



Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

ROSE REFUSES TO WILT
PEOPLE IN THE NEWS 15

DOW $\uparrow$ 93.73 11,211.05 NASDAQ $\uparrow$ 29.07 2,198.24 S&P $\uparrow$ 14.31 1,272.88

DAILY LOTTERY

17 21 28 48 54
Meganumber: 1
Jackpot: \$27M

7 15 22 41 45
Meganumber: 11
Jackpot: \$44M

6 11 13 14 20

DAILY 3

MIDDAY: 8 0 1
EVENING: 6 2 8

1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1.46.06

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In April, the organization Gymnastics Australia ordered cheerleader teams to supply less-revealing uniforms (e.g., no bare midriffs), based not on alleged “indecency” but on its fear that the exhibition of too-svelte cheerleaders’ bodies would make overweight girls feel bad and lead to eating disorders.

■ Greater Manchester (England) police filed a criminal charge against a 10-year-old boy who, in a schoolyard spat, called a classmate a “Paki” and “bin Laden” and, allegedly, the “n” word. Judge Jonathan Finestein of Salyer youth court urged prosecutors in April to deal with the matter in some other way (and in fact, the defendant told the court that the two boys are now friends).

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 146th day of 2006.
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.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Talent is what you possess; genius is what possesses you.”

MALCOLM COWLEY
AMERICAN AUTHOR AND CRITIC (1896-1969)

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LOCAL

Jury finds accused baby-killer not guilty

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN LA — A Santa Monica woman charged with murdering an unborn baby last year was found not guilty Wednesday, according to officials with the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office.

After a trial that lasted nearly three weeks, it took the jury just under two hours to acquit Victoria Nadine Caldwell-Later, 35, of murder charges stemming from a vicious attack on a 32-year-old pregnant woman, who was stabbed multiple times outside of her Los Feliz home. The woman survived, however, her unborn daughter did not.

Upon hearing the verdict, Andrew Stein, who represented Caldwell-Later, said his client broke down in tears.

“This trial cost her almost everything she had, emotionally and financially,” Stein said. “She believed all along the jury would find her not guilty ... but with a jury trial, there’s always a risk.”

Stein said Caldwell-Later was released from jail hours after the verdict. She was being held on \$1 million bail at the LAPD’s 77th Street women’s detention center since being arrested without incident in the Pico Neighborhood late last year. Stein said he didn’t know if his client intended to return to live in Santa Monica.

Prosecutors said Caldwell-Later stabbed a woman who was carrying the baby of Caldwell-Later’s former boyfriend. Prosecutors felt Caldwell-Later tried to kill the woman and her unborn baby out of jealousy.

Robert Grace, the lead prosecutor in the case, said he presented several witnesses that identified Caldwell-Later as being in the area at the time of the crime, however, none witnessed the actual attack. Grace said he also presented witnesses to establish motive, as well as a cell phone records expert to demonstrate a relationship between Caldwell-Later and the father of the baby.

“I’m never surprised by a verdict,” Grace said. “When you

See **MURDER TRIAL**, page 5

City turns inward

A quarter of next year’s budget earmarked for infrastructure

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL — Having admittedly neglected the needs of infrastructure over the last three years, officials here are looking to show some love — around \$105 million worth.

The commitment to restoring core services and making much needed repairs and upgrades to city-

owned facilities comprises almost one quarter of next year’s \$444.8 million budget, signaling City Hall’s commitment to getting back to basics, said Assistant City Manager Gordon Anderson.

Known as the Capital Improvement Program, or CIP, this three-year investment in the acquisition, expansion or rehabilitation of land, buildings and other major infrastructure includes

major projects such as the Civic Center Parking Structure, expansion of the city’s park system and the possible construction of a public beach club at 415 Pacific Coast Highway.

While those projects would appear the most visible, city officials point out that 78 percent of all CIP project funding will be for the main-

See **INFRASTRUCTURE**, page 6

Support in waves

Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II/Daily Press

A young fan gyrates recently to the guitar licks of a Promenade entertainer.

SM woman in prison for morbid scam

BY ANDREW GLAZER

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Undercover detectives watched the blind man climb into the suspect’s car and start writing on document after document. They worried he was signing his life away.

As 74-year-old Josif Gabor would later tell it, he was walking to the bank when a friend of a friend offered to drive him and then translate some money transfer forms into his native Hungarian.

In the car, the elderly woman asked something that didn’t strike Gabor as odd at the time: Could she buy him some life insurance?

The woman, 72-year-old Olga Rutterschmidt, is now accused with friend Helen Golay, 75, of Santa Monica, of a macabre scheme to befriend vulnerable men, insure their lives for millions of dollars and then cash in after they died in mysterious back alley hit and runs.

The women have been charged with insurance fraud in two cases — and police are investigating whether they played a role in those two deaths and duped a half-dozen others who are still alive.

In an interview translated by his neighbor, Gabor said he has been afraid to leave his apartment since last

See **GOLAY**, page 6

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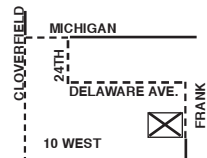
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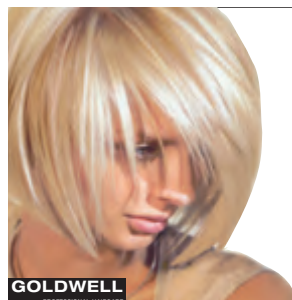
Horoscopes

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FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2006

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



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Mosey on home, Cap

Santa Monica Daily Press



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll Have:

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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Get to the bottom of an idea, which could actually make your domestic or personal life a lot more rewarding and happy. Excess and a lot of communication impact you. Think positively when dealing with those around you. Tonight: Out and about. Do your Friday-night thing.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Your energy defines your plans. Please be aware that others often don't have the same vitality -- not that they want to. Think twice before you leap into action. Many opportunities surround you and those you care about. Tonight: Make it your treat. Don't let the unexpected upset you.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Consider your options this morning, especially if you're involved with a major expenditure. This afternoon, the Moon highlights you, making nearly anything possible. You might want to rethink a decision, as you feel better and better. Bosses could be contrary. Tonight: As you like it -- finally.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Use the morning to move on prime issues or situations. Your energy definitely works with others. You see others energized and wanting to do more. Listen to your instincts, understanding that many levels surround a decision. New information could put a different slant on an issue. Tonight: Easy does it.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ You are in command of whatever you consider your prime domain. Accept responsibility with your innate style while at the same time looking to success. The good news is, you will be celebrating before you know it. Tonight: Easy does it. A partner is full of surprises.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ You have the privilege of seeing situations quite differently from many other people. Use this innate skill, and you will gain. Once you have a grasp on what you are seeing or experiencing, act. The moment is right. Tonight: No early bedtime for you!



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)



★★★★★ Dealing with one specific person draws the type of respect and acknowledgment you want. Investigate options rather than cause yourself a problem. You see life with renewed interest and energy this afternoon. Tonight: Go with the different invitation or idea.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)



★★★★★ Let others make decisions, and you will be far more relaxed. Allowing associates, friends and loved ones to have their way is important so that they can see the results of their actions. You might prevent someone from bucking at your leadership at a later date. Tonight: In the limelight.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)



★★★★ You need to complete what is on your plate. You could be a bit overwhelmed by what is going down. Be willing to step back this afternoon. Others want to pitch in -- why not? Know more of what you want. Tonight: Easy does it.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)



★★★ Investigate solutions that surround you. You might not agree with someone, but this person's opinion helps you rethink what could be a very hot problem. Do you know how to solve this issue? Gather more information. Tonight: Mosey on home.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)



★★★★★ You might not be sure of yourself or as directed as you would like to be. You might feel pushed by someone you really care about. Investigate different ideas. Let your creativity surge. Ideas come from actions. Tonight: Happy to let your hair down.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)



★★★★ You might be pushed beyond your limit. Calls and requests come in from every direction. You might want to stop and think. Investigate options rather than turn them down outright. Tonight: Head home.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

The stories are stacking up

By Daily Press staff

The new John Muir/SMASH Library Upgrade Project — ‘LUP’ — has turned the page, and is now up and running in Ocean Park.

New books are presently being purchased and the planning stages of remodeling are underway. This summer, the library will have fresh paint job for its patrons, thanks to Cox Paint and their donation; new carpeting, shelving and furniture. Starbucks, at 3020 Lincoln Blvd., is donating \$1,000 towards the purchase of new chairs. In addition, Cal National Bank has made a donation, SMASH PTSA is funding the LUP and the John Muir School PTA has committed to putting up \$10,000 towards the project.

Any community members interested in lending a hand should contact Alicia Garey at (310) 399-7721 X 181.

SMC students to be Capitol gains

By Daily Press staff

Three outstanding Santa Monica College students have been selected for the prestigious Dale Ride Internship program and will serve in the U.S. Congress this summer.

The interns, who bring with them a wide variety of backgrounds and interests, will gain valuable experience through the eight-week summer internship program, believed to be unique for a community college. Interns receive stipends for expenses.

The program — which in 14 years has already sent 55 students to the White House, Congress and other agencies — is sponsored by the Dale Ride Family Fund, SMC Foundation President's Circle, Stratton-Petit Foundation, and the SMC Associates, a community relations support organization that funds speakers and special programs on campus.

The interns and their assignments:

■ Ryuji Ogida, of Santa Monica, who will serve in the office of U.S. Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-Norwalk). A communications major who is from Osaka, Japan — Ogida will transfer this fall to UCLA, UC Berkeley or USC. He hopes to have a career dedicated to battling conflicts, discrimination and war through improvements in mass media. He is a member of the college's honor societies Alpha Gamma Sigma and Phi Theta Kappa.

■ Elisha Saad, of Santa Monica, who will serve with U.S. Rep. Diane Watson (D-Culver City). Originally from Mobile, Ala., she plans to be an attorney and work to increase political participation and access. A political science major, Saad has a perfect 4.0 grade point average and will return to SMC this fall.

■ Sadia Afolabi, of Beverly Hills, who will be in the office of U.S. Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-Torrance). A political science major, Afolabi hails from Togo in West Africa and is the president of the SMC Associated Students. She is also a member of the Pan African Student Union and the college's honor societies Alpha Gamma Sigma

See BRIEFS, page 7





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SNOW AND SURF REPORTS

SNOW CONDITIONS

DATA PROVIDED BY ONTHESNOW.COM

BEAR MOUNTAIN
CLOSED

JUNE MOUNTAIN
CLOSED

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
3"	120" - 144"	7:30 AM - 3:00 PM	50	7/28

CONDITIONS: MACHINE GROOMED, SPRING, CORN

MOUNTAIN HIGH
CLOSED

MT. BALDY

NEW SNOW (24 Hrs)	BASE DEPTH	LIFT HOURS	RUNS OPEN	LIFTS OPEN
0"	12" - 18"	8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	20	3/4

CONDITIONS: MACHINE GROOMED, SPRING

SNOW SUMMIT
CLOSED

SNOW VALLEY
CLOSED

SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 63°

SWELL FORECAST (6-8 FT)
TODAY THE NW WIND SWELL IS EXPECTED TO PEAK WITH CHEST TO HEAD HIGH SURF, BUT WITH PERIODS ONLY RUNNING 8-10 SECONDS OR SO.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
A LOOK AT THE HOLIDAY WEEKEND'S SURF...

TIDE FORECAST FOR SANTA MONICA

SATURDAY				
LOW TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HIGH TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SUNDAY				
LOW TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HIGH TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
MONDAY				
LOW TIDE	12:25AM	1:43FT	12:12PM	0:48FT
HIGH TIDE	6:05AM	4:06FT	6:48PM	5:40FT
TUESDAY				
LOW TIDE	1:23AM	0:56FT	12:54PM	0:83FT
HIGH TIDE	7:16AM	3:97FT	7:20PM	5:91FT
WEDNESDAY				
LOW TIDE	2:13AM	-0.22FT	1:32PM	1:19FT
HIGH TIDE	8:19AM	3:90FT	7:57PM	6:32FT
THURSDAY				
LOW TIDE	3:00AM	-0.82FT	2:11PM	1:54FT
HIGH TIDE	9:17AM	3:83FT	8:32PM	6:55FT
FRIDAY				
LOW TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HIGH TIDE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The Q Line

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All the world's a stage ...
Or at least much of Santa Monica soon will be, as the Santa Monica Police Department finishes installing 123 surveillance cameras in tourist-heavy areas such as the Pier, Third Street Promenade and downtown alleys. The security system, at a price tag of \$1.3 million, comes in response to a perceived terrorist threat on the pier last July.

Still, a contingent of residents views the cameras as a step toward less privacy.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know:
Do you have a more or less favorable image of the city in light of the surveillance cameras? Why?
Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your responses in the weekend edition.



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EDITORIAL

Something about petition stinks

 Santa Monica voters will likely be asked to weigh in on the issue of adult marijuana use this November. On Wednesday, members of a movement called Santa Monicans for Sensible Marijuana Policy (SMSMP) turned in more than 8,000 gathered signatures — only 5,580 were required — in efforts to put a proposal on the ballot that would make the enforcement of marijuana use in the home the police department’s lowest priority.

While voters might be tempted by the wording of the measure “to stick it to the man” in a sense, they might just be cutting off their noses to spite their faces.

Rampant, small-time marijuana busts have never been a hallmark of the Santa Monica Police Department, a city renowned for its left-leaning politics, tolerant mindset and bohemian roots. While commerce and growth have certainly altered the landscape of this beach town over the years, much of that alternative perspective still pervades the collective consciousness.

Ultimately, it appears more than a little undefined just what the SMSMP initiative would accomplish, and just what battles its supporters are looking to spark. The measure would essentially handcuff police in terms of their ability to use discretion in enforcing marijuana laws, rendering any arrest so complicated and rife with bureaucratic red tape that they would likely be nonexistent. That is when it becomes increasingly clear that complete legalization of marijuana is what the group is really jonesing for, not the supposed greater good of freeing up police to spend their time on more serious crimes.

The wording of the initiative being proposed would require that a police officer file a report with the City Council within seven days of an arrest, citation or seizure for any adult marijuana offense. Those who feel officers violated the lowest priority measure could then file a grievance with City Hall. The measure, which is decidedly unclear on just what “lowest priority” entails, would likely accomplish just the opposite of its stated intentions, with a confused police department wrestling with additional paperwork rather than patrolling the streets looking for “real” criminals.

Police Chief James T. Butts Jr., who has since announced his intention to step down this summer, and the Santa Monica Police Officers Association (SMPOA) have both voiced their adamant opposition to the initiative, claiming it is unnecessary, as personal, adult marijuana use is already considerably low on their list of priorities. It is doubtful a strong contingent of Santa Monica voters would dispute the claim, despite their potential knee-jerk reaction in an attempt to legalize pot on the local level if they voted “yes.”

Butts had already gone on record saying he would not enforce the measure unless it was upheld in the courts, while SMPOA president Sgt. Greg Smiley said they were prepared to campaign against the initiative, but were hopeful the money could be better spent elsewhere.

Police representatives also contend that the measure would change little, in terms of cracking down on users in the privacy of their own homes, while rendering the streets less safe by taking away an officer’s instinctual ability to weed out bigger transgressions that might have become detectable through the waft of marijuana.

Removing the human element from any profession can be a slippery slope, which is essentially what this initiative would accomplish because officers could no longer act upon their instincts to further investigate a potentially more serious crime.

The effort in Santa Monica is being duplicated in cities across the state, including West Hollywood, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz, as part of a larger campaign by the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, which seeks to fully decriminalize marijuana use by adults.

At the risk of sounding like a buzzkill, we agree with the police that the Sensible Marijuana Policy is a bad idea, primarily because it is inherently disingenuous — not spelling out directly for voters its ultimate goals. Any measure based on half-truths is unworthy of serious consideration.

Despite its reputation as an affluent city, and one in which crime has steadily declined in recent years, cracking down on the personal use of marijuana is hardly on the radar of our police department. We support the spirit of the measure, in that it should be low priority and we would rather see our police tackling more daunting issues, but we are not in the smoke circle with the SMSMP and their accompanying rolling paper trail.

GUEST COMMENTARY BY JOHN W. WHITEHEAD

Condemned inmate’s faculties are case for end to death row

Supporters of capital punishment consider it a deterrent to crime, a punishment for criminals and retribution on behalf of the victim. Yet when the criminal who is sentenced to death is mentally incapable of understanding his punishment — or seeing it as such — the death penalty loses whatever power it possesses to deter other crimes and serves only as an exercise in revenge.

That was essentially the reasoning used by Virginia jurors when they sentenced accused 9/11 conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui, who has shown himself to be mentally unsound, to life in prison. The fate of Percy Levar Walton, who is sentenced to be put to death on June 8 should be no different.

Dubbed “Crazy Horse” by prison officials, Walton, a psychotic schizophrenic, is presently on death row in Virginia awaiting execution for three murders he committed when he was 18 years old. Yet Walton, who has been plagued by severe mental illness since adolescence, is scarcely conscious of the fate that awaits him. While others on death row bide their time in counting down to their final hours, Walton spends his time amassing a large pile of salt, pepper and sugar packets in his prison cell.

And while state officials may view Walton’s pending execution as the final form of punishment, Walton does not see execution as the end of his life. Instead, he believes that his execution will restore life, bringing him, his grandfather and his victims back to life. During his sentencing hearing, he reportedly laughed, waved to family members in the courtroom and wrote incoherent notes to his attorney.

Clearly, this is not a sane man. Nor does he seem to have sufficient mental acuity to view his pending state-enforced death as the ultimate punishment. Most medical experts concur. Almost every mental health expert who has examined Walton has determined that he is severely mentally retarded.

Two independent doctors have officially diagnosed him as schizophrenic. One doctor noted that Walton has continually suffered from severe depression, an inability to focus and moderate to severe levels of insanity. Another doctor pointed out that he presents symptoms of hallucinations, delusions, bizarre behavior and positive formal thought disorder. State psychiatrist Dr. Patricia General described Walton as “floridly psychotic” and in May 2003 measured his IQ at 66. IQ scores below 70 are generally considered a strong indicator of mental retardation.

Walton’s delusions are so far-fetched that he has claimed to be everyone from his own father to the King of Hearts, Superman, Queen Bee and Jesus Christ. He insists that the Bible was written about him and that he hears voices

and sees a disturbing image of a face with a fishhook in its eye. Walton also believes that if he closes his eyes, he can become invisible.

Given his lack of comprehension about the consequences of his actions and mental instability, it should come as little surprise that Walton pleaded guilty to the 1996 murders of 81-year-old Elizabeth Hendrick, 80-year-old Jesse Hendrick and 33-year-old Archie Moore.

Despite the mountain of evidence pointing to Walton’s severe mental health issues, the Virginia state courts were loath to commute his death sentence. The federal courts were no better. And although the U.S. Supreme Court granted a stay of execution on May 27, 2003, subsequent lower court rulings have affirmed his death sentence.

Percy Walton’s fate now rests with Virginia Governor Tim Kaine, unless the U.S. Supreme Court chooses to once again intervene. Gubernatorial commutation for mentally retarded death row inmates is not unprecedented and, in fact, occurred in Virginia in 1999 when schizophrenic inmate Calvin Swann was granted clemency by then-Gov. Jim Gilmore. Five of the most recent grants of clemency to death row inmates nationally have also been based on the inmates’ extreme mental illness.

It is tempting when faced with the likes of Percy Walton to think that putting him to death will restore the balance and make the world a safe place again. Perhaps that is possible when one is dealing with a clear-headed criminal, although studies on the impact of the death penalty on crime seem to suggest differently. Yet when one is dealing with a criminal who is mentally retarded, the use of the death penalty succeeds only in perpetrating the wrongs that have been done by becoming yet another killing of a helpless individual.

No truly civilized and humane society executes the helpless. To do so is to resort to barbarism. There must be lines beyond which we will not cross, even in the name of seeking justice or a greater good. The U.S. Supreme Court recognized this when they ruled in 2002 against executing the mentally retarded in *Atkins v. Virginia*. It is now time for Virginia to recognize it.

If the good people of Virginia saw fit to sentence 9/11 plotter Zacarias Moussaoui to life in prison, Virginia Governor Tim Kaine can do no less than commute Walton’s sentence to life in prison. Certainly, he should not be put to death.

(Constitutional attorney and author John W. Whitehead is founder and president of The Rutherford Institute. He can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org. Information about The Rutherford Institute is available at www.rutherford.org.)

GOT NEWS?

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Road rage sends man to hospital

By Daily Press staff

SUNSET PARK — Police are looking for a middle-aged motorist who ran over another driver in a fit of apparent road rage. The victim's condition is listed as serious, although not life threatening.

At about 8:10 p.m. on Wednesday, Santa Monica Police responded to the area of Ashland Avenue and 11th Street regarding an accident. Preliminary investigation shows that the victim was followed by the suspect from the area of 14th and Pearl streets. The suspect followed the victim for several blocks while honking his horn. When the victim got out of his vehicle to confront the suspect, the suspect drove toward the victim and struck him with his vehicle.

The suspect is described as a white, male, 40-50 years old, thin to medium build, with short gray hair. The suspect's vehicle is described as a late 1980s to early 1990s Toyota 4-Runner, dark or forest green in color, good condition with a tinted rear win-

dow and pronounced roof racks — suitable luggage, a surfboard or bike. The suspect's vehicle may have minor front hood damage.

Anyone having additional information is encouraged to contact the robbery-homicide unit of the Santa Monica Police Department at (310) 458-8451 or the watch commander's office at (310) 458-8426. Callers who wish to remain anonymous also may call the We-Tip national hotline at 1-800-78-CRIME (27463).

Jury decides quickly

MURDER TRIAL, from page 1

have 12 different people trying to come to one decision, just about anything can happen."

Stein said the prosecution's case lacked hard evidence linking his client to the crime and suggested the brevity in which the jury returned with a verdict was a reflection of that.

STATE BRIEFS

Some rat ruins 'American Idol' viewing

By The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE — About 9,500 Riverside residents found themselves in the dark after a rat chewed through power equipment at a substation.

The rodent had to gnaw through two barriers before it reached the 12,000-volt equipment that it shorted out on Tuesday night, Public Utilities deputy director Steve Badgett said.

"We found him. What was left of him," Badgett said.

The rat made it to the live wires despite traps and rat poison placed in the substation, he said.

Some 1,100 customers went without power until early Wednesday morning.

Badgett said he braced for the worst when he realized that residents lost their power just as the semifinalists of "American Idol" were to perform on television.

Man pleads not guilty to stockpiling weapons

By The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE — A Cuban exile pleaded not guilty to a five-count indictment on federal weapons charges stemming from the discovery of more than 1,000 guns in his Upland home.

Robert Ferro, 61, an Army veteran, entered the plea Wednesday in federal court.

"Mr. Ferro is a veteran and a patriot who comes from a long line of patriots," defense attorney Christopher Johnson said after the court appearance. "He believes when all the facts and circumstances are known he will be exonerated."

Ferro has told investigators the weapons were being stored for Alpha 66, a Florida-based group that for decades has plotted the overthrow of Cuban leader Fidel Castro. The group has denied a link to Ferro.

Ferro, who has a 1992 explosives possession conviction, is charged with two counts of gun possession by a felon and three counts of possessing unregistered firearms.

A pretrial hearing was set for July 3. Trial was set for July 11.

Judge throws out murder case involving widow

By The Associated Press

SANTA ANA — A judge threw out a murder case that was brought against the widow of a business executive who was stabbed to death in 1998.

Sandra Jessee was released from jail Tuesday after an Orange County Superior Court Judge dismissed charges at a preliminary hearing.

Jessee, 55, had been in jail since her arrest in Phoenix in February. Prosecutors contended that she orchestrated the Aug. 13, 1998, killing of Jack Jessee of Placentia for financial gain.

The judge ruled that prosecutors didn't have enough evidence linking her to the crime.

Jessee's defense attorney, Al Stokke, said prosecutors should never have filed the case. The judge's decision shocked Jack Jessee's family.

"He said there wasn't enough evidence, I say there was plenty," said Jack Jessee's brother David.

Prosecutors said they planned to refile the charges.



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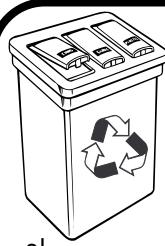
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Less CIP spending reflects fewer projects

INFRASTRUCTURE, from page 1

tenance and improvement of existing facilities, equipment and infrastructure — all of which includes street repair, vehicle replacement, new computer equipment, money for the arts and more.

The City Council is currently debating these expenditures and will give final approval of the budget by June 30, the end of the current fiscal year.

"This commitment speaks to the importance of making improvements and it also seems to highlight the interdependency of maintaining core services that the city has grown accustomed to," Anderson said. "Without adequate public facilities, we don't have the ability to provide services to the community."

Since 2003, when the state suffered a mild recession, City Hall has tried to minimize the impact of a loss in revenue by reducing the level of maintenance and deferring the replacement of important facilities and equipment, Anderson said. This has led to less tree trimming, a reduction in street paving and the retention of vehicles that often cost more money to maintain than if

City Hall were to purchase new ones.

"These are things we had to slow up because of the shortage of dollars," Anderson said. "We're trying to catch up."

The budget for CIP is roughly \$1 million less than what was budgeted last year, and more than \$10 million less than what was allotted the year before that. In the next two years, estimates put CIP funding at levels more than \$20 million lower than this year's proposal.

This downward trend in CIP spending is a result of fewer major projects coming on-line, Anderson said. In previous years, there was the construction of the new Main Library and the Public Safety Facility, both of which were considered CIP projects and contributed to the higher levels of funding.

While all part of the three-year planning cycle, CIP projects listed are reviewed and presented to the City Council based on council priorities, community needs and the ability to reduce operating costs. Major construction projects require a review by City Hall's Planning and Community Development department.

By bringing new projects on-line, CIP can increase operating costs for City Hall,

but also save the city money by lowering ongoing operating costs through the reduction of money spent on fixing older equipment. City Hall only calculates the additional costs of bringing new facilities on-line, which are taken into consideration when developing future costs.

CIP PROJECTS ON TAP FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR:

■ **Airport Park** — an 8-acre recreational area at the Santa Monica Airport that will include two youth soccer fields, an off-leash dog area, and, among other amenities, two parking lots with a total of 116 parking spaces.

■ **Civic Center Parking Structure** — a new public parking structure located just east of the Santa Monica Courthouse, which will accommodate 880 parking spaces and include street-level leasable space for businesses.

■ **Euclid Park**, a .34-acre neighborhood park that will be located adjacent to Hacienda del Mar, a 13-unit residence for people with disabilities.

■ **Street improvements to Second and Fourth streets**, including new pedestrian lighting, landscaping and enhancements to mid-block crosswalks.

■ **Street repairs in neighborhoods bound by Ocean Park and Pico boulevards to the north and south, and Lincoln Boulevard and 14th Street to the east and west** — \$4.9 million.

■ **California Incline Reconstruction** — \$1.7 million.

■ **Traffic signal upgrades to improve traffic flow** — \$3.1 million.

■ **Pier restroom replacement** — \$805,000.

■ **City Hall and Information Services Division remodel**, which will create more workspace for employees — \$4 million.

■ **The immediate replacement of city-owned vehicles, such as fire trucks** — \$4.5 million.

■ **Improvements to the Bayside District**, including seismic retrofitting of parking structures — \$13 million.

■ **Funding public art** — \$333,900.

■ **Public housing projects, several for low-income families** — \$15.2 million.

■ **Community gardens** — \$263,300.

■ **A new permit center to be built across from City Hall** — \$5 million.

■ **Replacement of telephone equipment for city-owned buildings** — \$716,644.

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Fraud scheme

GOLAY, from page 1

Friday, when Golay and Rutterschmidt were arrested and a police detective came to his door. "She told me I was the next victim," said Gabor, a retired chiropractor who moved to the U.S. in 1980.

The two women already face federal charges that they posed as relatives and even fiancées to buy life insurance and collect \$2.2 million in payouts from 19 policies covering the two hit-and-run victims — Paul Vados, killed in 1999, and Kenneth E. McDavid, whose body was found last June.

Police did not link the two cases until last fall, when the detective investigating Vados' death overheard a colleague describing a similarly improbable scenario.

Police have since made some troubling connections, including that Golay and Rutterschmidt had become eligible for the life insurance money shortly before the two men were killed.

Tipped off by investigators about potential fraud, several insurance companies refused to make payments to Golay and Rutterschmidt. The women fought back this spring, demanding payment in a flurry of lawsuits.

Golay and Rutterschmidt remain jailed without bail. Their lawyers did not return calls seeking comment Wednesday and Thursday. Golay's daughter, Kecia Golay, has said her mother did nothing wrong.

A quiet man who feels his way around his sunny apartment with his hands, Gabor said he was unwittingly drawn in when he happened across Rutterschmidt on that day last November.

They had been introduced in 1988 by a mutual friend who worked at a swap meet, and would occasionally exchange greetings but were not close friends, Gabor said. The longest conversation they had was when undercover officers who had been tailing Rutterschmidt watched.

Gabor didn't feel anything was amiss — after all, he regularly relies on strangers for

help, and at least he knew Rutterschmidt. In the car, she helped him fill out what he believed were bank forms, showing him where to sign, he said.

At the bank, undercover detectives saw the two shuffle through papers and then approach a teller. Later they saw Rutterschmidt tear up several papers and, after going through the trash, found envelopes from a life insurance provider and a bank with Gabor's name on them.

According to an affidavit, Gabor went home and police followed Rutterschmidt to a copy shop, where she logged onto the Internet. Unknowingly, she struck up a conversation with one of the undercover officers, asking for computer help — she was trying to open a platinum credit card under someone else's name.

By that point, police knew quite a bit about Golay and Rutterschmidt.

Detectives first suspected foul play in 1999, when Golay and Rutterschmidt filed a missing person's report for Vados and later claimed his body, saying they were the Hungarian native's only living relatives.

Police soon learned that Vados actually had two children living in the U.S. — a daughter in Northern California and a son serving time in a Washington jail, according to a longtime boyfriend of Vados' daughter.

When homicide detectives interviewed Stella Vados and her boyfriend Randy Hansen at their Grass Valley home in 2000, questions focused on the two women, whom Hansen said were unknown to the family. He was surprised when police said that Vados' Social Security checks had been sent to a building in Santa Monica owned by Golay.

Hansen said the family didn't hear from police again for nearly six years, when an investigation into McDavid's death led detectives back to their home.

When they came again, something struck Hansen: Golay had made a call to a towing service just blocks from where McDavid's body was found around the time he was killed.

"It makes you start thinking about things," Hansen said.

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Fox visits California amid intense debate

BY LAURA KURTZMAN

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Mexican President Vicente Fox was arriving in California Thursday amid intense debate over immigration and as the U.S. Senate approved sweeping reforms that include tighter border security and a path to citizenship for millions of illegal immigrants.

Fox was to address a joint session of the state Legislature and meet privately with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, their first meeting since the movie star became governor.

On Wednesday, Schwarzenegger said he would stress Mexico's responsibility for illegal immigration in his meeting with Fox.

"Mexico is our friend," Schwarzenegger said at a Capitol news conference. "I am going to have an open discussion with President Fox of how can we work together ... (to) solve problems of our environment, our immigration and border security problems and how we can work together to make our industry flourish."

California is the last stop on Fox's four-day visit to the western U.S., which also included appearances in Utah and Washington. In Seattle, Fox outlined a five-point position on immigration, saying Mexico does not support illegal migration and must expand economic growth so migration is "(no) longer a necessity, but a free-will decision."

The timing of the visit — as the Senate approved far-reaching immigration reforms — is awkward for the Mexican president, who has urged Congress to take a softer approach.

The bill passed Thursday in the Senate would build a triple-layer border fence along 370 miles and add U.S. Border Patrol agents, while giving millions of illegal immigrants a means of earning citizenship. But there is no such provision in the House bill, which makes it a felony to be in this country illegally.

President Bush, meanwhile, has called on governors to send 6,000 National Guard troops to the southern border to back up the

Border Patrol, which Fox opposes.

Schwarzenegger has raised questions about Bush's plan, although on Wednesday he said he was prepared to go along with it, as long as the deployment is temporary.

The illegal immigration issue has been a political land mine in California for a decade. There is strong sentiment among voters to stem it, but the emerging Hispanic electorate is sensitive to anything that smacks of discrimination.

California has more illegal immigrants than any other state — 2.4 million according to a 2004 study by the Pew Hispanic Center. They work predominantly on farms, in construction and in the service industry, from hotels to restaurants.

Immigrants also are a major source of income to Mexico. Mexicans living in the United States sent home about \$20 billion last year. And Latin American immigrants in California, the majority of whom are Mexican, send more money home than from any other state, more than \$9.6 billion in 2004.

Schwarzenegger has walked a fine line on the issue, blaming the federal government for not doing enough to solve the problem, while reminding voters of his own immigrant past.

Schwarzenegger said Wednesday that he would tell Fox, "that immigration and border security is a federal issue and the federal governments of both sides, the United States and Mexico, can and must do more."

Some of the governor's fellow Republicans were more critical of Fox's visit.

Republican lawmakers Thursday afternoon were circulating yellow buttons with the words "No Mas," or no more, to wear to Fox's address Thursday night.

Sen. Dave Cox, R-Fair Oaks, said in a statement that the buttons were designed to draw attention to the party's frustration with what it believes is Mexico's lack of attention to illegal immigration.

"Mexico cannot continue to ignore the crisis of illegal immigration into the United States, and President Fox must work with the United States to take the necessary steps to control our borders," he said.



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BENIHANA— For more than 40 years Benihana chefs have been cooking up a feast on the hibachi grill. Steak, chicken, seafood and vegetables are all prepared teppan-style "right before your eyes". Start your meal with a sushi appetizer, then relax and enjoy the show while sipping exotic cocktails served in collectible ceramic mugs. Open every day for lunch and dinner, valet parking nightly at the corner of 4th and Broadway. 1447 4th St., between Broadway and Santa Monica Blvd. (310) 260-1423.

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VIOLET—At Violet restaurant the atmosphere is casual, comfortable, and, like its cuisine, is uncluttered. Chef Jared Simons' flavorful small plate fare has something to suit everyone, from light eaters to those with a taste for a more robust fare. The Braised Short Ribs with Shallot Potatoes (\$14.50) melt apart while the Multi-Colored Beet Salad with Eel delights with Kumquat and Ginger Vinaigrette (\$9) and the favorite among the regulars is the Baked Macaroni and Gruyere Cheese with Serrano Ham (\$7.50). Unique selection of new and old world wines by the bottle, glass or flight as well as an impressive list of domestic & imported artisan beers. Hours: Lunch: Tuesday–Friday, 11:30am–2pm. Dinner: Tuesday–Friday, 6pm–10pm & Saturday and Sunday, 5:30pm–10pm. 3221 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. www.violetrestaurant.com (310) 453-9113.

THE SLICE—A true neighborhood pizzeria serving authentic New York pizza & buffalo wings. We also offer a selection of hot & cold subs, pastas and salads. You can also create your own calzone. Eat in, take out, or delivery. Catering is available. Hours: open daily 11am-9pm. Visit one of our three locations: 915 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica (310) 451-7542, 1622 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica (310) 399-4060, 13151 Fountain Park Drive, Playa Vista (310) 437-7499.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRIEFS, from page 3

and Phi Theta Kappa. She is transferring either to UCLA or Occidental College in Eagle Rock this fall and plans to work for UNICEF as a lawyer, defending the rights of children.

The internship program was established in 1991 in the memory of Ride, who taught political science and served in administrative posts at SMC for 33 years until his death in 1989.

Strong in mind and body

By Daily Press staff

Fourteen Santa Monica College students have been named the 2005-06 Student Athletes of the Year. Awards were presented by the SMC General Advisory Board, a community support group.

The students, selected by coaches, are chosen for both their academic and athletic achievements. The honorees, and their coaches, are:

- Men's basketball: Aaron Harris (Trevor Shickman, coach)
- Women's swimming: Stacey Resnick (Steve Contarsy, coach)
- Men's swimming: John Baltz (Steve Contarsy, coach)
- Women's track & field: Zora Golcevska (Eric Barron, coach)
- Men's track & field: Robert Collins (Larry Silva, coach)
- Women's volleyball: Brianne Goudey (Wendy Maxwell, coach)
- Men's volleyball: Clay Timmons (Mark Lee, coach)
- Football: Kevin Folly-Kossi (Robert Taylor, coach)
- Women's cross-country: Esther Guillen (Eric Barron, coach)
- Men's cross-country: Michel Pinto (Larry Silva, coach)
- Women's soccer: Sarah Erlanson (Aaron Benditson, coach)
- Women's water polo: Lysandra Carter-Aaron (Steve Contarsy, coach)
- Men's water polo: Saman Morim (Erik Matheson, coach)
- Women's tennis: Estela Vicky Morales (Richard Goldenson, coach)

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House votes to open refuge to oil drilling

BY H. JOSEF HEBERT

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Citing the public outcry over \$3-a-gallon gasoline and America's heavy reliance on foreign oil, the House on Thursday voted to open an Alaska wildlife refuge to oil drilling, knowing the prospects for Senate approval were slim.

Drilling proponents argued that the refuge on Alaska's North Slope would provide 1 million barrels a day of additional domestic oil at peak production and reduce the need for imports.

But opponents to developing what environmentalists argue is a pristine area where drilling will harm caribou,

polar bears and migratory birds, said Congress should pursue conservation and alternative energy sources that would save more oil than would be tapped from the refuge.

The House voted 225-201 to direct the Interior Department to open oil leases on the coastal strip of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge — an area of 1.5 million acres that is thought likely to hold about 11 billion barrels of recoverable oil.

But the action may be little more than symbolic. Arctic refuge development, while approved by the House five times, repeatedly has been blocked in the Senate where drilling proponents have been unable to muster the 60 votes needed to overcome a filibuster.

"We need to develop energy, here at home. ... We can't say

no to everything," declared Rep. Richard Pombo, R-Calif., who pressed for a House vote on opening the refuge that lies east of the declining Prudhoe Bay oil fields 200 miles north of the Arctic Circle.

The refuge was set aside for protection in 1960 and expanded by Congress to 19 million acres in 1980 with a stipulation that its oil — limited to the coastal strip — could be developed, but only if Congress directs to do so.

The federal government would share revenues equally with the state.

While oil companies have long eyed the area where federal geologists estimate anywhere from 5.4 billion to as much as 16 billion barrels of oil may be recoverable, environmentalists count it among their top priorities for protection.

"There are simply some places that should be off limits to drilling. The Arctic refuge should be one of them," said Rep. Lois Capps, D-Calif.

The coastal strip is a calving area for caribou, home to polar bears and musk oxen, and a seasonal destination for millions of migratory birds.

Drilling opponents cited an Energy Department analysis that ANWR's oil would have little impact on gasoline prices and reduce imports by only a few percentage points. Currently 60 percent of the 21 million barrels of oil used daily in the United States comes from imports.

Advocates for opening the refuge to energy development said the tundra and its wildlife can be protected using modern drilling techniques and environmental restrictions. They argued the additional domestic oil would help move the country toward more energy independence.

Congress approved drilling in the refuge in 1994, but President Clinton vetoed the bill.

Had Clinton not issued his veto "we would have had a million barrels of oil today," said Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska. "We should be drilling offshore, we should be drilling in the Rockies and most of all we should be drilling in the Arctic refuge."

Rep. Sherwood Boehlert, R-N.Y., countered that had Congress passed improved auto fuel economy measures 11 years ago when they were considered, today "we would save far more oil than ANWR would produce."

"This Congress hasn't voted on a single conservation measure since gasoline hit \$3 a gallon," said Boehlert.

"Rather than debating how we could increase the fuel efficiency standards (of cars) over the next few years, we are debating about a bill that won't produce the first barrel of oil for 10 years and it will come from a pristine wildlife refuge," complained Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass., a leading drilling opponent.

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Veterans secretary irate over lost IDs

BY HOPE YEN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Veterans Affairs Secretary Jim Nicholson on Thursday pledged “decisive action” against employees responsible for the loss of 26.5 million veterans’ personal information, telling Congress there is “no excuse” for the security breach.

At a pair of hearings, Nicholson also said he was “mad as hell” that Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Gordon Mansfield and others did not tell him right away about the May 3 burglary at a VA data analyst’s suburban Maryland home.

He declined to say whether Mansfield would be fired or how the theft could have happened, citing the need to await results of an investigation by the VA inspector general’s office. Nicholson said the breach was inexcusable after years of warnings by IG about lax security procedures.

“As a veteran, I am outraged. Frankly I’m mad as hell,” he told House and Senate panel investigating the breach. “I can’t explain the lapses of judgment on the behalf of my people. We will stay focused on these problems until we get them fixed.”

Lawmakers were skeptical.

“The testimony you gave us is absolutely baffling,” said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, who chairs the Homeland Security Committee. “You seem to be saying it was just one employee. But it’s not just one employee. You have a high-risk vulnerable system that has been identified time and again as vulnerable.”

At the House hearing, Rep. Bob Filner, D-Calif. was even more blunt.

“Your own people don’t tell you about the theft involving 26 million veterans. You say you take responsibility but then you tell veterans to go call your creditors,” he said.

“You’re not taking responsibility for this mismanagement debacle,” Filner said. “The most dramatic thing to take responsibility is to resign.”

White House press secretary Tony Snow said Thursday that wasn’t going to happen.

“He’ll have his opportunity to testify on Capitol Hill today,” Snow said of Nicholson. “I’m sure they will have sharp questions for him. But he’s not tendering his resignation.”

Congress is trying to determine whether the VA had adequate security measures in place to guard against the unauthorized disclo-

sure of veterans’ Social Security numbers and birthdates. It is one of the nation’s largest security breaches.

Also at issue is why the department waited so long before acknowledging that a government-owned laptop and disks were stolen in what appeared to be a routine burglary at an agency analyst’s home in Maryland.

During the hearing, Rep. Steve Buyer, R-Ind., chairman of the House veterans panel, pressed Nicholson to give the nation’s veterans assurances that their information will not be used for identity theft, or that they would be “made whole” if the information is misused.

Nicholson said he could not, saying that the VA would have to get more funding to compensate veterans. Nicholson has previously downplayed the potential danger, explaining that the May 3 theft appeared to be a random burglary.

“Before I can give you that assurance, I have to work with Congress ... if they suffer a loss,” Nicholson said, who added that it would take about \$25 million alone to improve security procedures at his agency. “It will give piece of mind to veterans if they suffer a loss to have a system to compensate.”

Nicholson got an endorsement from President Bush even as lawmakers pressed for greater accountability and awaited answers in the hearings and a subsequent joint meeting of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs and the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs committees.

Snow said Wednesday said Bush had “full faith and confidence” in Nicholson. Snow originally had declined to issue a statement of support in the president’s name, but then said he wanted to clarify his remarks.

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., said Bush should call Nicholson “into the woodshed” and consider changing the department’s leadership, particularly after the agency waited until May 22 to inform the public about the May 3 theft.

“Instead of promptly notifying millions of veterans that their personal data was irresponsibly handled and then stolen, VA officials held their breath and crossed their fingers for nearly three weeks,” Leahy said.

Nicholson is a Vietnam War veteran and former chairman of the Republican National Committee.

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Identity theft

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SM Symphony ends season with a flourish

BY D'LYNN WALDRON

Special to the Daily Press

The acclaimed Santa Monica Symphony will perform a free concert of music by Brahms, Beethoven and Saint-Saëns under the baton of its maestro Allen Robert Gross, on Sunday, May 28, at 7:30 p.m. in the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium.

The concert opens with Beethoven's sweeping Leonore Overture No. 1 which encompasses melodic themes from his opera "Fidelio." In the opera, the heroic Leonore disguises herself as a boy, Fidelio, to rescue her husband from prison, and justice triumphs over tyranny.

Next is Saint-Saëns' ravishingly beautiful First Cello Concerto, featuring Los Angeles Philharmonic cellist David Garrett.

The concert concludes with Brahms' Second Symphony, has been called his Pastoral because it encompasses the moods of a summer day; the beauty of the countryside, the majestic power of a summer storm, and a refreshed and festive world.

Concertgoers can learn much more about the pieces at preconcert talk by Professor Raymond Knapp at 6:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the civic auditorium.

The Santa Monica Symphony attracts concertgoers of all ages. The balcony is a popular place for music loving singles to meet and where parents with children can get together. Some parents dress their children in party clothes to make the concert a special occasion. On the lower level one can see concertgoers who were brought as children, now bringing their grandchildren.

Admission is free to all Santa Monica Symphony concerts, a 61-year tradition made possible by the generosity of sponsors and donors and the city of Santa Monica.

For more information about the symphony, call (310) 395-6330 or visit www.smsymphony.org.

The Santa Monica Civic Auditorium is at 1855 Main St. just north of Pico Boulevard. The only entrance to the parking lot is from Main Street. There are no reservations and admission is free.



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INFOWARS

2006 SUMMER PREVIEW

Film critic Dan Dunn previews the summer movie season



THE MOVIE The Break-up (June 2)
THE STARS Jennifer Aniston, Vince Vaughn
THE DIRECTOR Peyton Reed
THE SKINNY Aniston and Vaughn break up, yet refuse to vacate the condo they share. Think "War of the Roses" with funnier actors.

THE DRAW While making the movie, Aniston and Vaughn got together, and are now reportedly shopping for digs they can share. Think "Brad and Jennifer" with a funnier Brad.

THE DOPE Everyone wants to see poor Jen come out on top.



THE MOVIE Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby (Aug. 4)
THE STARS Will Ferrell, Sacha Baron Cohen
THE DIRECTOR Adam McKay
THE SKINNY Ferrell does NASCAR — as the sport's homegrown hero, whose turf is invaded by a gay Frenchman.

THE DRAW Frat boys the world over need something — anything — to make them forget Ferrell's involvement in "The Producers" and "Winter Passing."

THE DOPE Ron Burgundy drives again.

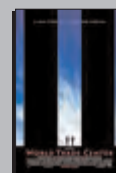


THE MOVIE Little Miss Sunshine (July 28)
THE STARS Steve Carell, Greg Kinnear, Toni Collette, Alan Arkin, Abigail Breslin
THE DIRECTOR Valerie Faris and Jonathan Dayton

THE SKINNY Dysfunctional family races across the Southwest in a van to deliver their little girl to a beauty pageant.

THE DRAW The cast is brilliant.

THE DOPE Having seen this gem at Sundance, I predict it will go down as the summer's best comedy.



THE MOVIE World Trade Center
THE STARS Nicolas Cage, Maria Bello
THE DIRECTOR Oliver Stone
THE SKINNY Gripping account of the rescue of two Port Authority cops from the ruins of the fallen towers.

THE DRAW Stone looks to rebound from horrendous "Alexander."

THE DOPE "United 93" proved that a substantial number of American filmgoers are ready to revisit the events of 9/11.

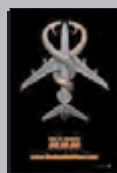
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SNAKES (ON A PLANE)

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A FILM BY DAVID R. ELLIS

COMING SUMMER 2006



THE MOVIE Snakes on a Plane (Aug. 18)
THE STARS Samuel L. Jackson, Julianna Margulies
THE DIRECTOR David R. Ellis
THE SKINNY 400 venomous reptiles terrorize passengers trapped in an airborne plane.
THE DRAW What a concept.
THE DOPE Something else to worry about when flying.

ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS

Pianist to fill library with sound

By Daily Press staff

World Class Concert Pianist Victor Alexeeff will perform in the auditorium of the new Santa Monica Library on Sunday, May 28, Memorial Day Weekend at 3:15 p.m.

The program will include works by Frederic Chopin, Sergei Rachmaninoff and Ludwig van Beethoven.

Alexeeff, who studied piano at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, is winner of numerous international piano and was recently the star performer in the short film “Debussy has left the Building” (Cannes Film Market 2005.)

Bringing a fresh approach and unique interpretation to the works, Alexeeff specializes in pieces by Chopin and Rachmaninoff. A composer and producer himself, Alexeeff, who lives follows the tradition of Romanticism showing a deep appreciation for the beauty of music and exaltation for the senses.

For more information, call www.victoralexeeff.com, or contact Luna One Productions at (310) 849-2864.

Family tale is one to Treasure

By Daily Press staff

The Tillamook Treasure last month received the Newport Film Festival juried award for Outstanding Achievement in Filmmaking in the Family Feature Division.

The Tillamook Treasure, a new feature film by Bright Light Studio in Santa Monica, was filmed in Digital HD in Santa Monica and in Oregon. First-time director Jane Beaumont Hall and her husband, executive producer Richard Doyon, wrote and produced the movie, but the “family” in the film goes way beyond that. Daughters Suzanne Marie and Janine both star in this inspirational film, and many other family members and friends were involved in the making of the film.

Award-winning writers Hall and Doyon brought a personal touch to the script. Hall’s family has been summer residents at their cabin in Manzanita, Ore. for nearly half a century. As a child, Hall heard legends of treasure buried by the Spanish hundreds of years ago on nearby Neahkahnie Mountain and those who lost their lives in search of the Tillamook Treasure.

“It was a story from my childhood and I felt that while their may not be any real gold on the mountain, there was gold in the story,” Hall said.

Over several years, Hall and Doyon fleshed out the script, adding complexity and layers, creating a story about family that will capture the imaginations of both parents and their children. Doyon says “The story ultimately is about the value of family, but not in a preachy way.”

Native American legend tells of a Spanish ship landing on the Oregon Coast in the late 1590s. The sailors, or some say pirates, buried a chest filled with gold on Neahkahnie Mountain. To protect their treasure and scare the local natives away they brought one of their slaves ashore, killed him and buried him with the gold.

For more information, see www.tillamooktreasure.com/index.htm.

Summer becomes eclectic at SMC

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica College Music Department will present three concerts in June, all held in the SMC Concert Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd. The lineup is:

Thursday, June 1, at 11:15 a.m.: SMC Percussion Ensemble, under the baton of Matthew Altmire. (Free)

Friday, June 2, at 8 p.m.: SMC Musical Theatre Workshop Highlights, under the direction of Terrin Adair-Lynch and Frank Turner. (Tickets are \$8)

Sunday, June 4, at 4 p.m.: SMC Concert Band, under the baton of Kevin McKeown. (Tickets are \$10)

For tickets and information, call (310) 434-3000 or (310) 434-4323.

Filmmakers show their stuff

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica College is presenting its traditional end-of-semester screening of student films produced by members of the SMC Student Filmmakers Association, formerly the Cinema Club.

The evening will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, June 2, in room 214 of the SMC Art Complex, 1900 Pico Blvd. The event is free, as is parking. Seating is limited and is on a first-arrival basis. The club’s members provide free pizza and refreshments.

With short films ranging across all genres, the festival of student work also showcases a wide diversity of filmmaking visions and voices representing SMC’s eclectic mix of national origins and ethnicities.

The SMC Student Filmmakers Association is one of the most popular clubs on campus, providing SMC students with the opportunity to produce short films on a campus where there are no formal filmmaking courses available. Films are made on ultra-low budgets and are completely student-financed. They are mostly shot on digital video and edited on home computer systems.

The evening of SMC student films is sponsored by the SMC Communication Department in association with the Student Filmmakers Association.

For further information, call (310) 434-4588.



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Welcome to the Santa Monica Art Palette for Memorial Day weekend. The goal of the Art Palette, created by City Hall's cultural affairs division, is to showcase the many eclectic arts and cultural opportunities available in Santa Monica every week, highlighting one or more of the many happenings within our borders.

For all of us stuck here in town over the long holiday, don't despair. We've got plenty of great things to do. It's our last gray May weekend and with any luck, we'll get a bit of sunshine before June gloom begins.

We have it on good authority that Memorial Day originated during the later years of the Civil War when southern widows would lay flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers. In fact, Grandmama Simmons would allow the cutting of flowers in her garden only on the last weekend in May, after which people would form a solemn procession to the Hazelhurst Cemetery and place a flower on the grave of each unidentified Civil War soldier.

This weekend, the Powerhouse Theatre and the Los Angeles Theatre Ensemble will present a memorial to the soldiers currently fighting in overseas. Powerhouse theatre presents “Wounded,” the premiere performance of a powerful drama about soldiers wounded in Iraq. The play offers a harrowing glimpse of our soldiers’ experiences and their difficult re-entry into civilian life. A major hit of the Edinburgh Theatre Festival, “Wounded” is a don't miss performance.

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The Promenade Playhouse
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\$15

SANTA MONICA PLAYHOUSE

The Santa Monica Playhouse has a special offer just for Art Palette readers. Join them for the closing weekend of “Author! Author! An Evening with Sholom Alechem,” for discounted tickets of \$20. It is the longest-running Jewish musical in L.A. theatre history. Come celebrate the playhouse's 46th anniversary, the play's 30th anniversary, and the 90th yahrzeit of the beloved Yiddish author. Dinner is included in the ticket price. To get your discounted tickets, call the box office at (310) 394-9779, ext. 1 and ask for the arts palette discount. For more information on the play, visit <http://santamonicaplayhouse.com> and click on “Shows.”

Saturday, May 27 at 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 28 at 5:30 p.m.



Some of you were lucky enough to see the Samohi Theatre Arts Workshop students performing excerpts from their revue show Showstoppers on the Santa Monica Youth Stage. If you missed them, or simply want to see more, head on over to Santa Monica High School on May 26, 27 or June 3 to see the full-length Showstoppers in the Humanities Center Theater featuring show-stopping numbers from “Chicago,” “Dirty Rotten Scoundrels,” “Hairspray,” “The Last Five Years,” “The Producers,” “Rent, Spamlot,” “25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,” “Thoroughly Modern Millie” and “Wicked.”

All tickets are \$20, and can be purchased online at smclo.org or by calling (310) 458-5939.



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If that's the way you feel, then you should probably avoid the Aero's Theatre's “Alien Madness” series this weekend. But if you're one of us normal people, you won't miss Anne Francis and Robby the Robot in “Forbidden Planet!” Each night the Aero will present a classic science fiction double feature. It's the ultimate late night double feature picture show.

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Immigration legislation gets decisive Senate vote

BY DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Landmark legislation to secure U.S. borders and offer millions of illegal immigrants a share of the American dream cleared the Senate on Thursday, a rare election-year reach across party lines and a triumph for President Bush.

The 62-36 vote cleared the way for arduous summertime compromise talks with the House on its immigration measure focusing on border enforcement with no guarantee of success. Republicans and Democrats said energetic participation by Bush would be critical.

"Why not say to those undocumented workers who are working the jobs that the rest of us refuse, come out from the shadows," said Arizona Republican John McCain, a key architect of the bill.

The legislation includes money to better secure the borders, provide a new guest worker program and give an eventual shot at citizenship to many of the estimated 11 million to 12 million immigrants in the country illegally.

The bill "strengthens our security and reflects our humanity," said Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., McCain's partner in the Senate compromise. "It is intended to keep out those who would harm us and welcome those who contribute to our country."

Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., and the Democratic leader, Harry Reid of Nevada, both sided with supporters, a reflection of the bipartisan backing for a bill that was months in the drafting and survived several near-death experiences. In all, 38 Democrats, 23 Republicans and one independent voted for the bill, while 32 Republicans opposed and four Democrats opposed it.

Conservative critics attacked the legislation to the end after trying unsuccessfully to pull it apart with amendments.

"This bill will not secure our borders," said Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., one of the most persistent critics.

"This is amnesty," added David Vitter, R-La., who tried last week to strip out provisions relating to citizenship.

Not so, said Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., chairman of the Judiciary Committee, in a rebuttal to weeks of debate. "They have to pay a fine. They have to undergo a criminal background check. They have to pay back taxes, they have to learn English and they have to go to the back of the line," he said, referring to illegal immigrants who would apply for citizenship.

Still, Sessions, Vitter, John Cornyn of Texas and others echoed a view widely held among House Republicans, many of whom

have vigorously denounced the Senate bill as well as Bush's call for a "comprehensive approach" to the issue.

That portended difficult compromise talks in the shadow of midterm elections, at a time when Bush's poll ratings are low, congressional Republicans are concerned and Democrats are increasingly optimistic about their chances in November.

Lawmakers in both parties pledged strenuous efforts to reach a compromise. Specter said that Republicans, as the party in power in Congress and the White House, had a special burden to produce a compromise. "I believe the president will put a heavy shoulder to the wheel," he added.

Internal GOP divisions will complicate compromise talks. In the Senate alone, four members of the leadership voted against the bill, including Sen. Elizabeth Dole of North Carolina, chairman of the party's senatorial committee.

House Majority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, issued a statement that said, "we owe it to the American people to seek common ground on responsible solutions, while always stressing our most important priority is to secure our borders and stop illegal immigration."

The House bill, which passed on a largely party-line vote last year, is generally limited to border enforcement. It would make all illegal immigrants subject to felony charges and it contains no provision for either a new temporary worker program or citizenship for men, women and children in the country unlawfully.

In contrast, the Senate bill would mark the most far-reaching changes in immigration law in two decades.

Built on compromise after painstaking compromise, it was designed to appeal to conservatives and others seeking tougher border enforcement; business interests eager for a steady supply of legal, low-wage labor; unions seeking enhanced protections for migrants who often toil in seasonal work the fields and Hispanics who are on the cusp of greater political power and determined to win a change in legal status for millions of illegal immigrants.

That last group — Hispanics — comprises the fastest growing segment of the electorate, and millions made their feelings clear in street demonstrations denouncing the House measure and calling for passage of a broader measure.

Bush played a prominent role in the run-up to passage. An Oval Office speech last week made explicit his support for the Senate's overall approach. A later trip to Arizona was designed to reassure conservatives about his commitment to stanching illegal immigration.

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Judge tells Energy Dept. to clean up mess

BY CHRISTOPHER SMITH

Associated Press Writer

BOISE, Idaho — A federal judge ruled Thursday the U.S. Energy Department must abide by a 1995 agreement with Idaho to remove all high-level radioactive waste stored at the Idaho National Laboratory and ship it out of state for disposal by 2018, regardless of whether it is buried or stored above ground.

U.S. District Judge Edward Lodge rejected DOE's argument that the agreement signed with then-Gov. Phil Batt only covered waste such as rags, tools, gloves and dirt contaminated with radioactive material that had been stored in barrels on asphalt pads at the southeastern Idaho compound since 1970.

The federal government had claimed it was not required to dig up and remove other rotting containers of waste that was indiscriminately dumped into open pits and buried prior to 1970.

In February, during trial in the state's 15-year-old lawsuit against DOE over the cleanup, Batt and former Gov. Cecil Andrus testified that state leaders believed the words "all transuranic waste" in the 1995 agreement meant removal of all nuclear waste from the site, formerly known as the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory.

Lodge agreed.

"The words of the contract could not be clearer," Lodge

wrote in his ruling. "In short, transuranic waste as defined in the 1995 agreement must be removed from INEL regardless of where it is located at INEL."

DOE said in court documents that leaving the buried transuranic waste where it is may be safer than trying to exhume it, since some of the radioactive materials can spontaneously explode when exposed to oxygen.

State leaders have said they oppose abandoning the waste in place, since some studies have shown that buried radioactive materials are seeping toward the underground aquifer that feeds the Snake River, which runs almost the entire length and width of Idaho.

As part of the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund cleanup process, DOE is currently studying how to environmentally restore the radioactively contaminated soil beneath the nuclear site and above the aquifer.

Also on Thursday, a contractor working for DOE on the Superfund investigation released an initial inventory of radioactive and hazardous wastes buried at INL. It concluded migration of toxic waste through the soil was "very limited, with no imminent threat to the aquifer except for carbon tetrachloride." That volatile organic compound is associated with nuclear weapons production waste sent to INL from the Rocky Flats plant in Colorado.

Lodge said the final results of the buried waste investigation and future decisions by the EPA may dictate a different

cleanup schedule than the 1995 agreement's timeline, which created a target removal date of the 2015 and a no-later-than date of Dec. 31, 2018.

But Lodge wrote that even if the Superfund investigation determines it would be cheaper to leave the radioactive debris where it is, or demonstrates there is a safe way to cap or contain the buried waste underground at INL, "the obligation to remove ... remains."

Thursday's decision is likely not the final word in the longstanding cleanup battle, since Lodge is retaining jurisdiction over the case to monitor DOE's compliance with its cleanup obligations under the 1995 agreement.

Lodge said he might have to rule again if the EPA ultimately agrees with DOE that it is too dangerous to exhume the buried waste, but the state disagrees with that finding.

State and federal attorneys involved in the case said Thursday they had not yet reviewed the 34-page ruling.

Jeremy Maxand, director of the Boise-based nuclear watchdog group The Snake River Alliance, hailed the ruling as a victory for Idaho's residents and farmers who depend on the Snake River aquifer for drinking water, recreation and agriculture.

"This is a step in the right direction to getting some accountability and cleanup at the INL burial grounds, but the people of Idaho will still have to fight to make sure they have water 50 years from now that is not contaminated with radioactive waste," he said.

Sweep ends in 179 immigrant arrests

BY KATHLEEN HENNESSEY

Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — A six-day sweep in southern Nevada ended Thursday with the arrest of 179 illegal immigrants, 134 of whom were deported, according to officials who drew sharp criticism from immigration advocates and attorneys.

Federal agents from three states were recruited for the operation, which officials called the largest ever conducted in the Las Vegas area. The majority of immigrants seized were Mexicans, and officials said they targeted people who had violated final deportation orders, although most of those arrested did not fit that category.

"Our message here is simply if you've been order removed ... you need to heed that order. Otherwise we're going to find you, we're going arrest you and we're going to remove you from the country," John Torres, the national director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detention and Removal Operations, said at a new conference.

Of the 179 arrested, 87 were violating deportation orders and 92 were discovered to be in the country illegally by agents making the other arrests, Torres said. Eighteen also were wanted on separate criminal charges.

The announcement came hours before the U.S. Senate passed immigration reforms that have sparked weeks of protests and heated debate. Immigration advocates criticized the operation, saying it was procedurally flawed and politically motivated.

"I find it hard to believe that this wasn't done to show Congress and the American public that they can deport people," said Jeremiah Wolf-Stuchiner, a Las Vegas-based immigration attorney and the head of the local chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. "Although people say it's impossible to deport 11 million people living here illegally, ICE is showing they can do this."

"It also tells people that you also shouldn't protest," Wolf-Stuchiner said.

Immigration officials denied the arrests were tied to the debate in Congress. They said the Las Vegas effort, dubbed

"Operation City Lights," was planned about a month ago

ICE "fugitive operations teams" arrested more than 12,000 people from October 2005 to April 2006. Half of those were violating a judge's deportation order, officials said.

Those arrested this week also included immigrants from Egypt, the Philippines, Samoa, El Salvador, Guatemala and one Iraqi national. Officials said those who had not yet been deported were awaiting travel documents from their home country. The Iraqi man arrested was issued a deportation order in March 2005.

ICE spokeswoman Virginia Kice said immigration officials intended to carry out that order.

"Whether it's Iraq or Peru, we will reach out to officials in that country to obtain travel documents," she said.

Wolf-Stuchiner, a former immigration enforcement agent, said the 92 people arrested without warrants may not have been arrested illegally.

"(Agents) would need probable cause and reasonable suspicion that they're illegal. They cannot just demand that someone show them documentation," he said.

Nancy Arseno's husband was arrested Sunday at their Las Vegas home. Mario Arseno, 31, had appealed to the court for a stay of his deportation order while he attempted to reopen his case. His stay was denied in August 2003 and the Peruvian immigrant had been living illegally in the country since then.

"It was like a movie, it was like a SWAT team movie," Nancy Arseno said, tearily describing how her husband was arrested while about a dozen agents surrounded their home and their six children watched from inside. "It was like they were doing a drug bust or something."

Mario Arseno, a truck driver who has lived in the area for eight years, was sent to Los Angeles and is awaiting deportation.

Kice said Arseno and the other immigrants arrested received their due process.

"They are violating our laws they have been subject to a legal process. They've lost, they've been subject to a court order, they ignored it. (Arseno) has known for three years that he's had no legal basis to be here."

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Growing conflict sparks war fears

BY RAVI NESSMAN

Associated Press Writer

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Hamas officials call it “the backup force” and insist the rifle-toting militants are simply police reinforcements working to end rampant chaos in the Gaza Strip.

Their Fatah rivals call it “the black militia” and accuse the militants of spearheading a coup against Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

The dispute over the force is the most visible display of the growing conflict between Hamas and Fatah that has repeatedly erupted in violence, killing nine people, badly wounding a top security commander and leaving some here fearing an all-out civil war.

In many cases, the militiamen, their hands hovering near the triggers of their rifles, are stationed just yards from the official Palestinian security forces.

The 3,000-strong Hamas force has won the respect of many Gaza residents, who are fed up with chaos and crime and believe the militiamen are more professional than the police. Others, however, fear that the presence of armed militiamen in the streets is bringing them one step closer to the street warfare of Somalia or Iraq.

The militant Hamas, which controls the Palestinian Cabinet, and Abbas’ more moderate Fatah Party were to begin talks Thursday aimed at ending the internal fighting and resolving their struggle for control of the government, the security forces and the Palestinian streets.

Hamas officials say they have no inten-

Hamas, Fatah continue to clash in the streets

tion of withdrawing the force, and they held a brazen march Wednesday of 5,000 people through Gaza City.

“The purpose of this (force) is to protect the citizens from corruption,” said Youssef Zahar, a leader of the militia, implying that the Fatah-dominated security forces were not doing their jobs.

The new militia grew out of a power struggle between Abbas and the Hamas-led Cabinet, which took power following the militant group’s victory in January parliamentary elections.

When Abbas appointed a close ally as head of the Fatah-dominated security forces that ostensibly fell under the Hamas Cabinet, Interior Minister Said Siyam parried by announcing the creation of a paramilitary force filled with militants.

Abbas vetoed the plan, but after a series of unexplained attacks on Hamas militants last week, the militiamen suddenly appeared on street corners throughout the Gaza Strip, easily recognized by their beards, green ammunition vests, camouflage pants, black shirts and black baseball caps.

While the militiamen and the security forces mostly ignore each other, the proximity of the armed rivals has repeatedly led to violence. On Monday, the militia fought a midday gunbattle with the security forces in Gaza City that killed the assistant to the Jordanian ambassador and wounded 11 other people. Each side blamed the other for the battle.

The Arab satellite station al-Arabiya showed footage of a militiaman stopping a security officer at a nighttime roadblock, approaching the car and pointing his rifle at the officer. When the officer tried to push it away, the militant shot him in the leg.

Abdel Aziz Shaheen, a top Fatah official, said the militia is a destructive force that is dangerously dividing the Palestinian people. “This is the spark for Palestinian-on-Palestinian fighting, and from this spark ... a civil war will break out,” he said.

“This is a military coup d’etat,” he added.

Zahar insisted the force had no nefarious intentions and enjoyed widespread public support.

“This force will not be forever. It will be until we control the streets,” he said.

The militia will eventually be merged into the police force, which should fall under the control of the Hamas-led Interior Ministry, Zahar said, clutching an M-16 assault rifle during the demonstration in Gaza City on Wednesday.

The marchers walked in formation through the streets, chanting of their willingness to die for Islam. They were escorted by edgy gunmen with their fingers on the trigger as they peered down intersections and looked up at windows and roofs for snipers.

Some Palestinians welcomed the new force, greeting the militiamen with pastries, tea and flowers.

“It brought security. Nobody steals. There are no problems,” said Mahmoud Hallis, a

55-year-old construction worker in Gaza City. “The regular police never did anything.”

Others felt that the last thing Gaza needed was more gunmen walking the streets.

“This force is trying to correct a mistake with a mistake,” said Tarek Abu Dayyeh, 27, who owns a store near the site of Monday’s gunbattle in the middle of Gaza City.

That fight came after two assassination attempts over the weekend against security commanders closely allied with Abbas. Fatah officials did not directly accuse Hamas, but they strongly hinted they believed the militant group was behind the attacks. Hamas denied involvement.

On Wednesday, another top Fatah security commander was killed in a blast in his car. No one claimed responsibility for the explosion, and Palestinian security was investigating whether it was an attack or an accident.

Both Fatah and Hamas militants have been the victims of a series of mysterious attacks recently, including the abduction of three Hamas militants by masked gunmen as they left a mosque after morning prayers Wednesday. The militants were later found lying in the street with gunshot wounds, and one died in the hospital.

Fatah’s militants said that if the new force does not withdraw from the streets soon, they will deploy their own militia, a move that is certain to create even more friction and violence.

Abu Abed Ekmel, a 75-year-old retired teacher, stood outside his home in his pajamas as he watched the weapons-laden Hamas march Wednesday. He said he feared for the future.

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‘Mimi’ goes to ‘Idol’ for help

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mariah Carey is tapping a long-time friend — “American Idol” judge Randy Jackson — to help her mix things up a bit on her “Adventures of Mimi” tour, which kicks off in August.

“With this tour, I’m going to be working on some different arrangements for some of the older songs, to kind of like, give it a little more life to them,” Carey recently told The Associated Press. “That’s not to say they’re going to sound totally different and to freak anybody out ... (but) I love re-singing songs to different music.”

Carey and Jackson have been meeting to discuss how she’ll spice up some of her old hits, and Jackson might even join her on a few dates.

“Randy Jackson is my musical director, and he has been for many years, even before ‘American Idol,’” she noted.

Carey, who hasn’t toured since 2003, is still riding high off the success of last year’s “The Emancipation of Mimi” album, which gave her a huge comeback, with hits like “We Belong Together” and three Grammy awards.

She said cajoling from fans helped convince her to get back on the road.

“I genuinely want to tour with these new songs, as well as older hits,” she told The AP. “These new songs mean so much to me, this time of my life has been so wonderful for me, and I want to experience that with my fans.”

“The Adventures of Mimi” tour, which begins Aug. 5 in Miami and ends Oct. 10 in Phoenix, will make stops in 30 cities across the U.S.

HONG KONG — Oscar-winning director Ang Lee will next film a Chinese-language spy thriller set in World War II-era Shanghai, film company Focus Features said Thursday.

Set to begin production this fall, it will be Lee’s first movie since his Oscar-winning “Brokeback Mountain,” which failed to win the best picture award, but won Lee his first Academy Award for directing.

The movie, titled “Lust, Caution,” also marks

the director’s return to Chinese-language cinema after “The Hulk” and “Brokeback Mountain.” It will reunite Lee with the team behind his 2000 kung fu hit “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon.”

Wang Hui-ling, who worked on “Crouching Tiger,” will author the script, an adaptation of a short story by famed late Chinese novelist Eileen Chang. Bill Kong, who produced “Crouching Tiger,” will produce, Focus said in a statement.

The Taiwan-born Lee, 51, began his career with three Chinese-language films, including 1994’s “Eat Drink Man Woman.” He first landed in Hollywood for “Sense and Sensibility,” which he followed with “The Ice Storm” and “Ride with the Devil.”

Focus, a division of NBC Universal, and which released “Brokeback Mountain,” did not announce any casting choices.

HENDERSON, N.C. — Charlie Rose says he’s a lucky man.

The host of PBS’s “The Charlie Rose Show” was traveling in Syria in late March when he unexpectedly developed heart trouble that required surgery in Paris and a monthlong hospital stay. He’s still recuperating, and grateful that things aren’t worse.

“You’re talking to someone who’s very, very lucky. It could have gone the other way,” Rose told The Daily Dispatch of Henderson, N.C., his hometown, for a story published Thursday.

The 64-year-old said his doctors in the United States were aware of a weakness in his heart, but didn’t expect trouble to crop up so soon. It did just after he boarded a plane from Damascus to Paris on March 24.

“It just deteriorated faster than we thought,” Rose said by telephone from his home in New York City, where he returned in late April.

Doctors in Paris confirmed that he was having trouble with his mitral valve, which connects the upper left chamber with the heart’s main pumping chamber. If the valve leaks or narrows, surgery may be need to repair or replace it.

Rose said he’s spending his time reading, walking, visiting with friends and dining out, but hopes to return to work some time next month.

In a posting earlier this month on his show’s Web site, Rose said he looks forward to “all the years of interesting guests and good conversations we have ahead of us.”

NEW YORK — Jack White has become one of the most famous faces on Detroit’s music map, but the rocker said he had to quit his hometown because it turned against him.

White, who now lives in Nashville, Tenn., with his wife, model Karen Elson, and their baby daughter, Scarlett, told The Associated Press in a recent interview that he needed to leave Detroit because “I couldn’t take the negativity anymore.”

“It was so supernegative,” said White, 30, leader of White Stripes and a member of the rock quartet The Raconteurs. “It was draining me, I had to get somewhere where I could breathe again.”

White told the AP that although he tried to help boost the city’s rock scene — working with unknown bands and acting as its musical ambassador — some in the community didn’t appreciate it. White said the White Stripes aren’t the only band to get ill treatment from their native city. He also griped about a recent article in a New York publication that lambasted the homegrown band The Strokes.

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Leonard Nimoy and his wife beamed up for a visit to the contemporary arts center at Ohio State University, which will receive \$40,000 from their charitable foundation.

The gift to the Wexner Center for the Arts is the largest share of the \$425,000 being distributed to 21 U.S. art organizations.

The 75-year-old actor, best known for his role as Spock on “Star Trek,” is also a movie director and art photographer. The Nimoy Foundation, founded in 2003, has given the Wexner Center \$90,000 in grants for artist residencies.

Nimoy and his wife, Susan Bay-Nimoy, 63, who serves as vice chairwoman of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, toured the center Tuesday. In an interview with The Columbus Dispatch, Nimoy said contemporary art leads to the exploration and expansion of one’s mind.

Santa Monica Daily Press
MOVIEGUIDE
SHOWTIMES: FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2006

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

United 93 (R)
11:00am, 1:45, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00
X-Men: The Last Stand (PG-13)
10:30am, 11:30am, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:45, 10:30, 11:15

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

See No Evil (R)
12:50, 3:00, 5:30, 7:40, 10:10
Twelve and Holding (R)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Poseidon (PG-13)
11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
Mission: Impossible III (PG-13)
12:30, 1:00, 3:20, 4:10, 6:10, 7:20, 9:00, 10:20
The Proposition (R)
11:40am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40

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

Akeelah and the Bee (PG)
11:00am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
The Da Vinci Code (PG-13)
10:30am, 11:30am, 12:35, 1:45, 3:00, 4:00, 5:15, 6:30, 7:30, 8:45, 10:00, 11:00, 11:40
Keeping Up With the Steins (PG-13)
10:45am, 1:05, 3:15, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
Over the Hedge (PG)
10:40am, 12:10, 1:00, 2:30, 3:20, 4:50, 5:40, 7:20, 8:00, 9:30, 10:20
Over the Hedge (PG)
12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20, 9:30

Nuwilshire Theatre
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310)281-8228

Art School Confidential (R)
11:30am, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50
Thank You for Smoking (R)
11:40am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00

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

An Inconvenient Truth (PG)
12:15, 1:30, 2:45, 4:00, 5:15, 7:00, 7:45, 9:30, 10:15
Friends With Money (R)
3:00, 7:30, 9:45
Sketches of Frank Gehry (PG-13)
12:45, 5:25
Water (PG-13)
1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:55

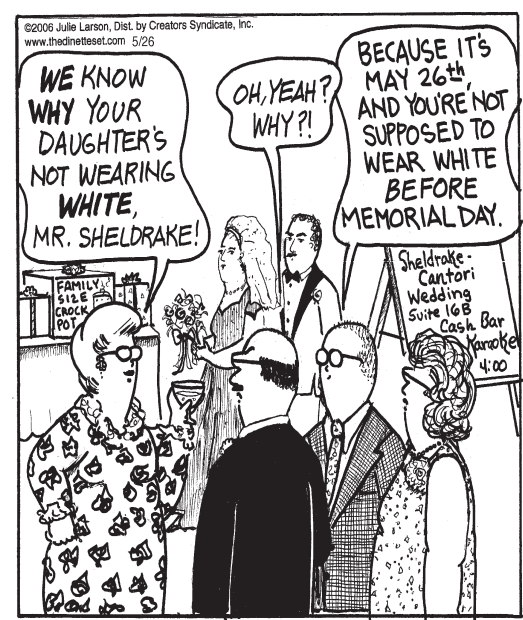
Information: calendar@smdp.com

MORE TODAY IN HISTORY

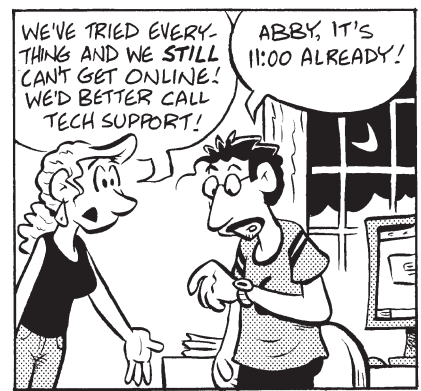
In 1521, Martin Luther was banned by the Edict of Worms because of his religious beliefs and writings.
In 1805, Napoleon Bonaparte was crowned king of Italy in Milan.
In 1865, arrangements were made in New Orleans for the surrender of Confederate forces west of the Mississippi.
In 1868, the impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson ended with his acquittal on all remaining charges.
In 1913, Actors’ Equity Association was organized.
In 1960, U.N. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge accused the Soviets of hiding a microphone inside a wood carving of the Great Seal of the United States that had been presented to the U.S. embassy in Moscow.
In 1969, the Apollo 10 astronauts returned to Earth after a successful eight-day dress rehearsal for the first manned moon landing.
In 1978, the first legal casino in the eastern U.S. opened in Atlantic City, N.J.

The advertisement features a blue background with a subtle pattern of ice cubes. In the top left corner is the Liquid Ice logo, a stylized blue and yellow diamond shape. To its right, the text "This Is No 'Bull'" is written in a large, bold, red font. Below the logo, the words "LIQUID ICE ENERGY DRINK" are printed in a yellow, blocky font. In the bottom left, a quote in yellow text reads: "If you're gonna play the game you're gonna need the energy". On the right side, a can of Liquid Ice Energy Drink is shown at an angle, featuring the brand's logo and the words "HIGH PERFORMANCE DRINK".

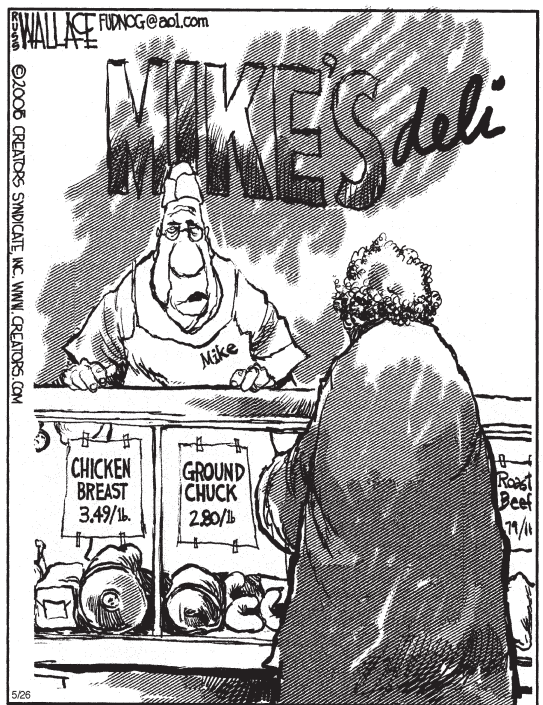
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- 20 Poet Hughes
- 21 Manhattan area
- 23 Highland sights
- 25 Cut off
- 27 Skier Tommy
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- 30 Noah count
- 33 Seine water
- 34 Through Galena, for one
- 37 Stag's pride
- 39 Gun
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- 4 Great weight
- 5 "Peachy!"
- 6 Ingenue's hope
- 7 "— Camera"
- 8 Since beginning

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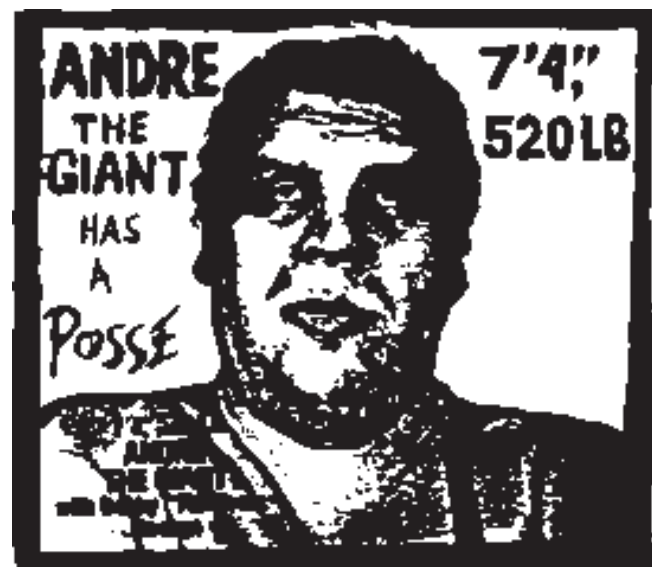
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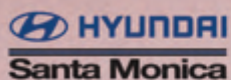




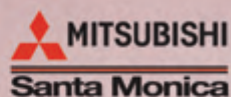
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