant to help structural engineers, emergency planners and first responders better understand the potential risks if a Puente Hills quake were to occur, scientists said.

The Jan. 17, 1994, magnitude-6.7 Northridge temblor was one of the most costly natural disasters in U.S. history. The quake was centered in the San Fernando Valley, killed 72 people, injured 9,000 and caused about \$30 billion in damage.

The consequences would be far more damaging during a Puente Hills quake because it would hit the urban core of downtown Los Angeles. Unlike the Northridge quake, which shook mostly wood-frame houses, the Puente Hills fault snakes beneath older and more vulnerable commercial and industrial buildings.

The casualty and damage numbers are based on the quake striking on a weekday afternoon, when most people are at work. The death toll would be reduced and the

damage diminished if the quake struck at night.

"We need to keep this in perspective," said lead researcher Ned Field of the USGS Pasadena office. "That being said, we do live in earthquake country and we need to be prepared."

The Puente Hills fault, which runs about 25 miles from downtown Los Angeles to northern Orange County, is formed by the collision of the Pacific and North American plates. A segment of the fault last ruptured in 1987 with a magnitude-6 temblor.

An average 240,000 people would be left homeless and 120,000 people would be injured if the fault were to break, scientists said. The losses would be most severe in Los Angeles County and in neighboring Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Scientists calculated the losses based on software developed by USGS and the Southern California Earthquake Center and models from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Results appear in the May issue of the journal Earthquake Spectra.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

local social service agencies.

"With local need for food assistance at an all-time high, this year's food collection was crucial," said Bruce Rankin, the food bank's executive director. "We so appreciate everyone who gave food, and we are especially grateful to all the letter carriers who spent extra time and effort lugging it back to their stations."

New SMC complex a 'Gold Nugget'

By Daily Press staff

A golden nugget has been found at Santa Monica College.

SMC's recently completed Athletics-Kinesiology-Dance Office Complex — a \$2 million glass-and-steel building overlooking Corsair Field — has been awarded a "Gold Nugget" for architectural design. Kinesiology and dance professors, as well as the coaches, have praised the building for its spaciousness and airiness.

The award, for exceptional projects in 14 western states and all the countries on the Pacific Ocean, is given for excellence and innovation in addressing complex design and building issues. The competition is sponsored by the Pacific Coast Builders' Conference and Builder, a national housing industry magazine. The office complex was a winner in the "Best Rehab Commercial/Industrial Project" category.

The 7,500-square-foot complex, completed last summer, was designed by Marina del Rey-based Caldwell Architects. The new office complex was built on what had been the east bleachers at Corsair Field above the dance studios in SMC's pavilion. Caldwell Architects has designed several projects for SMC, including the third-floor addition to what is now Drescher Hall and the second-floor addition to the Cayton Associated Students Center.

It features 23 offices, many with views of the Corsair playing field and track and a conference room, dubbed the "Skybox," which overlooks Corsair Field and is sometimes used for VIP receptions at games. The new facility also has the following: a reception area at the north end, a work room with computers, telephones, lunch room, copy room and more.



City Councilmembers voicing their concerns

COUNCIL QUERIES, from page 1

budgets. Discussion among councilmembers ranged from a desire to see better code enforcement, increased parking, better neighborhood transportation and improvements, and a reassurance that some city services will be appropriately staffed.

After transfers and reimbursements from existing accounts, City Hall's budget grew last year by \$12 million to \$433 million in revenues. City officials have attributed the growth as a sign that the economy is recovering.

BREAKWATER AND BREAKING THE CODE

Councilman Ken Genser's primary concerns are the breakwater project, which he feels may be falling by the wayside, and code enforcement, which is not being taken seriously enough.

"I'd hate for us to lose (the breakwater project) with inaction without doing so affirmatively," Genser said about restoring the breakwater just north of the Santa Monica Pier to re-establish a harbor there.

Representatives from City Hall's resource management division said they may be waiting for the Army Corps of Engineers before the project can be completed. Staff said they could come back to the council with more information.

Genser also voiced concerns over a

lack of code enforcement among Santa Monica businesses.

"I think staff has made an attempt to not enforce the laws, because the laws should be easy to enforce, and since they are not (being enforced), I don't know what else to think (staff could be doing)," Genser said.

Genser referred to turnover that occurs among car dealership owners as an example. While signage for those facilities is specific to the city code, he said businesses have been putting out signs beyond the scope of what laws allow.

"Sidewalk signs are back," Genser said. "There is no follow-up. One, I know, is eternally illuminated."

Genser said new business owners who might be unaware of the code requirements could have the effect of engendering some disregard for the law. He said a new owner could come in and put up an illegal sign, prompting other competing businesses to follow suit.

To correct that, Genser said more enforcement is needed, enforcement that should be relatively easy and inexpensive.

"I see these places around town," Genser said. "All it should take is to drive around town and input the information in a computer."

Genser said code violators could be informed by letter and that City Hall

See COUNCIL QUERIES, page 9

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Officials want to see less red throughout city

COUNCIL QUERIES, from page 8

might have to make better attempts to educate the public on what the laws allow.

SEEING TOO MUCH RED

Both Councilman Herb Katz and Genser said they would like to see the red lines — used to prohibit parking along curbs — shortened and standardized to maximize parking citywide.

"I'm not seeing a reduction in the red line to increase parking," Katz told city staff. "Can we get on that? We've been talking about this for years. It's time to get someone out there painting."

Genser also supports the idea of reducing the red.

"It would be a one-time expense to standardize the spaces," Genser said. "It would be a relatively cheap way to get more parking."

Councilman Richard Bloom asked staff to update the council on plans to modernize parking meters so that

motorists are able to pay with stored valued cards instead of coins, a move intended to make parking more convenient.

SHRIVER GETS TECHNICAL ON BUDGET

Councilman Bobby Shriver used Tuesday night's session to ask detailed questions about the numbers presented in the proposed budget.

He asked staff questions about the assessment for Santa Monica Place Mall, which has fluctuated from \$200,000 to \$800,000 in just a few years.

Staff responded that the mall's average assessment was on target, in the range of \$600,000.

MORE BOOKS AND PEOPLE

A report from City Attorney Marsha Moutrie, in which she said the city attorney's office is "doing more work with less people," prompted questions from Councilman Kevin McKeown, who wanted to make sure the city's consumer affairs unit, which handles fair housing

issues, is adequately staffed.

"More workers means we could do more work," McKeown said.

Moutrie said she would return to the council with more information regarding the city attorney's office staffing situation.

McKeown also wanted to be certain the new Main Library — a \$55 million facility to go online toward the end of this year — will be stocked with enough new books when it opens.

"Can we play catch-up and get new books?" McKeown asked.

Staff said part of the library proposed budget's \$1 million increase in funding for next fiscal year has taken into account the need for new books.

McKeown, a proponent for Macintosh-related software, said he would be discussing further with city staff how the new library's 50 computers, based on Windows, might be adapted inexpensively so it could be used with Macintosh.

McKeown would also like to see the Big Blue Bus come up with a plan to serve neighborhoods with a small shuttle bus, for users who had to run local errands.

Pilipino movement



Fabian Lewkowicz/Special to the Daily Press

Beat Bum, a Pilipino breakdance group, perform at the Santa Monica College Pilipino Cultural Festival on Tuesday in the SMC amphitheater.

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Business

SANTA MONICA BUSINESS BRIEFS

Katz building success

By Daily Press staff

City Councilman Herb Katz has been building up Santa Monica for quite a while, and now the American Institute of Architects (AIA) is recognizing his work.



Katz was elected to the AIA's College of Fellows, an honor awarded to members of AIA who have made contributions of national significance to the industry.

There are more than 74,000 members of the AIA and fewer than 2,500 have been distinguished with the honor of fellowship. Katz is a senior principal of the Los Angeles architectural, design and planning firm of RTK Architects.

Katz was one of the designers of the Third Street Promenade, which was completed in 1989. He drove the specific plan movement established the Promenade's design guidelines. The Promenade won the National AIA Urban Design Award of Excellence in 1991, and went on to become a model for the creation of urban malls around the world.

Koders revs up unique search engine

By Daily Press staff

Koders™, Inc., creators of sophisticated tools that enable organic code reuse and improve developer productivity, has announced the availability of Koders.com, a new search tool for identifying and accessing open source code on the Internet.

The first free search engine of its kind, Koders.com provides developers with an easy-to-use interface to find existing solutions to complex software development problems and discover new open source software projects, company officials say. Developers can learn by example reviewing code written by the world's best developers, working on the most successful projects.

Koders.com helps developers navigate the rich but fragmented open source landscape by indexing thousands of open source software projects and more than 190 million lines of code at leading universities, consortiums and organizations. Users can search by keyword, language, and license, or perform advanced queries using enhanced syntax. Search results are displayed in a developer-friendly format that makes it easy to understand the code in its original, working context.

Koders.com is the first offering introduced by Koders designed to dramatically improve developer productivity. Beta testing is currently underway for an enterprise-level solution that will enable organizations to gain a comprehensive view of their source code asset base and convert it into real value. For additional information on Koders.com and to take part in the beta testing program, visit www.koders.com.

Size does matter when taking stock



MIND YOUR BUSINESS

BY KIRK G. AGUER

When considering individual stocks for your portfolio, a company's size is one of the key ways of categorizing potential investments. Generally, companies issuing common stock fall into one of three size groups: large-cap, mid-cap or small-cap, based on the total stock market value of the company that underlies the stock. This is commonly referred to as "market capitalization."

Large-cap stocks usually refer to companies with total market capitalization of more than \$5 billion. Large-cap companies tend to be well-established, well-known household names and are likely to be stocks listed on the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the S&P 500 stock indexes.

Mid-cap stocks typically refer to companies with market capitalizations of between \$1.5 billion and \$5 billion. Mid-cap companies tend to be those that are beginning to mature but are still in

the growing stages.

The small-cap designation is usually assigned to companies with market capitalizations of less than \$1.5 billion. Small-cap stocks usually represent new businesses and young companies that are often still in their start-up phases.

Investments in the common stock of small and mid-sized companies may provide the potential for greater growth opportunities but generally involve greater risks than those typically associated with the common stock of larger companies, because smaller companies may have limited product lines, markets or financial resources, among other things. Of course, these categories may overlap and the designations should be used only as general guidelines on the size and status of companies that have issued stock. Your financial advisor can help you determine which combination of stocks is suitable for you, based on your particular circumstances, individual financial situation and investment goals.

(Kirk Aguer is a financial advisor for Morgan Stanley. To reach him, call his Santa Monica office at (310) 319-5220.)

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Home loans: Choosing the right path to less debt

GUEST COMMENTARY

BY MIKE KRONSBURG

Everyone wants a piece of the California dream. For decades, people have turned to the Sunshine State for renewed lifestyles and attitudes, for inspiration and peace of mind. California has been a fast moving state economically, socially and politically. With a population approaching 35 million and a trillion dollar-plus economy, California has moved into the forefront as an international force in trade and commerce, scientific research, entertainment, technology, and virtually every other aspect of human creativity. It's no wonder why median home prices throughout the state are at all time

highs. All this growth and prosperity, of course, does not come without a price. And thus, Californians find themselves struggling with the onset of immense challenges, particularly getting out of debt.

HOW IN DEBT ARE CALIFORNIANS?

Higher interest rates can slow business investment, depress consumer spending and make heavy debt loads more onerous. Californians have taken on record levels of debt, accruing \$33 billion in debt this year and projections are \$50 billion by next year (www.commondreams.org).

Those Californians who have credit cards and usually only pay the minimum payment due are experiencing the consequences of credit card debt. For example, consumers owing \$2,500 on their credit card at 17 percent APR will take 363 months to pay off their

bill for a total cost of \$7,773 if they make a monthly payment equal to 2 percent of their balance. Consumers who owe \$5,000 will end up making payments totaling \$16,304 over 482 months if they make the minimum monthly payment (www.consumersunion.org).

Personal bankruptcies have reached all-time highs as well. For instance, in 1980, 313,000 middle class families in California declared "complete financial failure." That number jumped to 1,281,000 in 1999. Credit card debt has increased from 2.8 percent of the average family's debt in 1989 to 3.8 percent in 1998 (www.economyincrisis.com).

THE ANSWER

If you are lucky enough to own your own home, you have seen your home's equity substantially increase over the last few years. Furthermore, your home is proba-

bly the biggest asset you will ever own and the equity in it is where a substantial portion of your net worth lies. By accessing the equity in your home, you can pay off consumer debt like credit cards and automobiles. Additionally, interest accrued on consumer debt is not tax deductible, but mortgage interest is.

Accessing the equity from your home can be easy. Any bank or credit union will assist you as long as you meet the traditional prime lending guidelines: You have a good credit rating and you are able to meet the proper debt-to-income ratio using W-2s and tax returns. However, those homeowners with lower credit scores or higher debt-to-income ratios struggle to find a reputable lender who won't take advantage of them.

(Mike Kronsburg is president of Allstate Lending Group. Visit www.allstatelendinggroup.com.)

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NATIONAL



After four years of waiting, Owen gets a confirmation vote

BY JIM ABRAMS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Wednesday confirmed Priscilla Owen as a federal appellate judge, ending the four-year ordeal of the Texas jurist who was thrust into the center of the partisan battle over President Bush's judicial nominations.

The 56-43 vote to appoint Owen to the New Orleans-based 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals was a consequence of an agreement reached earlier this week that averted, for the time being, a bitter dispute over Democratic use of the filibuster to block Bush's judicial choices.

Owen, said Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., "withstood an orchestrated partisan attack on her record."

Democrats had used their filibuster powers four times in the past to prevent a vote on Owen, who they said was too conservative for the lifetime position. On Tuesday, following the filibuster agreement, the Senate overwhelmingly voted to end the stalemate and bring the nomination to a vote.

"A supremely qualified nominee received the up-or-down vote she deserved," said fellow Texan Sen. John Cornyn. The vote, the Republican senator said, was "something we could have done four years ago."

Owen, a Texas Supreme Court justice since 1994, was one of 10 circuit court judge nominees thwarted by Democrats during Bush's first term by filibuster tactics that emerged as a topic in last year's election and a priority issue for GOP-allied conservative groups. She was nominated early in Bush's first term.

Frist, after several years of warnings, this week threatened to impose new rules on the Senate to disallow the use of the filibuster on judicial nominations. Democrats in turn threatened to disrupt the work of the Senate if they lost their right to keep talking unless 60 members voted to end debate.

On Monday seven Republicans and seven Democrats helped prevent that meltdown with an agreement under which the minority's right to filibuster was retained but Democrats said they would use that right only in "extraordinary circumstances."

The compromise also opened the way for votes on other long-stalled nominees, including William Pryor Jr. for the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals and Janice Rogers Brown for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Senate leaders also announced Tuesday that they had agreed to take up the long-pending nominations of three Michigan judges.

Frist characterized the Texas Supreme Court justice as "a gentle woman, an accomplished lawyer, and a brilliant jurist" who was "unconscionably denied an up-or-down vote" for four years.

The GOP leader also expressed regret that the deal had

sidetracked his attempt to permanently bar the minority from using the filibuster to block judicial nominations.

Use of procedural delaying tactics to stop nominations was "a new and dangerous course" and "a power grab of unprecedented proportions," he said.

Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada said the Senate should put the filibuster dispute behind it and get back to work on other issues. "We should just move on," he said. "It's over with."

It wasn't easy for Owen, 50, to get to this point. She was subjected to nine hours of hearings, answered more than 500 questions and endured 22 days of floor debate.

With Owen, confirmed, Frist also planned to begin debate Wednesday on the nomination of John R. Bolton to be U.N. ambassador. Bolton, the outspoken conservative who has been accused of bullying subordinates and discounting intelligence data that contradicted his ideology, seemed likely to be confirmed by week's end.

Owen on Tuesday visited the White House, where she told the president she would remember "that you expect judges to follow the law."

"She is my friend, and more importantly, she's a great judge," Bush said.

Lawmakers on both sides of the filibuster issue questioned whether the compromise would hold.

"This is merely a truce, it is not a treaty yet," said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, an advocate of restricting judicial filibusters. "An awful lot depends on good faith."

Several Republican signers said the deal would survive only if Democrats abided by that vague condition. "The fact that you are a conservative is no longer an extraordinary circumstance," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, described Owen as an "exceptional jurist who is committed to the Constitution" and was widely admired across the state.

Reid said he was voting against her because of her "extreme ideological approach to the law." He said she consistently ruled in favor of big business and corporate interests and against consumers and workers.

Owen was born in 1954 in Palacios, Texas, a small fishing and agriculture community on the Gulf Coast. Her father died of polio shortly before her first birthday.

She earned a law degree from Baylor University in 1977, finishing at the top of her class and scoring highest among those taking the bar before entering private practice in Houston.

She easily won election to the Texas Supreme Court in 1994 and re-election in 2000.

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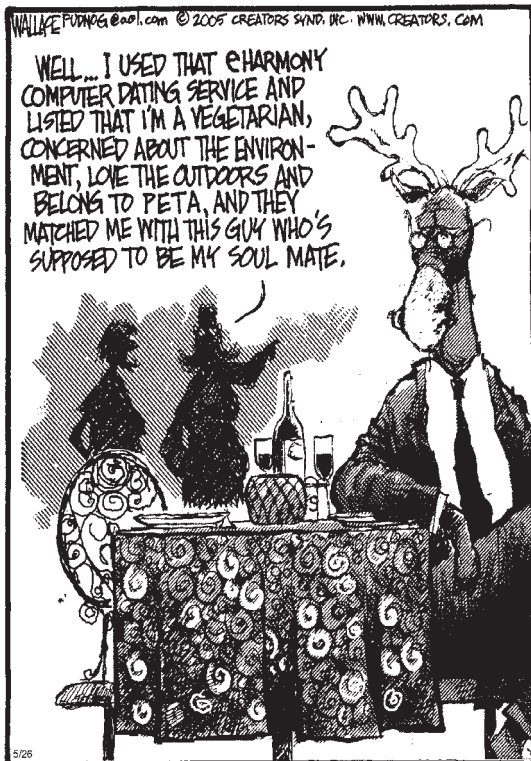
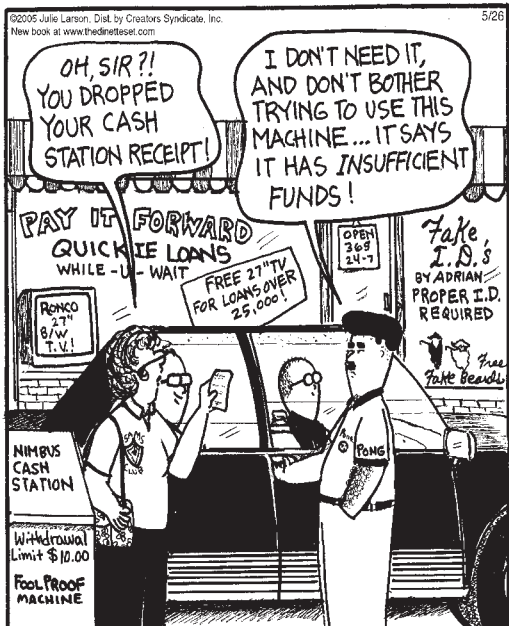


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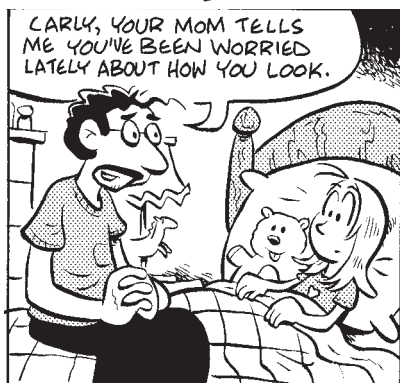
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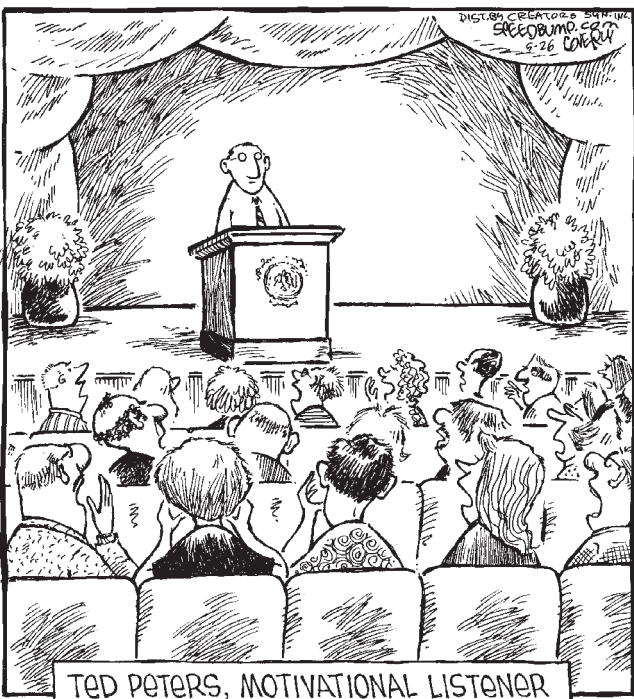


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Attorney Services

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Sealed Bids will be received by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Construction Division, for the repair of an existing outlet structure, construction of 24-inch and 54-inch reinforced concrete pipes, concrete collars attached to concrete piles, and other appurtenant work under Project ID No. FCC0000962, Project No. 248, Montana Avenue Storm Drain Repair, in the City of Santa Monica.

The Bids must be submitted at the Cashier's Office, located on the Mezzanine level, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803-1331, before 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 14, 2005. The Bids will then be publicly opened and read in Conference Room A or at the location posted in the main lobby.

The Work shall be done in accordance with the Plans and Specifications on file and open for inspection at the County Board of Supervisors Executive Office and the Department of Public Works. The Work is estimated to cost between \$300,000 and \$350,000 and shall be completed in 45 working days. The Work requires a Class A or C42 contractor's license. Prebid questions regarding the Plans and Specifications should be directed to Mr. Joseph Li at (626) 458-7839.

The Bids must be submitted on the Proposal forms included in the Bidder's package of the Contract Documents, which may be purchased for \$15, if picked up at the aforementioned Cashier's Office, (626) 458-6959, Monday through Thursday between 7 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., or for \$19, if mailed, which includes postage and handling.

Each Bid must be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check, or surety bond payable to Los Angeles County in an amount equal to at least 10 percent of the Bid to guarantee that the Bidder will enter into the Contract if it is so awarded.

All persons performing the Work shall be paid not less than the General Prevailing Wage Determination made by the Director of Industrial Relations pursuant to the California Labor Code. Copies of these wage rates are available at the Department of Public Works.

The Bid must provide full disclosure of False Claims Act violations, labor law/payroll violations, debarments, and civil/criminal legal actions as provided for on the forms included as part of the Proposal. Failure to complete these forms may result in a determination that the Bidder is nonresponsive and/or not responsible.

The Contract, if awarded, will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible Bidder, however, the Board of Supervisors reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

A responsible Bidder is a Bidder who has demonstrated the attribute of trustworthiness, as well as quality, fitness, capacity, and experience to satisfactorily perform the Contract. It is the County's policy to conduct business only with responsible contractors.

The successful Bidder will be required to fully comply with all applicable State and Federal reporting requirements relating to employment reporting for its employees and comply with all lawfully served Wage and Earnings Assignment Orders and Notice of Assignment and continue to maintain compliance throughout the duration of the Contract. Failure to comply may be cause for termination of the Contract or initiation of debarment proceedings.

The successful Bidder will be required to submit a faithful performance bond, payment bond, liability insurance, and workers' compensation insurance with the Contract.

As provided for in Section 22300 of the California Public Contract Code, the Contractor may substitute securities for any monies withheld by the Department of Public Works to ensure performance under the Contract or enter into an escrow agreement for payment of such monies to an escrow agent.

Each person by submitting a response to this Notice Inviting Bids certifies that such Bidder and each County lobbyist and County lobbying firm, as defined by Los Angeles County Code Section 2.160.010, retained by the bidder, is in full compliance with Chapter 2.160 of the Los Angeles County Code.

Para mas informacion con relacion a esta noticia, por favor llame a este numero (626) 458-3118. Nuestras horas de oficina son de 7 a.m. a 5 p.m. de Lunes a Jueves.

The County supports and encourages equal opportunity contracting.

By order of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, State of California.

Dated May 17, 2005.

Violet Varona-Lukens
 Executive Officer
 of the Board of Supervisors

Santa Monica Daily Press
 CN729349 00246 May 23,24,25,26,27, 2005

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